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THE

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NEW SERIES.

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.—DR. JOHNSON.

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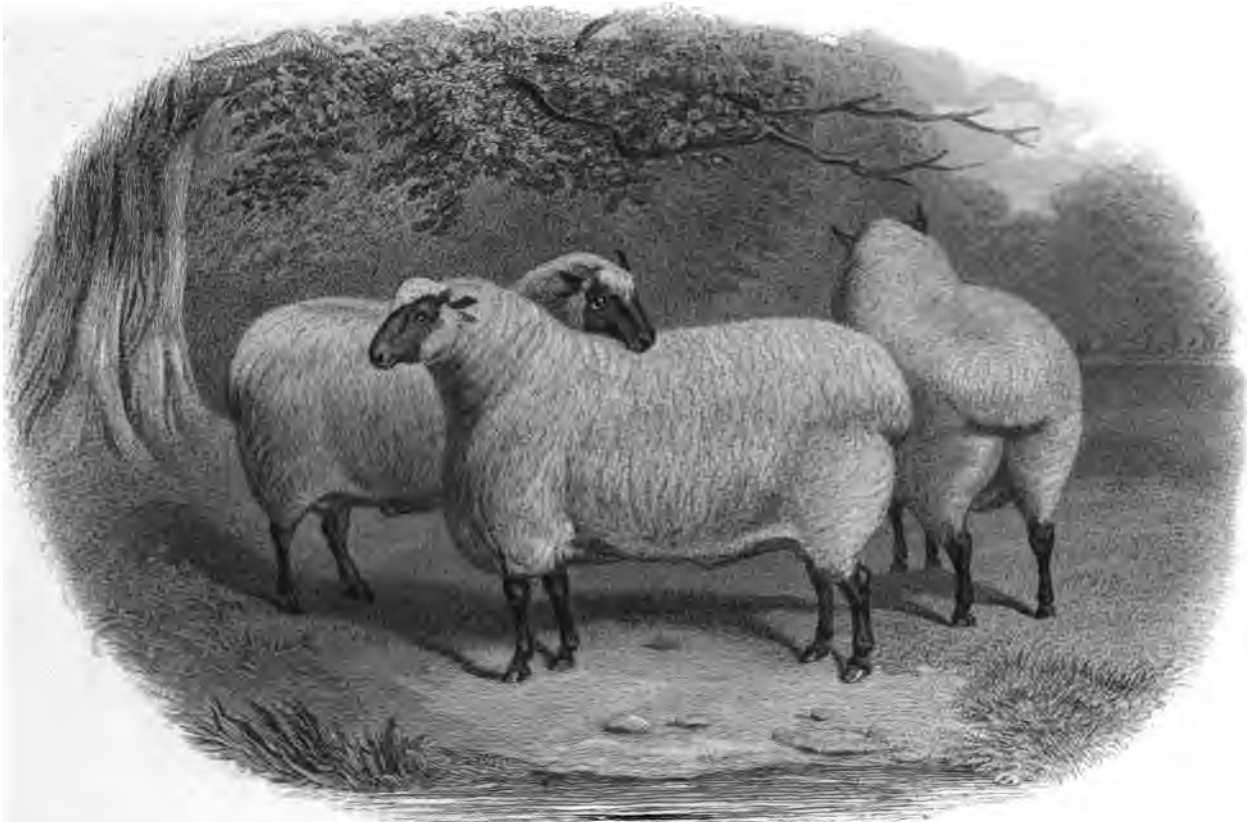

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Oxfordshire Downs.

From the flock of his Grace the Duke of Marlborough at Blenheim

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THE BRITISH

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PLATE I.

OXFORDSHIRE DOWNS.

FROM THE FLOCK OF HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

The Blenheim flock of Oxfordshire Down Sheep was established by the late Duke of Marlborough, upwards of thirty years since, and has been improved by the present Duke, with the assistance of his able bailiffs, who have from time to time judiciously selected the best rams, regardless of cost, from famous flocks of that breed, such as those of Mr. Gillett of Cote; Mr. Bryan, Southleigh; Mr. Wallis, Old Trafford; Mr. Druce, Eynsham; Mr. Roberts, Caswell; and Mr. Treadwell, Winchendon.

The sheep possess eminently all those qualities which good breeders so much admire and strive to obtain. The Blenheim sheep possess such recommendations as hardihood, symmetry, and aptitude to fatten, with close and heavy fleeces; while they produce mutton which essentially constitutes them butchers' sheep.

The Wethers in our Engraving took the first prize in their class at the last Smithfield Club Show; while at the Show of the Club in 1872 a pen from the Blenheim flock took the Champion Plate as the best pen of sheep in the show. They have also been very successful about the country. We hear, however, that the Home Farm has been let, and that the stock will be dispersed in the autumn.

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TENANT-RIGHT IN THE HOUSE.

In the Commons the other evening, on the resumption of the sitting, an attempt mas made to count the House, but "fortunately forty members were found to be present." Everybody of course knows what this means: some honourable gentleman has given notice that he shall speak and move on a subject, in itself, so dull, dreary and unprofitable that it is to be hoped no one will care to listen much less to reply. In a word the count-out implies the most contemptuous indifference to a matter not worth talking about—and that is a big word, too, in the Commons' House of Parliament. But as the question was not the monks and the monasteries, nor the Claimant and his trial, fortunately forty people were found to be present, and the debate proceeded, as this turned on so trivial a theme as English Tenant-Right. Mr. Seely, who opened the business, proposed that, "with a view to improved cultivation, the Government should introduce a measure for giving increased security for capital to be invested in the soil by agricultural tenants." And having thus as it were defined the principle, Mr. Seely proceeded to damage so far as he possibly could the only means by which this can be really extended and effectually carried out. His speech was mainly an attack on Messrs. Howard and Read's Bill of last Session: "it contained provisions which were highly objectionable, and amongst them was that which prohibited freedom of contract between landlord and tenant. It was clearly the landlord's interest to give compensation," and so forth. And what warranty had Mr. Seely for all he said and thought in this way? Manifestly the most direct answer was to be gathered from the audience he was addressing. From a composite body of many hundreds of men, where the landowners, whenever they so choose, are sufficiently numerous to rank as a majority, how many were so far alive to their own "interest" as even to be present? There were in all barely forty people before him, and had Mr. Seely pressed his motion to a division it would have been seen that the landed proprietors and county members were as contemptuously indifferent to their own "interests" as to the nuns' wrongs or Sir Roger's rights. On the face of it, by the manner in which they met, or rather avoided the question, it is "clear" that the landlords will not of their own will take up the principle of Tenant-Right. Indeed, if they will do so, where can be the necessity for Mr. Seely's prayer for speedy legislation? Or, as Mr. Barclay put it with much force and some sarcasm: "If the landlords were all as enlightened, just, fair, and honourable, and the tenants as intelligent, shrewd, and independent as the honorable member had pictured them to be, there was no occasion for the interference of Parliament in the matter. It was, however, a fact that in a small part of England only was there any settled arrangement existing between landlords and tenants as to compensation for permanent, durable, or even temporary improvements effected on the farms. The conviction of men practically acquainted with the subject, including the honorable member for South Norfolk, was that if an Act of Parliament dealing with it did not in some way interfere with freedom of contract, it would be worthless." And Mr. Barclay went on to say "the bill of the honourable member for South Norfolk and Mr. Howard was a fair attempt to deal with the question;" while Mr. Pell, on the contrary, "did not agree with the bill which the honourable member for South Norfolk had introduced;" and Mr. Disraeli said that "in the next session of Parliament the consideration of the House may be called to the matter in a manner that may not realise the views which some honourable gentlemen have expressed to-night, but which may promise the practical solution of a question of great national importance."

Now what does this mean? A measure *may* be introduced in which the compulsory clause *will not be embodied;* as this is as clear as if the Premier had said so much in so many words. On the other hand we have heard Mr. Sewell Read declare that he "would not walk across a room to support a bill from which the compulsory clause was struck out?" As we have already shown, Mr. Read was actually attacked through his measure by such agricultural authorities as Mr. Seely and Mr. Pell, but he sat by and made no sign, although, as we had understood, Tenant-Right was a question on which he was "unfettered." At the dinner of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution last week Mr. Read said, "having accepted a responsible post, he was bound as a good soldier to know and carry out the requirements of discipline and duty. Certain duties which devolved upon him in his present position were extremely pleasant. He liked his work, he was well contented with his 'wages.'" This is all very well so far as it goes, but if the "wages"—the word is Mr. Read's and not ours—compel him to keep silence while men like Mr. Seely, Mr. Chaplin and Mr. Pell are speaking on subjects of the first importance to farmers, we should be inclined to think there must be certain conditions attached to the "present position" which were "extremely *un*pleasant." In truth, from the able and zealous advocate of a cause Mr. Read would look to have ripened already into the mere official, as we fail to see how he can claim to be unfettered if he cannot deliver himself on subjects over which his brother agriculturists come to turn to him for advice and assistance.

It does not appear that Mr. Seely was acting in concert with any man, or any body of men; and from the injury he contrived to do to a good cause, we can only the more regret that Mr. James Howard was no longer in his place in the House to answer for his own bill. It is very manifest that Mr. Seely is not qualified to fill the vacant post, even if the Government, with Mr. Sewell Read amongst them, should accede to his request, and "introduce a measure."

On the resumption of business at nine o'clock, in the House of Commons, on Friday evening, June 19th, an unsuccessful attempt having been made to count out the House,

On the motion for going into committee of supply,

Mr. SEELY proceeded to move—"That, in the opinion of this House, her Majesty's Government should, with a view to improved cultivation of the land, introduce, with as little delay as possible, a measure for giving increased security for capital to be invested in the soil by agricultural tenants." Having reviewed the unsuccessful attempts which had been made in 1847 and subsequently by Mr. Pusey to legislate in the direction of providing that compensation should be granted to tenant-farmers for unexhausted improvements, the hon. gentleman observed that little or nothing had been done in regard to the matter since 1850 until three or four years ago, when the formation of Chambers of Agriculture led to the subject being taken up so strongly that it had now occupied a more prominent place than even the question of local taxation or the repeal of the Malt-tax. The present state of the law was that where there was no custom such as existed in Lincolnshire giving tenant-farmers compensation, and that custom existed only in a very small degree throughout England, and when there was no agreement with the landlord when the tenant-farmer quitted his holding, he left all that he had put into the soil behind him. For instance, he might have spent £3,000

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or £4,000 in chalking his land, and have derived no benefit from it himself, as its good effects would not be felt for the first twelve months; but as the law now stood, if he quitted his farm the incoming tenant would reap the benefit of his expenditure. There were special cases in which the tenant-farmer was put to even greater inconvenience and loss. He might enter into an agreement, giving him compensation, with his landlord, who was the life owner of the estate, but if the life owner died the tenant could not claim compensation from his successor. Again, if a landowner having the fee simple entered into an agreement with his tenant to give him compensation, and subsequently sold the estate, unless that agreement was endorsed on the title deeds the tenant could not claim one farthing from the purchaser. As two-thirds of the land of England was under settlement in this way it might easily be imagined how great a number of cases of hardship might arise. The results of this state of the law were that the farmer was deterred from spending money in fertilising the soil, and he complained that annually he had less profit, and that when he quitted a large portion of his capital was taken away from him; the labourers justly complained that the state of the law prevented them from obtaining that demand for labour which they otherwise would have, and the public complained that in consequence of capital not being employed freely in the cultivation of the soil food was less in quantity and higher in price, and that consequently the local rates were on the increase. The law might be changed to the benefit of the farmer, the labourer, and the public without injury to the landowner, for the latter must be benefited by any law which increased the fertility of the soil, and therefore the value of his property. Lincolnshire presented a notable example of the effect of Tenant-Right in increasing the wages of the labourer; for, for many years past, the average rate of the wages of the Lincolnshire labourer had been 2s. or 3s. per week higher than those of the labourer in the southern counties, where there was no Tenant-Right. The hon. member urged in favour of the view he took the report of the Select Committee on Mr. Pusey's Bill of 1847, which stated that the system of Tenant-Right seemed to be highly beneficial, and to tend to a great increase in the productiveness of the soil, and extended employment for the rural population. In the debate upon Mr. Pusey's Bill the late Sir Robert Peel said that to the principle of promoting the application of capital to land in order to secure better improvements, and of providing just compensation to tenants there could be no objection whatever. He (Mr. Seely) questioned whether there would be any opposition to the principle of giving compensation to tenant-farmers in the absence of any agreement to the contrary, and the real point was how far that principle should be extended. Upon that there might be a great difference of opinion. The custom of granting compensation varied in different counties. But in the greater part of England there was no custom or usage whatever on the subject. It might be said that leases for 19 or 20 years would be all that was necessary, but there was this objection—that in the later years of the lease the farmer, not expecting a renewal of it, would scourge the land. It was, therefore, in the interest of the tenant, and especially of the public that compensation should be given in order that the land might be continued to be cultivated during the last year of the tenancy. Last year an attempt was made to settle the question by the hon. members for Bedford and South Norfolk, and many of the provisions of their bill were excellent, so far as they gave compensation to farmers, but he objected to that part which prevented freedom of contract. In any future legislation on the subject he hoped nothing would be done to interfere with that. Another point—a rather serious point—in the bill of the member for South Norfolk occurred under clauses 26 and 27.

Sir G. Bowyer asked whether the hon. member was in order in arguing on a bill that was not before the House.

The Speaker ruled that the hon. member was in order in discussing matters that were relevant to the question he was bringing before the house. Mr. Seely said he not only wished to have a law passed which should alter the present law in favour of the tenants, but likewise wished to do justice to all parties, and not to have a law which would injure any other class. With that view he was calling the attention of the house to what he considered to be the defects of the bill that was before the house last year. Another of these defects, as he conceived, occurred under clauses 26 and 27, by which great injustice might be done to the parties who would come after the tenant for life. He was no particular advocate for the law as it stood, but if the law of entail was to be abrogated, and the law of settlement was not to be any longer in practical force, let it be done away with fairly, manfully, and openly, and not by a side wind. There was a farther objection he took to the bill of last year. He objected to the Government finding money for farming purposes. The plea urged in favour of that course was that it tended to improve the cultivation of the land and increase the production of food; but, if that rule were to be acted upon, where were we to stop? He objected to that proposal because, among other reasons, it gave to farmers a preference over other classes of the community. The only other defect in the bill of last year to which he would allude was an omission. He referred to the case of the labourer, whose rights ought to be cared for as well as those of the tenant. The bill as drawn would not have given to the labourer compensation for his garden produce in the event of his quitting. All these were defects which he hoped would not reappear in any future measure. The Government was the proper party to bring forward such a measure, and the experience of last year must have convinced everybody of the difficulties which private members must encounter in attempting to deal with the subject. Mr. M'LAGAN seconded the motion. He would suggest that the notice to quit should be extended to at least two years, because a farm tenant was not like an ordinary householder, and might require time to find another farm. He objected decidedly to any interference with the freedom of contract between the landlord and tenant.

Mr. Barclay failed to see from the speeches of the two hon. gentlemen that there was any occasion for the interference of parliament in this matter. At the present time there was nothing to prevent a farmer making contract about permanent improvements, but nevertheless it was a fact that only in a very small portion of England did arrangements exist between landlord and tenant with respect to permanent or temporary improvements. The greater part of the hon. mover's speech was a criticism of the bill of the hon. member for South Norfolk, which was introduced last session, and he thought there was considerable inconvenience in discussing now the details of a measure which was not immediately before them. The principle of that bill was that tenant-farmers should be compensated at the termination of their holdings for permanent improvements, and that principle was just and equitable in the interest of landlords and tenants. The hon. member for Lincoln had deprecated any interference with freedom of contract, as if that freedom had not been over and over again interfered with by parliament. He need only refer to the Truck Act and the Shipping Acts to show that the legislature had again and again interfered with bargains as regarded labour. The hon. gentleman had spoken of this question as principally affecting the tenants on a farm, but it was in reality a question which affected very largely and materially the general public interests of the nation. The farmer had not benefited by the free-trade policy which had been so advantageous to the landlord and the public; and the increase in the prices of produce had not been at all commensurate with the increased cost of production. This state of matters could not continue, and either there must be a reduction in grants of farms or an increased production from the soil. The former remedy was undesirable, because it would be only an alleviation and not a cure, and to effect the latter the tenant must be given some security with regard to compensation for his improvements. Such a course would stimulate the investment of capital in the soil and would be productive of highly advantageous results not only to the farmer but also to the landlord and the public generally. The tenant-farmers of England looked to her Majesty's Government for a measure dealing with the question. He supported the resolution of the hon. member for Lincoln, though he could not agree with his speech.

Mr. Pell said the hon. member for Lincoln had given very little assistance upon the question of the improvement of land, and had directed his whole efforts against the bill of last year. He ventured to assert that there was no European country which approached us in what we got out of land. With regard to the bill of last year, he objected to the 12th clause because it restricted contracts and could not be carried into effect. Where the landlord and tenant were unable to contract freely all legal impediments should be removed, but that was a lawyer's question rather than one for the Legislature. He should be sorry if any Ministry attempted by any central operation to

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foster or nurse the cultivation of the land. In the north they had a cry for the abolition of the law of primogeniture and of entail, and the consequent splitting up of estates into fractions, but they did not want that. This was a subject which should be dealt with by the Government at a proper time, and not towards the end of the session.

Mr. C. Garnier said that, as the law stood, the tenant unless protected by express stipulation or the custom of the country, could not claim compensation for unexhausted improvements to which it was clear he had a moral right. He thought it was desirable that the Government should deal with the question next year on the basis of the measure of last session, but without the 12th clause relating to freedom of contract.

Mr. Downing said he had come down to make a house for the member for South Lincoln, but was greatly disappointed, as the hon. gentleman's speech, so far from being in favour of his resolution, went directly against it. He had expected, too, to hear that the English farmer was oppressed, but the English farmer had been represented as a well-to-do gentleman, who had a seat in the House, who rode his horse with the hounds, and had nothing to complain of with respect to his landlord. We did not deal with the subject in Ireland as they had dealt with it in Ireland, because here we had manufactures, mineral districts, and other occupations to which the populations when turned out could turn themselves.

Mr. Disraeli said that he had come down to help to secure a House for those members who had motions to make, and also to hear the speech of the member for Lincoln, but he did not share the disappointment of the member who had just sat down with respect to that speech, which he thought was an extremely sensible one. There were provisions in the bill of last year, so ably criticised by the member for Lincoln, of which he confessed that he did not himself approve, but the subject was not one of such simplicity as some hon. gentlemen appeared to suppose. It had been before the House more or less now for a great number of years—during the long period in which he had sat in that House. When he recollected it being first discussed there we were told by those who complained of the position of the farmer with respect to compensation for unexhausted improvements that there was only one cure for the existing evils, and that was that there should be a lease, and not only a lease, but a long lease, and Scotland was held up as a model in that respect; but the member for Forfarshire, speaking for the tenant-farmers in Scotland, had warned the House that the Scotch system was of all others the one most to be avoided. The contrary opinions which had just been expressed by hon. members showed the difficulty of the question, and he must disclaim on the part of the Government any intention of dealing precipitately with a subject of the kind. The subject, however, was one which deserved the consideration of the Government, and if they remained upon those benches, as he hoped it might not be presumptuous to expect, a sufficient time to give them an opportunity of fulfilling their engagements, they should give it the consideration it deserved. He objected to the motion of the hon. member for Lincoln from his dislike to abstract resolutions, but he recognised the general concurrence of opinion in favour of tenants receiving *bonâ fide* compensation for unexhausted improvements, and he hoped that a measure might be introduced next session which, if it did not realise all the views expressed by hon. members that evening, would at any rate offer a basis for a practical solution of the problem.

Mr. Fawcett said it seemed to him, considering the difference of opinion expressed even by the supporters of the motion, that they could scarcely expect anything more than what had been said by the Prime Minister. He thought that public opinion had not advanced sufficiently to enable them to deal with the question at the present moment.

Mr. Chaplin trusted the hon. gentlemen would not press his motion to a division.

The resolution was then withdrawn.

THE SURREY PRIZE LEASE.

The following are the principal terms in the lease adjudged to be the winner of the prize of £10 as best suited for the county of Surrey. The author is Mr. J. L. Hewett, of Puttenham, Guildford, a partner in the firm of Hewett and Lee. The judges were two landowners, two land-valuers, and two tenant-farmers.

Usual description of land and premises.

Usual Reservation, where Right of Shooting is reserved.—That the lessor reserves to himself the right of sporting over the aforesaid lands; but the tenant may enjoy the joint right equally with him of killing or destroying the ground game from the 1st October till the 1st April.

And, moreover, shall and will, every year during this demise, fodder his their and horses in the stables, yards, and gate-rooms belonging to the said demised premises, and house and stack on the same, and use and consume on the same so rented as aforesaid all the hay, straw, haulm, clover, and fodder arising from the same, save and except that the lessee shall at any time during the continuance of this term, except the last two years, have power to sell any quantity of hay or straw, bringing back an equivalent manurial value in dung, artificial, or other good manure; the manure or compost arising from the last crop but one to be left in the yards or gate-rooms of the said demised premises, cast into proper heaps, and to be paid for as hereinafter mentioned; and also that all the hay, straw, and haulm grown in the last year of this tenancy should belong to the tenant, unless the landlord should elect to take the same or any part thereof at market price before the expiration of the aforesaid term.

And that the lessor should, at all times, cultivate the said farm and lands in a good and husbandlike manner according to the custom of the country and rules of good husbandry, and will, particularly during two of the last four years of this demise, and as near as the nature of the soil and size of the fields will permit, cultivate the said farm and lands on the four-course system.

Not to underlet without consent.

Agreement to keep in Repair, being found Materials.—Tenant being allowed to remove any erections he has himself made at his own expense, if not taken to by landlord, making good all dilapidations.

And the lessee shall and will find and bestow upon the said demised premises or on some part thereof for the improvement of the same all the compost soil, muck, and dung arising from the crops of the year next preceding the year of the expiration of the term, being paid as hereinafter mentioned.

And likewise will at the expiration of the term before granted leave one-fourth of such arable land in summer fallow for roots, as hereinafter mentioned, and one-fourth part in barley or oats, not less than half of which must be sown with clover or other proper grass seeds, one-fourth clover ley or peas, or bean rush, properly hoed and clean, and fit for a wheat season, and one-fourth wheat.

Landlord's Covenants.—Allow Land-Tax and Property-Tax. Landlord to find materials for repairs. That the lessor shall and will allow unto the lessee such tiles for draining as shall be found necessary, the lessee doing the labour of draining the land, in a proper and workmanlike manner, at his own expense, subject to the supervision of the lessor, but in case of the draining being done by the landlord, the tenant to pay 5 per cent. on such outlay.

That the lessor shall and will allow unto the lessee for the seeds and sowing, fallows, dung, compost, and manure, and it is hereby understood and agreed that in

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order to maintain and continue the improvement of the land the lessor will pay and allow for the fallows according to their sufficiency and cleanliness, and not by the labour professed to be done for the dung, compost, and manure, whether made from corn, oilcake, or not, at its market value; also for all corn or oilcake fed on the land the two last years of the tenancy, the manurial value of such oilcake not to exceed 25 per cent. the last year, or 10 per cent. the last year but one, on the market value of the oilcake; for bones, if used the last two years; lime, chalk, and marl the last five years. Draining done at the expense of the tenant within the last ten years of such tenancy—all the same to be valued by two competent valuers, chosen in the usual way, at what they consider the unexhausted value of the same, taking into consideration the nature of the soil, and whether properly applied or not, the onus of proof of any or all the aforesaid items to be on the tenant, and to be clear and undoubted before they are allowed for.

Provided always, and this covenant is with this express condition, that the tenant should be held strictly liable for all neglects or defects of cultivation, dilapidations, want of cleanliness, breaches of covenants, on all or any part of the farm, the same to be deducted from his valuation, as the valuers in their judgment may direct, the aforesaid valuers being competent, indifferent persons—one chosen by the lessor and the other by the lessee; and if failing to agree, to be settled by their umpire, chosen in the usual way, whose judgment shall be binding and conclusive.

Have use of portion of the premises at expiration of the term for thrashing and clearing off his grain.

Covenant for quiet possession.

Re-entry in case of bankruptcy, &c.

Determination of lease at end of years by giving two years' previous notice.

THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION AT BREMEN.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

When the International Exhibition at Bremen was first started, the provisional committee issued a circular, stating that the International Exhibition at Vienna was a universal one, but that held at Bremen would be confined to the following divisions, viz.:

I. Breeding animals: 1, Horses; 2, Cattle; 3, Sheep; 4, Pigs; 5, Goats and Rabbits.
II. Cattle for fattening—fatted cattle.
III. Poultry and Singing Birds.
IV. Fishery.
V. Rearing of Bees and Culture of the Silkworm.
VI. Management of Forests and the Chase.
VII. Agricultural Products and technical manufacture.
VIII. Cultivation of Gardens, Fruit Trees, and Vines.
IX. Agricultural Machines and Implements.
X. Results of scientific studies in the above departments.

The objects of the proposed exhibition were no sooner made known than the citizens of the Hanseatic town of Bremen and the landowners and farmers of the neighbourhood very quickly subscribed no less sum than £15,000 as a guarantee fund, and every encouragement was given to the project by the Emperor and Empress of Germany, the King of Saxony, Prince Albrecht of Prussia, Prince Frederic Charles of Prussia, the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, and the Grand Duke of Mecklenburgh Schwerin, and each offered a special prize of considerable value.

Bremen is a free city on the Weser, with a population of about 75,000. It is divided by the river into old and new towns. The fortifications have been destroyed, and the ground on which they stood has been converted into public gardens, with running water and sheltered roads and walks. The well-grown trees standing in the grounds are now in beautiful foliage, and must go a long way in giving a favourable impression of the place to foreign visitors. The hotels are large, well fitted, and seem to be well-conducted, and a really good dinner may be had at the table-d'hôte, at the best houses, for from three to four shillings, including dessert; but the dinner-hour is as early as two o'clock. We may further speak of the admirable arrangements made for providing visitors with apartments, and such as might be adopted with advantage to the public at the towns where the Royal Agricultural Society holds its meetings. We are aware there are generally lodging committees, but they do not, as a rule, seem able to keep the price of lodgings within reasonable limit. We will give our own experience of lodgings at Bremen, and leave our readers to form their own opinion as to whether we ought not to be satisfied. More than a month before the exhibition we wrote to the proprietor of Hillman's Hotel, who answered that the rooms at that house had all been taken some weeks previously, as they had also been at the other hotels; whereupon we wrote to the lodgings committee, and by return of post received a card giving the address of a room that had been taken for us, and filled up, with the notice that for a bedroom and breakfast the charge was to be "five shillings a day." Now we naturally thought (having in our mind what we have paid in our own country) that the bedroom would be dirty and wretched, and the breakfast such as we should not care to have. It was known that we could not arrive at Bremen before 3 a.m., and imagine our surprise when even at that early hour we were kindly received by a ladylike person, who asked if she should prepare us breakfast; but being very tired after two days and two nights' travelling, we were glad to go to bed. Imagine how agreeably surprised we were to be shown into a room 21 feet by 15 feet, and at least 16 feet high, and furnished in a way that any nobleman attending our English meetings need not be dissatisfied with, and more particularly (if he had been of a musical turn of mind) as he could have had the use of what seemed to be a good piano-forte, which stood in the room. The room did not look into a noisy street, the two French windows opened on to a large balcony, on which were growing orange and lemon-trees, in pots, and beyond there was a square, charmingly planted with shrubs and flowering plants. We are more minute in our description than may seem necessary, but we want our home lodging-house keepers to know what the good people of Bremen did for their visitors. Ours was no solitary instance, for we heard of others equally well cared for, and it will be imagined that there were a good many private lodgings taken when we state that our card was numbered 3,163. We must do the lodging committee justice by saying that in all matters they had to do with they were most kind and obliging—a thing not always to be found in England with men in authority.

The exhibition was held in the Bürger, or Citizens, Park,

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comprising about one hundred acres, and is within three-quarters of a mile of the town. The grounds are neatly laid out in roads, grass, water, and spaces are planted with forest-trees, shrubs, and flowering plants. The buildings for the machinery, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and horticultural, &c., specimens, are erected at different places about the grounds, and it is no easy matter getting round to them all, and particularly as several of the sheds are so hidden by the young plantations that it is necessary to get up one's geography of the place in order to save our legs by cutting off the corners. A siding has been laid from the railway, and the cattle, &c., are run quite up to the shedding. We could not but be struck by the difference in unloading cattle here and at Vienna last year, where everything seemed in confusion, and after the greatest possible noise and gesticulation the poor half-maddened animals were generally allowed to go out of the trucks with a rush, and in several instances getting free from the persons in charge. At Bremen everything was differently managed. A troop of infantry, in undress uniform, was told off for the work, and most admirably they performed their duties, all being done without noise or confusion. No sooner were the cattle-trucks run down to the shedding than twelve of the soldiers (six on each side) placed one end of an unloading ladder on the side of the truck, and the other end, securely fastened, on the ground. The door of the truck was then opened, and the officer in command gave the word, when in marched two or three men, as the case might be, and took hold of the animal that was pointed out to them. There seemed no thought or fear in the minds of the men as to what the animals might do; and it really seemed as if the quiet firmness on the part of the men impressed the cattle with the desirability of also taking things coolly, for there were but few instances of open rebellion; and in these cases the equanimity of the soldiers' minds did not appear to be the least disturbed, and when the animals were safely placed in their stalls the men turned quietly away as though everything was a mere matter of every-day work with them. The crates containing sheep had to be conveyed some distance from the trucks, out of which they were no sooner lifted than they were hoisted on to the shoulders of six soldiers (three on each side), who marched with a military step to the spot where the sheep had to be placed, and then, with what sounded like a kind of *one, two, three!* the crates were carefully placed on the ground, without any apparent jolt or loss of the perpendicular. There can be no surprise at success attending the united efforts of an army composed of men so admirably trained.

The shedding for the cattle, sheep, and pigs, and the stables for the horses, are substantially erected, and in ome respects the plans are good. The entire covered width of the cattle-sheds is about from thirty-nine to forty feet, and there is a walk of nine feet wide down the centre, so that visitors may pass down between the cattle, which are tied with their heads to the passage. The faults of these sheds are the centre walk being raised nearly level with the top of the feeding-troughs, so that the cattle are "looked down upon" by the visitors, and there being no rail in front of the head of the beast there is every chance of a wild animal attempting to jump over the trough. All the sheddings are well constructed and perfectly water-proof.

The sheds for the sheep have a covered width of 34 feet, with a seven-feet passage down the centre. There are two rows of pens on each side of the passage. The pens are close boarded, which prevents the sheep seeing each other and makes them restless, and it is also objectionable in hot weather.

The stabling for the horses is of an hexagonal form, and is most admirably constructed. The loose boxes are spacious and boarded nine feet high, and to every four boxes there is an eight-feet passage with folding doors, and at the other end of the passage is a lock-up hay and corn place. The stalls struck us as being too narrow. They were only five feet in width, while the length was as much as ten feet. Within the ranges of stabling the trial-ground was prepared, having spacious and really good galleries all round, with six divisions raised higher than the rest, these elevated and more carefully-prepared places being intended for some of the grand people who are expected to visit the exhibition, for the committee and representatives of the press. Persons who had obtained admission to the general exhibition were admitted to the galleries free of extra charge.

The general exhibition was opened to the public on Saturday morning, the 13th instant, at six o'clock, at a charge of ten marks, equal to ten English shillings per head, and as the awards of the jurors were, with some exceptions, made on that day, not less, we think, than upwards of from three to four thousand persons availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing the public judging, which in all the departments was going on at the same time. The morning was an unfortunate one, inasmuch as it was very windy, with a drenching rain, which, however, happily cleared off about 11 a.m., and then became delightfully fine, and the more agreeable from the rain having settled the clouds of dust which had previously been flying about.

When we visited the show-ground on the Thursday previous, it seemed almost impossible that all could be ready by the morning of the 18th, when, however, everything appeared to be completed, and the numerous flags, decorations, with plants and flowers gave a varied and very charming effect to almost every part of the extensive grounds, which was very much assisted by several small and handsome erections for seats in many parts of the grounds.

The exhibition of horses was a grand one, and has rarely, we were told, been exceeded in Germany, as we doubt very much whether it could be in any country. The classes comprised English thoroughbred stallions and mares, half-bred horses for hunting, riding, and soldiers' purposes—there being classes for heavy and light cavalry—light and heavy carriage horses, and horses for agricultural and artillery work, hackneys, and ponies. The general character of the horses exhibited was remarkably good, and, taking them all round, we never saw a better lot. There was frame, bone, and style, and the action of some of the horses was really grand to look at. There was no attempt at equestrian "show-off" on the part of the persons in charge of the horses. All was done in a sober, business-like way, and the minds of the men appeared to be wholly concentrated upon doing all they could to develope the powers of the animals which they had in charge. The judges went about their work in a quiet, matter of every-day kind of way, and seemed to get through their heavy duties expeditiously, and we should think satisfactorily. There were pairs of horses shown in carriages as well as teams of four. The horses so exhibited were generally beautiful animals, and shown in fine condition, and did credit to their owners as well as to the grooms who had charge of them.

There were fewer weedy, worthless animals than might probably have been expected. The grooms were generally dressed in light blue tunics, white breeches, and Wellington boots, and wore the Prussian military-shaped cap. Several of the grooms wore soldiers' medals. We were struck by the way the military training helped them in what looked like being a serious affair. A thoroughbred stallion broke away and made a savage rush at another horse, and both went away into the grounds at a furious pace, and were quickly lost to sight

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amongst the trees and shedding. The grooms at once threw out skirmishers, and in a very short time the horses were secured and taken back to their places, while the men did not appear at all excited by what had occurred.

We should like to have given the prize-winners in the horse classes, but they were not issued before we left the show-ground. There were no English judges for horses, so far as we could learn.

To follow the catalogue-numbers of the live-stock sections is rather a difficult matter as the entries are arranged, and more particularly is this so to those who, like ourselves, are not very well acquainted with the German language, and hence it is we are necessarily compelled to generalise our remarks more than we should otherwise do.

In many classes a bull and cow are entered together, and appear in the same class and under different numbers. There is a large entry of Holland and Oldenburg cattle, and many very good animals are exhibited. The bulls show a good deal of what we may call improved shape and quality, and the cows while retaining their milk-producing properties seem to be gaining greater flesh-bearing qualities. There is a large class of local cattle, and many really fine beasts are exhibited. It may be clearly seen where a Shorthorn bull has been at work by the increased frame and improved appearance of their produce.

There are classes for Hanoverian, Holstein and Hamburg, Schleswig, and Danish Holstein cattle, and many excellent bulls and cows are exhibited; while, of course, there are others with small pretensions for merit in a show-yard.

The sandy-and-white Swiss cattle are fairly represented, and amongst the entries there are some fine specimens of their breed. At Vienna last year the herdsmen generally appeared in their national costumes, which gave the exhibition more of an international character. At Bremen there is no particular peculiarity in the dress of persons in charge of cattle or sheep. The classes for English and foreign-bred pedigree Shorthorns is not very well filled, and but for the large entry of most excellent animals made by that spirited and energetic gentleman Mr. Edward Lübben, of Sürwürden, near Rodenkirchen in Oldenburg, who, by the way, was a pupil some years ago of Mr. Henry Overman, of Norfolk, the Shorthorn breed of cattle would have been badly represented. As it was, Mr. Lübben came to the rescue with an entry of four bulls of different ages and thirteen cows and heifers, and of a character, style, and quality that would have been creditable to any exhibition in England. He deservedly received five first prizes and gold medals, six second prizes and silver medals, and two third prizes and bronze medals. The first-prize white four-year-old bull Snowdrop by Prince Teck is a massive animal, of good frame and well-proportioned fore-quarters, and handled nicely. The second-prize white 1 year and 10 months old bull Fairfax by Prince Teck is an animal of much promise. The first-prize young roan bull, Royal Mark by Royal Broughton, and dam Castanet 3rd, is a really good animal, with excellent forequarters and good skin and hair, and will make his mark in future showyards, or we shall be much mistaken in our estimate of his merits. This bull cannot fail to do a great deal for the improvement of Mr. Lübben's herd. The first-prize cow, Leila, by 3rd Duke of Geneva, dam Laura, is a roan of great substance and evidently a heavy flesh-bearer, and has a good skin; she is now heavy in calf. The second-prize cow, Charmer, by Hildebrand, is shown with her calf by her side; and although the cow is low in flesh, having been sent direct from the pasture, she has much to recommend her. The other prize cows and heifers have many good points, but time will not admit of our particularising each animal. In the fat cattle class Mr. Lübben takes two first prizes for pure-bred steers, and a first and second prize for cross-bred steers, as well as the special prize given by the Duke of Brunswick for the best lot of fat cattle in the exhibition. Baron Magnus, of Drehsa, Saxony, took a second prize with his useful bull "Bismarck," and a first prize and gold medal for a really nice heifer, which well earned the honour she obtained. There were two or three other persons who received third prizes, but their animals had nothing very particular to recommend them.

There was a class for what is called "common-bred Shorthorns," in which Mr. John Brown, of Hull, takes a first prize and gold medal. There were only two entries for Ayrshire bulls and cows, and both belonging to German breeders. There was a class for other English breeds, and there were only five animals to select from, and three of these were from Mr. Walter Farthing, of Stowey Court, Somersetshire, and he had the first prize for his sixteen months-old Devon bull, and the first prize for his seven-year-old cow of the same breed.

The various classes of Merino sheep are well filled, and received much attention from persons interested in this breed. We see an improvement in the general character of Merino sheep since we first attended an international exhibition on the continent of Europe. There appears to be an increase of size, improvement in shape, while the character and quality of the wool is not deteriorated. Nothing could be finer than the wool of some of the animals we examined. The sheep are shown in better condition than they used to be, and we fancy that there must be a corresponding increase in the weight of wool.

The classes for Southdown sheep were also well filled, there being 32 rams and 16 pens of ewes. It was said by the German breeders that Lord Walsingham never sent such good rams and ewes to Germany. Mr. George Sandy, of Holmepierrepoint, and two German gentlemen acted as judges for short-woolled sheep, and they awarded to Lord Walsingham two first prizes and two gold medals, with two second prizes and two silver medals for rams, and two first prizes and two gold medals for shearling ewes. Mr. G. Stahlschmidt, of Canea, in Silesia, received the two third prizes, and, singularly enough, for rams bred from a Merton ram bought at the Altona International Exhibition. Mr. Stahlschmidt's two rams were really good animals and such as would have done no discredit to any exhibition in our own country. Lord Sondes, of Elmham, sent three shearling and three two-year-old rams, but they were distanced for the two third prizes by Mr. Stahlschmidt's rams, and failed to receive even a commendation. But we were glad to see his lordship get a second prize for his pen of yearlings, and a third prize for two-year-old ewes, the second prize being awarded to a nice-matching pen of two-year-old ewes belonging to Mr. W. L. Wedeneyer, a German breeder. Lord Walsingham's first-prize yearling ram and the two pens of prize ewes were sold to Baron von Schœnermarck of Silesia, who bought the prize ewes at the Hamburg International Exhibition some years ago. The first-prize and gold medal two-year-old ram was an animal of great substance and of true Southdown character, and was, as well as two other rams, quickly sold to Herr von Tagow, of Rühstadt, near Wilsnack. It is worthy of note that the prize ram was not exhibited last year, and was hired in a comparatively lean state by Mr. Henry Fookes, of Whitechurch, Blanchford, who could evidently see what the animal would grow into. There were a good many entries in the class for Shropshire and Oxfordshire sheep. Mr. T. Fulcher was awarded the first and second prizes for two really good

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Oxford Rams, bred by Mr. Charles Howard of Biddenham, near Bedford; while Mr. J. W. Smidt, who lives near Bremen, had the first prize for a pen of matching fine ewes bred by Mr. Henry Overman of Weasenham, Norfolk. Mr. Fulcher received the third prize for a pen of Oxford ewes, which were very badly matched, one having a black, another a grey, and the third a terribly speckled face; and we were told that the Germans criticised them a good deal, and facetiously wanted to know why three different breeds of sheep were shown in the same pen. This gentleman also sent two pens of Shropshire Down ewes bred by a Mr. Watson. As specimens of a breed they had not much to recommend them, and we fear they would give a bad impression of the merits of Shropshire Down sheep. In the section for Leicester, Cotswold, and Lincoln sheep, Mr. E. Lübben takes two first prizes for some capital rams from Mr. Hugh Aylmer of West Dereham, as well as the second prize for ewes; while the Cirencester College farm, obtains a second prize for rams and Mr. Fulcher a third. He has also a first and second prize for Cotswold ewes, and the College a third prize. With the exception of the sheep Mr. Lübben had from Mr. Aylmer, we cannot say the other entries were really good. They were just passable, and this is as much as we can say. Messrs. Russell, from Horton Kirby, Kent, sent some useful Hampshire Downs, which obtained the first and third prizes for rams and the first prize for ewes. Some German breeders sent long-wool sheep of considerable merit, and it is quite clear to us that these international exhibitions are doing very much for the improvement of cattle and sheep on the Continent. Mr. J. H. Yeomans, of Stretton-court, acted with two Germans as judge of longwoolled sheep

There is a good entry of pigs, and Messrs. Duckering of Lincolnshire and Mr. E. Lübben pretty well sweep off the prizes. Mr. Duckering has five first, one second, and one third, while Mr. Lübben receives two first, two seconds, and a third. The Cirencester College has a first and second prize. There are many good animals exhibited, and some of Mr. Duckering's pigs were of enormous size. We saw a great Hungarian pig at Vienna last year which was so ugly that we thought it must be the connecting link with *something else*, but at Bremen there is a boar which is too terribly ugly to have a connecting link with anything. It is said to be a wild boar for hunting purposes. Now if "pig sticking" is an amusement it must be (in the case of such animals as we saw) in the kill required to strike such a shadow with the spear. It seemed to have two deep sides and no back or belly to separate them. The brute was savage enough for all purposes, for when a curious person attempted to touch the animal with his umbrella, it was, although seeming to be asleep, up in a moment and made a nasty rush at the side of the high boarded pen in which he was confined, and the consequence was that the visitor stepped back so quickly that there was a flooring like nine-pins of some persons behind him.

The class for goats and rabbits was interesting, so far as it gave an idea of what extraordinary animals are in existence. There were many singular varieties, and such as we had never seen before. The goats were represented by a male animal of great size and two white females; their condition being as wretchedly bad as it could well be, and the man who could send such things to an exhibition must have queer ideas if he thought any person would commend him for the way he had kept his goats.

The exhibition of poultry and singing-birds must be written as a comparative failure. The entries were by no means large, and the birds in bad plumage. There were no birds of any especial merit. There were a good many pigeons, and the carrier variety were good and seem to be well cared-for.

The section for fishery was found to be so difficult and impracticable that it was given up.

The exhibition of matters connected with the culture of bees and the silkworm cannot be called a success. The articles exhibited were chiefly models of bee-hives, wax, and specimens of honey obtained from different varieties of trees and plants; and as for silkworms, we could not see any or any of their work, so we supposed they were "out on strike."

There is a separate building for articles connected with forestry and the chase, in which were tastefully arranged numerous specimens of guns and rifles, traps of various kinds, and some of enormous size, heads of animals, polished wood, patterns of inlaid, wood flooring, and many things of great interest, making altogether an attractive part of the exhibition.

The seventh division—for agricultural products—had much to recommend it. There were specimens of crushed bones, artificial manures, feathers, wool, hemp, manufactured hemp, spirits from roots grown on farms, corn and flour, sugar, tobacco-leaf in various stages of growth and manufacture, and a large display of peat fuel. There was peat earth in its soft state and when manufactured; and in this state it is comparatively speaking as hard as a stone indeed, there were specimens which had been polished, and had a face almost like black marble. The prepared peat is very largely used for the stoves in the best houses in North Germany; and hundreds of poor persons are employed in getting and preparing the fuel. No wood or other kind of kindling is used for lighting the hard dry lumps of peat. A little petroleum oil is thrown over it, and when a light is applied the flame from the oil quickly ignites the peat. There were specimens of fuel prepared from the sphagnum moss. It is a good deal used, but it burns rather quickly. From what we could see of the peat fuel at Bremen we think that the system of preparing it may with considerable advantage be carried on in England.

The judges in these sections have recommended the Council to grant honourable mentions for valuable objects sent to the Exhibition by the President of the Venezuelan Republic, by Messrs. Gildemeister and Co., of Lima, and by the Mercantile Society of Bremen. A silver medal has been granted to Dr. Ernst, of Caracas, for his scientific arrangement of Venezuelan produce.

The section for the cultivation of gardens, and fruit, was very interesting, being in two divisions—one for the exhibition of preserved fruit and vegetables, and also for fruit and vegetables in a fresh state; and the other for palms, tropical plants, orchids, ferns (tropical and native), as well as greenhouse plants. The fruit and vegetables were by no means equal to what we have seen in England. There were many magnificent specimens of plants, and amongst others, we especially noticed an enormous plant of the *Musa Paradisiaca* (bread fruit), with abundance of fruit on it of great size. There was a fine plant of coffee with a heavy crop of berries on it. The gloxinias were remarkably fine, and appeared to be greatly admired by persons well up in these things. We believe the committee judged wisely in combining flowers and other matters with the cattle exhibition, because it is not everybody who will be content to spend a day in looking at horses, sheep, and cattle. As it is now, there is sufficient to interest most persons, whichever way their tastes may lie.

There was a very fair exhibition of agricultural implements and machines. The German makers were largely represented, and at many of their stands there were implements which, in an English point of view, were more curious than useful. Probably, however, many of the articles we should not think of using in this country may have their peculiar advantages on the Continent.

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Certainly some of the ploughs looked strong enough to plough up a paved street in any town, and the depth they must enter the soil is something astonishing to think of, and it must of necessity take a good many horses to work them. The following prizes were awarded:

The first prize for the best steam plough and the first prize for the best steam machinery for ploughing waste lands to Messrs. John Fowler and Co., Leeds. Gold medals for agricultural machinery and implements to Messrs. James and Frederick Howard, of Bedford; Walter A. Wood, of Hoosick Falls, New York; Marshall, Son, and Co., of Gainsborough; Clayton and Shuttleworth, of Lincoln; Ransomes, Sims, and Head, of Ipswich; and Messrs. D. M. Osbone and Co., of Bremen. Silver medals for the same objects were granted to the Maldon Ironworks Company; Rennie and Co., Lincoln; Richmond and Chandler, Salford; Aultmann, Miller, and Co., Akron, Ohio; the Reading Ironworks; Nalder and Nalder, Wantage; Gooday, Stanstead, Essex; Samnelson and Co., Banbury; Davy, Paxman, and Co., Colchester; Woods, Cocksedge, and Co., Stowmarket; James Smyth and Sons, Peasenhall; C. Burrell, Thetford; Willsher and Co., London; Hornsby and Sons, Grantham; E. R. and F. Turner, Ipswich; and the Johnston Harvester Company, Brockport.

We were glad to see that the English exhibitors did not open their stands on Sunday, and we hope they will be rewarded for this by obtaining good and satisfactory orders.

The tenth and last section of the original programme was the "Results of Scientific Studies in the several departments." We tried very hard to make out what this was intended to mean, but were unable to do so, unless it was, as one of the committee said, the good that persons might derive from well studying the various products they were enabled to examine, and in seeing how far they could improve upon them.

Taken as a whole the exhibition must be said to be a success. We find that on Saturday, the 13th inst., when the price of admission was ten marks (a mark being equal to an English shilling), 5,000 persons entered the exhibition. On Sunday, the 14th, 15,188 persons entered, paying two marks each; and on Monday, the 15th, 16,300 paid three marks each. There was a large attendance on Tuesday, but we could not learn the number of persons who entered on that day. The price for admission will be three marks for every day except the last day, viz., Sunday, the 21st inst., when it is to be reduced to one mark. A very great number of visitors were expected on Friday and Saturday, the 19th and 20th inst., as the Crown Prince of Prussia, the Kingof Saxony, and other persons of rank are to attend the exhibition on those days, and during their stay at Bremen they are to be the guests of the merchant prince Herr H. H. Meier, who has been the moving spirit in getting up the exhibition. Without the energy and personal attention he has given to the whole matter from the very beginning the exhibition could not have been carried out as it has been. We believe that Herr Meier visited England twice for the purpose of making inquiries and for personal consultation with persons who were thought to be able to give him advice and assistance. We think however that the persons he consulted shou haveld impressed upon him the desirability of having the catalogue numbers so arranged as to enable persons to understand them, whereas there was as much difficulty in following out the classes as there used to be at the Essex show, and this is saying a good deal! There was also great and unnecessary delay in putting up the prize cards, and many had not been fixed when we left the show ground on the evening of Tuesday the 16th.

Soldiers from the seventy-fifth regiment of the line in full uniform were employed as police in the exhibition grounds, and each had a steel plate with a large "P" pierced through it, hung round his neck and lodged on the chest, which showed at once that the men were acting under authority. The men were placed at every entrance and outlet, in the cattle sheds, and in various parts of the grounds. The men did their duty courteously and quietly, and assisted very much, no doubt, in keeping the really good order which generally prevailed. There were letter boxes in different parts in the grounds, and a telegraph office with military operators; and we know from experience that there was no time lost in sending off messages nor, indeed, in letting one have a reply, for we had occasion to send to England and Austria, and were called up at one o'clock in the morning to receive an answer to a message we sent late in the day. The refreshment department was well organised, and most extensively patronised, and the consumption of food, wine, beer, coffee, and tobacco was of itself a sight to see, while the continual and peculiar "sissing" call to the waiters kept up, as it were, a "phizzing" fire in every "restauration." The good bürghers of Bremen right loyally did the best in their power to give a hearty welcome to visitors, and, so far as our experience went, there was no attempt at extortion at the hotels or elsewhere, and we can only express a hope that foreign visitors to English exhibitions may receive as much fair and considerate treatment as we and other Englishmen received at Bremen.

SUNDAY, June 21.—The following additional awards, have been announced: Nicholson, Newark, silver medal for haymaking machines; Ruston, Proctor, and Co., Lincoln, gold medal for steam engines and thrashing machines; Garrett and Sons, Saxmundham, gold medal for agricultural machines; Platt and Co., gold medal for mowing machines; Singer, gold medal for sewing machines.

THE STURDY—AN OPERATION.—The disease in cattle and sheep called *Coenurus cerebralis*, or more popularly known as gid, sturdy, turnsick, is one of the most prevalent, but at the same time one of the least understood by breeders and owners of stock. With regard to the usual form of sturdy, it depends on the presence of hyatid in one of the hemispheres of the cerebrum or brain proper. Under its influence the sheep turns right or left according to the hemisphere affected. The first severity of the attack seems to pass off, but the relief is more apparent than real, the disease becoming more intensified, the cerebral disturbance more marked, causing giddiness, finally paralysis sets in, followed by prostration and death. Having learned from a gentleman largely interested in sheep-breeding that Mr. William Hyslop, of Stretton House Private Asylum, Church Stretton, successfully deals with cases of sturdy amongst his own and his neighbours' flocks, we waited for an opportunity of witnessing an operation for the disease on a sheep of the Stretton Hill breed. We may premise that the *coenurus* is in a kind of bladder, provided with a variable number of exsertile heads, and it is believed that the nervous substance may be excited by the heads which protrude from the bladder, and penetrate the brain substance nearly two lines in depth. The operation, like that of Columbus's egg, was exceedingly simple, but very ingenious withal. The sheep being firmly held by an assistant, Mr. Hyslop felt for the softened part of the skull, and having hit upon the precise spot he wanted, he pierced the brain with an instrument called a borer. He then drew off a large quantity of liquid from the cist of the parasite, through a canula, by means of a syringe. He then extracted the bladder, which contained the agents of the disease, and announced that the animal would be entirely well in a few days. We have been at some pains to explain the disease, and the operation for its cure, in order that those who have sheep afflicted with it may know where to look for a remedy. —*Shrewsbury Free Press.*

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THE NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT NORWICH.

The chief feature of the show was the Shorthorn section, many of the entries, including Lady Pigot's team, now as usual on circuit, coming direct from Bristol, while further interest was given to the awards by Lord Exeter sending two or three of the Telemachus family the old Burghley bull now beating off the Suffolk Oxford which so unexpectedly was declared the champion bull at the Essex show of last year. The full prize list will also tell of some other corrections, more especially amongst the younger stock, where Mr. How, from Broughton, beat the Branches herd. There was a strong show of the native red-polled cattle, where Lord Sondes was still in front, and a fair entry of Southdowns, backed by some capital Cotswolds. Almost all the pig prizes went out of the county, as did many of those for horses; Mr. Garrett's Suffolk three-year-old, however, of which so much was thought at Woodbridge in the spring, being beaten by a roan from Lynn; while another Cup-bearer was the best two-year-old. On the whole, the horse show was but moderate—perhaps more especially of hunters and other lighter breeds.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE: J. C. Foot, Beaulieu Wood, Dorchester; J. K. Fowler, Aylesbury. NORFOLK CART HORSES: J. H. Plowright, Manea, Cambs; J. Warth, Sutton, Ely. CART-HORSES OF ANY BREED: T. Plowright, Pinchbeck; J. Nix, Chatteris, Cambs. THOROUGHBRED AND HUNTING HORSES: W. Whitehead, Woollaston; W. T. Sharpe, Horncastle. HACKNEY AND RIDING HORSES AND PONIES: H. Thurnall, Royston; J. E. Bennett, Rugby. SOUTHDOWN SHEEP: W. Bennett, Chilmark, Salisbury; H. P. Hart, Beddingham, Lewes. LONG-WOOLLED SHEEP: W. Dudding, Panton, Lincoln; T. Horley, The Fosse, Leamington. PIGS: J. S. Turner, Chyngton, Sussex. IMPLEMENTS: T. Everett, Creake; C. B. Mason, Beechamwell; H. Overman, Weasenham.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull, above three years old.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, and the Prince of Wales' prize of £10 10s., the Marquis of Exeter, Burghley, Stamford (Telemachus); second, £7, C. Beart, Westhead, Stowbridge (Master Blythe). Reserved, N. Catchpole, Bramford, Suffolk (Oxford Prize).

Bull, two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, W. Linton, Sherriff Hutton, York (Sir Arthur Ingram); second, £7, J. Wortley, jun., Swafield (Captain Hopeful).

Bull, above one and not exceeding two years.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, the Marquis of Exeter (Telemachus 6th); second, £7, N. Catchpole (Thiers); third, £4, G. J. Day, Horsford, Norwich (Charon). Reserved, Lady Pigot, Branches-park (Rapid Rhone).

Bull-calf, not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £5 and silver medal, N. Catchpole (The Shah); second, £3, T. Rose, Great Melton (Bright Knight).

Cow, in calf or in milk, above three years old.—First prize, £10, and silver medal, Lady Pigot (Victoria Victrix); second, £7, the Marquis of Exeter (Moll Gwynne); third, £4, J. J. Sharp, Broughton, Kettering (Julia 9th). Commended: W. Crickmore, Seething (Virginia).

Heifer, in calf or in milk, two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, two premiums of £5 and silver medal, Lady Pigot (Rose of Wytham); second, £7, N. Catchpole (Bramford Rose); third, £4, T. Rose (Brunette).

Heifer, one and not exceeding two years.—First prize, £8, and silver medal, J. How, Broughton, Hunts (Lady Butterfly); second, £5, Lady Pigot (Princess of Witham); third, £3, Lady Pigot (Rose of Lincoln). Highly commended: J. J. Sharp (Julia 11th). Commended: N. Catchpole (Whitton Rose).

Heifer calf, not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £5, and silver medal, R. Parker, North Creake (Daisy); second, £3, Lady Pigot (Moorish Captive). Highly commended: W. Angerstein, Weeting-hall (Musical 17th). Commended: R. J. Chaplin, Ridgewell, Halstead (Ridgewell Rose).

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK RED-POLLED.

Bull, above three years old.—First prize, £10, J. J. Colman, M.P., Norwich (Powell); second, £7, Lord Sondes, Elmham (The Palmer).

Bull, two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, £10, J. F. Palmer, Wilby (Young Major); second, £7, Lord Sondes (Edgar); third, £4, T. Brown, Marham (The Beau). Reserved: A. Taylor, Starston (Sir Edward 1.).

Bull, one and not exceeding two years.—First prize, £10, and silver medal, Mr. J. J. Colman, M.P. (Elmham Duke); second, £7, H. Birkbeck, Stoke Holy Cross (Suffolk); third, £4, J. J. Colman, M.P. (Easton Duke). Highly commended: J. J. Colman, M.P. (Royal Duke).

Bull-calf, not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £5, and silver medal, T. Brown (Charlie); second, £3, J. J. Colman, M.P. (Baron Easton). Highly commended: Lord Sondes (Longham). Commended: T. Brown (Benedict).

Cow, in calf or milk, above three years old.—First prize, £10, R. E. Lofft, Troston (Minute 3rd); second, £7, B. Brown, Thursford (Countess); third, £4 and silver cup, value £5 5s., J. J. Colman, M.P. (Handsome 3rd). Reserved and commended, Lord Sondes (Skelton).

Heifer, in calf or in milk, two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, Lord Sondes (Fanny); second, £7, H. Birkbeck (Wave); third, £4, B. Brown (Nonpariel). Highly commended, Lord Sondes (Kate); commended, H. Birkbeck (Hyacinth).

Heifer, one and not exceeding two years.—First prize, £8, Mr. Hudson, Castlacre; second, £5, J. J. Colman, M.P. (Rosabelle); third, £3, Sir Willoughby Jones, Cranmer-hall (Belle). Highly commended: H. Birkbeck (Spouse) and Lord Sondes (Theresa).

Heifer-calf, not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £5 and silver medal, Sir Willoughby Jones (Graceful); second £3, Lord Sondes (Lady Constable). Reserved, H. Birkbeck (Wealth).

Best collection of Norfolk and Suffolk Red Polled animals exhibited in classes 9 to 16 inclusive.—Cup or plate, Lord Sondes. Reserved: B. Brown.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Best adapted for dairy purposes, of any breed, not being Shorthorn, or Norfolk and Suffolk Red Polled.

Cow in calf or in milk above three years old.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, W. Johnson, Walpole St. Peter; second, £7, J. Plowman, Great Melton (White Rose); third, £4, W. Johnson. Reserved and highly commended, W. Allen, Little Ellingham (Polled).

Heifer, in calf or in milk, two and not exceeding three years—First prize, £10 and silver medal, W. Johnson, Walpole St. Peter; second, £7, W. Johnson. Reserved: J. Smith, Hethersett (Dolly Varden, cross-bred).

Heifer, one and not exceeding two years.—First prize, £8 and silver medal, W. Welcher, jun., Ashwelthorpe, Wymondham (Lady Jane); second. £5, R. C. Rising, Costessey. Norwich (Beauty); third, £3, J. Smith (Nell Gwynne).

FAT STEERS, COWS, AND HEIFERS.

Steer of any breed, above three years.—First prize, £10 and the Prince of Wales' prize of £10 10s., E. Wortley, Ridlington, Uppingham; second, £7, R. Wortley, Suffield. Highly commended: T. and J. B. Freshney, Saltfleet, Louth, Lincolnshire (Saltfleet).

Steer of any breed, not above three years.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, J. How; second, £7, R. Wortley.

Cow or heifer of any age.—First prize, J. Chapman, North Walsham; second, £7, Duke of Grafton, Euston hall (Spotless).

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HORSES.

NORFOLK CART HORSES

Brown, Bay, or Black).

Stallion, not under four years.—First prize, £15, H. Stanley, Bury St. Edmund's (Champion); second, £7, J. N. Waite, Martham (Major); third, £4, Rev. J. N. Micklethwait, Taverham-hall (Prince of Wales).

Stallion, three years old.—First prize, £10, C. Marsters, Saddlebow, Lynn (England's Glory); second, £7, T. Brown (The Orphan); third, £4, J. Newman, Priory, Hickling (Samson).

Stallion, two years old.—First prize, £8, and silver medal, T. Bettinson, Walsoken, Wisbeach (Honest Tom); second, £5, J. Martin, Littleport, Ely (Ploughboy); third, £3, G. Gowing, Hellesdon (Young Major).

Yearling entire colt.—First prize, £7, J. Tomlinson, Long Sutton (Conqueror); second, £4, B. W. Ground, jun., Whittlesey.

Mare and Foal.—First prize, £10 and silver medal and cup, value £5 5s., J. Tomlinson (Beauty); second, £7, C. Beart (Star); third, £4, W. Wilson, Scarning (Brag).

Mare, not under four years old.—First prize, £10, the City of Norwich premium of £10, and Messrs. J. Geldart and Son's premium of £10 10s., H. Purser, Wellington Manor, Bedford (Honest Lass); second, £7, T. Calver, Burnham Thorpe (Blossom); third, £4, J. N. Waite (Depper).

Gelding, three years old.—First prize, £7 and silver medal, R. Horsley, Ashill (Duke).

Filly, three years old.—First prize, £8 and silver medal, T. Humphrey, Walpole St. Peter (Dora); second, £5, J. Broom, Moulton, Acle (Gipsy); third, £3, H. Little, Wiggenhall, (Gipsy).

Filly, two years old.—First prize, £8, W. Durrant, Brunstead-hall; second, £5, J. Tingey, Little Ellingham (Depper); third, J. Tingey (Brisk).

Yearling filly.—First prize, £8 and silver medal, H. Purser (Grand Duchess); second, £5, B. W. Ground; third, £3, J. N. Waite (Duchess).

PAIRS OF CART HORSES.

Pair of cart horses, whether mare or gelding, without restriction as to colour, best suited for agricultural purposes in Norfolk, and which have been so used in the county for twelve months next before the exhibition.—First prize, £10, W. How, Tottington (Brisk and Lawyer); second, £7, J. Tingey (Brag and Dodman); third, £4, J. Tingey (Doughty and Depper).

CART HORSES OF ANY BREED.

Stallion, not under four years old.—First prize, £10, R. E. Lofft (Young Cupbearer).

Stallion, three years old.—First prize, £8 and cup, value £15 15s., C. Marsters (England's Wonder); second, £5, R. Garrett, Carleton-hall (The Claimant).

Stallion, two years old.—Prize, £6 and silver medal, R. Garrett.

Mare and foal.—First prize, £10, E. S. Trafford, Wroxham (Bunny); second, £7, J. Brown, Bawburgh (Diamond).

Mare, not under four years old.—First prize, £10, H. Wolton, Newborne-hall (Diamond).

Filly, two years old.—First prize, £5 and silver medal, W. Wilson, Baylham second, £3, W. Wilson.

THOROUGHBREDS.

Adapted for Breeding Hunters.

Stallion.—First prize, £20, J. Bloomfield, Warham, Fakenham (The Primate).

HUNTERS.

Mare or Gelding, adapted, equal to 14 stones.—First prize, £15, W. Hudson, Quarles (Steed); second, £8, W. Wright, Fring (Cock Robin).

Mare or Gelding, adapted for hunting, not equal to carry 14 stones.—First prize, £10, B. W. Cooper, Euston (Gazette); second, £5, J. G. Nelson, Sparham (Cupid). Highly commended: R. J. Kendle, Weasenham (Three per Cent).

Colt or Filly, three or four years old.—First prize, £10, Major F. Barlow, Hasketon (Cornishman); second, £5, B. W. Cooper (Grimalkin).

Brood mare, adapted for breeding hunters.—First prize, £10, and silver medals, J. Tomlinson (Sloughby); second, £5, W. Brandford, Godwick (Phœbe).

HACKNEY AND RIDING HORSES.

Stallion, for saddle and harness.—First prize, £15, and silver medal, W. Giddens, Walpole St. Peter (Alonzo the Brave); second, £8, J. Griggs, South Creake (The Little Model); third, £5, J. Grout, Woodbridge (Quicksilver). Reserved and commended: F. Branwhite, Long Melford (Defiance).

Riding mare or gelding, above 15 and not exceeding 15 hands 3 inches high.—First prize, £10, J. Rowell, Magdalen, Lynn (Robin).

Hackney mare or gelding, above 14 and not exceeding 15 hands high, and in the possession of the exhibitor for three months previous to the exhibition.—First prize, £10, and silver medal, W. How (Favourite); second, £5, H. W. Allen's Executors, Saddlebow.

Hackney brood mare, to be certified to have produced a living foal subsequent to 1st of January, 1874.—First prize, £10, and silver medal, C. Cook, Litcham (Bell); second, £5, J. W. Hunn, Hunstanton (Twopenny). Reserved and commended, W. Mitchell, Whitlingham (Eva).

HARNESS HORSES.

Mare or gelding, not under 14 hands 1 inch, nor above 15 hands 1 inch, to be shown in harness.—First prize, £8, and silver medal, W. Durrant. Highly commended and reserved, J. Abel, Norwich.

Mare or gelding, not under 15 hands 1 inch, nor above 15 hands 3 inches high, adapted for single or double harness, to be shown in hand and ridden.—Prize, cup, value £10 10s., W. Giddens (Giddy Girl). Reserved: W. Jex, Burgh St. Peter (Forty Colours).

COBS.

Stallion, adapted for breeding high-stepping cobs.—Prize, £5, G. Body, Haveringland (Young Prickwillow). Commended: Major F. Barlow (King of the West). Commended and reserved: T. and A. Dyball (Little Wonder).

Cob, carrying (while being judged) at least 15 stones, saddle and bridle included, and not less than 13 hands 3 inches, nor more than 14 hands 3 inches high.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, — Charles (Cock Robin); second, £7, F. Branwhite (Pretty Girl); third, £4, T. H. Edwards, Keswick (O'Connell). Commended and reserved: A. Taylor, Starston (Gay Lad).

PONIES.

Pony, not under 13 nor above 13 hands 3 inches high.—First prize, £8, C. Beart (Tom Thumb); second, £5, F. Low (Queen of Spades); third, £3, S. A. Goodwyn, Leiston-hall (Quicksilver). Reserved: J. Baly, Hardingham (Sir Roger).

Pony, not above 13 hands high.—First prize, £5, B. Hook, Norwich (Tommy Dodd); second, £3, W. Birkbeck, Thorpe. Highly commended: H. W. Owles, Norwich (Flo). Commended: J. Emms, Thetford (Jenny).

Pony, not under 12 nor above 13 hands 3 inches, to be shown in harness.—Prize, £5, S. Gardiner, Wheatacre (Mingay). Commended and reserved: T. Patrick, Sutton Wymondham (Match Box).

SHEEP.

SOUTHDOWN.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £10, and silver medal, and silver cup or plate, value £10 10s., J. J. Colman, M.P.; second, £7, Prince of Wales; third, £4, J. J. Colman, M.P.

Ram of any age.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, J. J. Colman, M.P.; second, £7, Prince of Wales; third, £4, Lord Sondes.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, Lord Sondes; second, £4, J. J. Colman, M.P. Reserved: Prince of Wales.

Pen of ten ewe lambs.—Prize, £5 and silver medal, Lord Sondes. Reserved: Prince of Wales.

Pen of ten wether lambs, bred by the exhibitor from a flock of not less than five score ewes, size and quality to be taken into consideration.—Prize, £5 and silver medal, Lord Sondes; Reserved: J. J. Colman, M.P.

LONG-WOOLLED.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, T. Brown; second, £7, T. Brown; third, £4, T. Brown. Highly commended: T. Brown.

Ram of any age.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, T. Brown; second, £7, T. Brown; third, £4, T. Thornton, Cavenham House, Wereham. Highly commended: T. Brown. Commended: T. Brown and T. Thornton.

Pen of two ram lambs.—First prize, £8 and silver medal, T. Brown; second, £5, T. Brown. Commended and reserved: F. Ellis, Chesterton, Cambs.

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Pen of five shearling ewes.—First prize, £7 and silver medal, T. Gunnell; second, £4, F. Ellis,

Pen of ten ewe lambs.—First prize, £5 and silver medal, F. Ellis.

SHEEP OF ANY BREED.

Pen of ten ewe or wether lambs.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, C. Middleton, Holkham, Wells; second, £7, C. Middleton; third, J. B. Ellis, jun., West Barsham, Fakenham. Highly commended and reserved: Mrs. Hudson. Commended: The Corporation of Norwich, Kirby Bedon.

Pen of three shearling wethers of any breed.—First prize, £7, C. Crawshay, Hingham; second, £4. C. Crawshay. Highly commended and reserved: G. Cooke, Horseheath, Cambs. Commended The Corporation of Norwich.

Pen of ten ewes of any age or breed, from a flock of one less than five score, having brought up a lamb or lambs.—First prize, £10 and silver medal, T. Gunnell, Milton, Cambs; second, £5, Mrs. Hudson. Reserved: J. B. Ellis, jun.

Pen of ten ewes of any age or breed, not being Southdown or longwoolled, having brought up a lamb or lambs.—First prize, £10, and silver medal, Mrs. Hudson; second, £5, G. Cook. Reserved and commended, J. P. Case, Testerton.

Pen of twenty shearling ewes of any breed, without restriction as to clipping.—First prize, £10, and silver medal, Lord Sondes: second, £7, Mrs. Hudson.

PIGS.

LARGE BREED.

Boar above twelve months old.—First prize, £5, J. Dove, Bristol; second, £3, R. E. Duckering and Son, Northorpe, Lincolnshire.

Boar not above twelve months old.—First prize, £5, and silver medal, J. Dove; second, £3, R. E. Duckering and Son.

Breeding sow.—First prize, £5, J. Dove; second, £3, R. E. Duckering and Son. Highly commended: R. E. Duckering and Son. Commended: G. M. Sexton, Wherstead Hall, Ipswich.

Three breeding sows not above seven months old.—First prize, £5, and silver medal, R. E. Duckering and Son.

SMALL BREED (BLACK OR BERKSHIRE).

Boar above twelve months old.—First prize, £5, R. E. Duckering and Son; second, £3, J. N. Waite. Highly commended: G. M. Sexton.

Boar not above twelve months old.—First prize, £5, and silver medal, Lord Rendlesham, Rendlesham Hall, Suffolk; second, £3, G. M. Sexton. Highly commended: G. M. Sexton.

Breeding sow.—£5, and silver medal, G. M. Sexton; second, £3, Lord Rendlesham. Highly commended: R. E. Duckering and Son; J. N. Waite.

Three breeding sows not above seven months old.—First prize, £5, and silver medal, G. M. Sexton.

SMALL BREED (WHITE).

Boar above twelve months old.—First prize, £5, and silver medal, Lord Rendlesham; second, £3, G. M. Sexton. Commended: R. E. Duckering and Son.

Boar not above twelve months old.—First prize, £5, and silver medal, Lord Rendlesham; second, £3, Lord Rendlesham. Highly commended: G. M. Sexton and J. Dove.

Breeding sow.—First prize, £5, and silver medal, R. E. Duckering and Son; second, £3, Lord Rendlesham. Commended: J. Dove and H. A. Kilham, Tydd St. Mary, Wisbeach.

Three breeding sows, not above seven months old.—Prize, £5, and silver medal, R. E. Duckering and Son.

IMPLEMENTS.

Stacking or elevating machine for straw, hay, or sheaf corn.—Prize, £10, Holmes and Sons, Norwich. Exhibitors: Hambling and Son, East Dereham; Holmes and Sons; Murton and Turner, Kenninghall; Roby and Co. (Limited), London; S. G. Soame, Marsham; Wallis and Steevens, London.

Turnip hoe or thinner, for ridge or flat work.—Prize, £7, and silver medal to inventor, Holmes and Sons. Exhibitors: J. W. Branford, East Dereham; T. Chambers, Colkirk; Holmes and Sons; Hambling and Sons; Murton and Turner; F. Mote, March; T. F. Salter, Attleborough.

Thrashing machine drum guard, for the most simple yet effectual plan for protecting the drum against accidents.—Prize, £3, F. Savage, Lynn. Exhibitors: Garrett and Sons, Leiston; Holmes and Sons; F. Savage; Woods, Cocksedge, and Co., Stowmarket.

THE COMMERCIAL PRINCIPLE.

Ever remembering that in this Journal the business on the mart and the work in the field receive equal attention, it may not be out of place to look a little into the commercial principle as applied to agriculture. There are well-meaning men who hope never to see the two come together, as any such union would only tend to disturb the good feeling existing between landlord and tenant. There are others, on the contrary, who maintain that we shall never hold our position or achieve any satisfactory progress until the commercial principle is brought to bear alike upon the investment of the occupier and the interest of the owner. Thus, at the meeting of the Central Chamber of Agriculture the other day, Lord Hampton contended that "the arrangements between landlord and tenant should be conducted much more on commercial principles;" by which of course his lordship intended to say that the two parties to a contract should set about arranging the terms "fair and square," neither possessing in the outset any unequal advantage over the other. On the face of it this would appear to be Lord Hampton's argument, but we gather from the context it is not so: he would have "no invasion of the great principle of freedom of contract;" or, in plain English, he would not wish to see the farmer in a better position to deal with the landlord: "Mr. Masfen would like to know how, if freedom of contract remained, an unwilling landlord was to be made to do his duty to his tenant? That gentleman, and others, had assumed that the tenant-farmer was the most helpless being in the world; and his reply to the question was that, if farmers had to take a farm from such unwilling landlords as he referred to, they must guard their own interests." There can be no doubt but the time may come, perhaps sooner than expected, when tenants may be able to guard their own interests against "unwilling" landlords, that is by having nothing to do with such people; but so far Lord Hampton must know that he is speaking mere platitudes, as unless a man will do just as the unwilling landlord chooses as to game, capital, cropping, and so forth, the probabilities are the applicant will never get into the farm. Lord Hampton's idea of the commercial principle clearly dates some centuries back, and refers not so much to English customs as those of new countries, where a smart trader could purchase a small territory for a bottle of whisky, or half-a-dozen wives for a string of beads. The commercial principle as interpreted in such a case signified simply making a bargain on unfair terms, the one side exercising a stronger power than the other; as it is thus that Lord Hampton would maintain the law between landlord and tenant, the one having everything secured and the other nothing. Indeed, if Lord Hampton's theory possesses any force whatever, it is that the "unwilling" landlord's property should go gradually out of cultivation.

Then, again, at this same Chamber meeting the Honourable Mr. Stanhope declared that "the only cases in which that freedom was now interfered with were those of children, women, lunatics, and Irish tenants, and did the farmers of England wish to be placed in the same position as those classes of persons? The Lincolnshire tenantry were satisfied with the working of freedom of

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contract, and not prepared to go in for compulsory legislation." Of course all this is not merely outrageous nonsense but at utter variance with facts. So far from freedom of contract being prohibited only amongst women, children, and lunatics, there is, as Mr. Sewell Read was not slow to show, scarcely a class but where the law interferes with or watches over the contracts made between a stronger and a weaker power, and thus enables the two to deal on something like terms of equality. Further, what does Mr. Stanhope mean by the freedom of contract with which the Lincolnshire tenantry are satisfied? So far as we understand it, Tenant-Right in Lincolnshire is not so much a matter of contract but a custom which has all the strength of a law, and one which our aim is to extend. It is a nice question, in fact, whether the "unwilling" landlord—that is, the man who objected to the Tenant-Right—could live in a district where this right was recognised; and if such an incubus upon the soil should not be permitted to infest one part of the country, why should his baneful influence be suffered in another? It is sufficiently clear how, when Lord Hampton speaks of commercial principles and Mr. Stanhope of freedom of contract, that neither of these honourable gentlemen knows what he is talking about; and as we said last week of the Escrick steward, who sneers at Philip Pusey and Sewell Read and James Howard, and who in the fulness of his heart would not disturb "amicable relations," it would be well if such people could be educated up to the times in which they live. If the Central Chamber of Agriculture will undertake such a duty it might really promise to be of some service.

LAVENHAM FARMERS' CLUB.

THE ECONOMY OF LABOUR.

At the last meeting, Mr. R. Hawkins in the chair, Mr. William BIDDELL read the following paper:

It has been the practice at the May meetings of this Club to have a little jollification, comprised mainly in drinking healths and flattering one another, occasionally enlivened by a good song. The Committee, after due consideration, have thought it better for us not to do away with the social tea, but instead of the usual kind of speechifying afterwards, to have a subject to discuss. I have consented to introduce one, which, unfortunately, I cannot do but at considerable length; but the inward man having been made comfortable, I am in hopes you may sit it out. The subject is one which sooner or later must have our especial attention, which it has not yet had, owing to the former state of the law, practically compelling us to employ labour, whether we wanted it or not. I shall term it the economy of labour in agriculture. Though I do not anticipate a scarcity of labour, it is as well to be prepared for it. Indeed, I think it probable that in a year or two we may have an excess. It is the unexampled prosperity of the last few years which has created such an enormous demand for labour, attracting it from the rural districts into the towns. We always have our ups and downs, and there are already symptoms that some of the great industries of the country are commencing the downward movement. Certainly we now present in our rural districts a very different aspect to what we did 25 years since. Then could be seen in nearly every parish one of the most melancholy of all sights—men able and willing to work, but having no work to do. For only 8s. a-week good labourers were glad to work, and work well; but even at that low wage the farmers were racking their brains how to profitably employ them, for they themselves were losing their capital. Assuming then what I do not anticipate, that wages are to be materially increased, where is the money to come from? Under the average of prices for the last 10 years, the farmer cannot afford to pay materially more, and what cannot be afforded will not last long. He will, therefore, take care to have the total sum paid on Friday night kept down. If no other way presents itself he will do it by employing fewer men, paying eight or ten what he has hitherto paid ten or twelve, and adapt his farming accordingly, leaving undone the least profitable work, no longer paying 1s. 6d. for extracting weeds, which if suffered to grow would do him only a shilling's worth of damage. This laudable pride of clean farming would soon cease. We shall fall back into the slovenly ways of farming which our continental competitors practise who pay so much less for their labour. Our rural population has been declining for some years. What effect a further great decline produced by emigration would have upon the general trades of the country I cannot now stop to inquire; but most certainly it would be the opposite if beneficial. Judging from the return home of many of our labourers, migration appears of little benefit to them. The emigrant's lot is often too highly coloured. We will trace a single specimen. We will suppose he has attained to the position which appears to be the ambition of every Englishman—he has become owner of a few acres of land far from any town, miles off any doctor of either mind or body, or teacher of his children, all of which he has here for pretty well nothing, and are necessary for the well-being of any society. With an indifferent market for his produce, he finds his strength and the fertility of his land all he has to depend upon. Either failing, he is undone, and he comes to the conclusion that this "Crusoe" kind of life is much better in theory than practice, and that he had better have stayed at home, lamenting that he cannot tell his mind to those who on the most superficial information pressed him to emigrate, and thus render his lot worse. The only specimen of an emigrating labourer I am acquainted with returned home. He (to his credit) left his master on good terms, a correspondence being kept up between them, in which he at first pictured his new country (one of the Northern of the United States, I believe) in attractive colours, but all was summer then when high wages abounded. Presently the long winter of seven months came, which he found like the lean cattle of Pharaoh which ate up the fat of the others, no work being to be had. After a while he, to the great surprise of his master, turned up on his old farm again and asked for work, where he is now employed. As it is full time to conclude this long preface, I will now proceed to the more practical part of my subject, first considering it in its connection with the cropping of land and grazing. At starting I shall assume what I have no doubt will be correct, that landlords will assist their tenants to meet the difficulty of dearer labour by doing away with what to a good farmer is a financial cruelty—viz., the six months' notice, substituting for it one of a year and a-half or two years, and allowing tenants to farm as they please, until either party gives or receives notice of quitting. Before proceeding further I would remark that the suggestions I shall make will apply more especially to heavy, and not to light land. The most extensive crops for labour are the root crops we cart off. We grow them not for immediate profit, but as indirect feeders for the corn crops. Full half the manure we make from them is required to be carted back to restore the fertility extracted from the land by the roots themselves. Can we diminish our acreage of these? I think we can. The question will arise how we can best manurise (convert into manure) our straw. Our whole modern system is I think in fault in carting too much off, and consequently having too much to cart back to our land. Let us then by leaving higher stubbles take less straw off the land, and manurise part of it by summer grazing. This can be done by green food consumed in wide sheds and barns. The "Belstead Hall" and other experiments have shown that manure thus made under cover is far better than that made in uncovered yards. The green food would be cut from the layers, which I propose to let grow for two years. To avoid growing small seeds too frequently, we should now and then have to grow sanfoin or lucerne. To prevent loss of acreage of corn crops, these two-year-old layers would be succeeded by

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a crop of wheat followed by barley. If the land is too poor to have profitable layers upon, then long fallow it for wheat and follow it by highly artificial manure for barley, making your manure by store beasts fed on straw and cake, which they will thrive very well upon. From Mr. Lawes' invaluable experiments it is conclusively shown that barley can be successfully grown from artificial manure. For 20 years he has grown it upon the same land, averaging 48 bushels per acre, and that with an outlay for manure not exceeding £3 per acre. I question if farmers of good barley lands can show a more profitable method than this constant barley growing, especially when we remember it is one of the least costly in manual labour of any of our crops. Mr. Lawes and his experiments appear to me far too little appreciated in the present day, but the time will come when he will be referred to as one of the greatest lights in agriculture we have ever had. In the tillage of land I am not looking for any great improvement. Steam cultivation is still too expensive to become general, but steam draining is a decided success, promising to supersede on fair soils all old-fashioned draining. The double plough, the revival of one of our best implements, is now so well appreciated as to require no further allusion. Treble ones are now I understand being made. It is a question whether we could not get our ploughing done cheaper by having a man work two sets of three horses on the double plough, keeping going all day. Where twelve horses are kept, there would be one man's work to feed and change them. We should require only three men under that system to feed and work twelve horses. With 10-inch furrows, ploughing could be done at about 1s. per acre for manual labour, whereas with single ploughs it costs about double. The work being put out, the horses would be kept going, and therefore would not require to be out so many hours, which is so hurtful to them under our present system. It would probably be best for each horse to go two journeys. Harrowing, if done with three horses and 5-yard harrows, would cost 25 per cent. less for manual labour than it now does. Of course the land must be on the flat, which is now generally preferred. If on stetch work, the 4-yard is preferable to the 3-yard work. Furrows are convenient for horse-hoeing, drilling, and inasmuch as the horses walk much easier, for harrowing too. Horse-hoeing both for corn and roots is greatly on the increase. Roots as well as beans are, I think, easiest kept clean when on the ridge. Upon the lighter lands we shall, I expect, eventually see the roots set out by the horse-hoe, though they cost double for singling. There would no doubt be much less hoeing required if we always seeded upon stale land, harrowing it a fortnight before hand. Drilling upon farms of over 200 acres I recommend being done with 3-yard drills. Having to slip the drill through the gates is inconvenient, but gradually we should convert our nine feet into ten feet clear gateways, resting the gate-head on the hut when shut. Wide (say from nine to ten inches) drilling diminishes considerably the horse-labour, and in hoeing the manual labour as compared with the old 6-inch drilling. No improvement is likely to be made in rolls. I have sometimes found it an advantage to attach a very light harrow behind the light rolls, so that the surface of the land is somewhat pulverised, the better to keep out the drought, and absorb benefits from the atmosphere. As to haymaking when cut and made by machines, and gathered by an American rake or toppler, I do not see where we can economise further. The elevator spares much hard work, but it is at present too expensive for small farmers. Reckoning interest of money and repairs to justify purchasing they ought to be worth £6 or £7 a-year to a farmer. On large farms they are probably worth this. For harvesting the modern self-delivery reaper is a first-rate invention. The gain is not only in its speedy cutting, but in leaving the corn so much better for tying. As a gaveller, I think the toppler is too little valued, as it saves so much time and labour at a critical period. I have used them for eight or ten years, and have not observed that if handled with ordinary skill they knock out more barley in gavelling than when done by forks or rakes. If they cost three times what they now do, I should still use them. My father years back invented a revolving gatherer with three rows of teeth, which did very well. Yesterday I saw at Bury one which, carrying two swathes at a time, and being lighter, is an improvement on his. Thrashing is best put out to men at per coomb, and should be so arranged that the machine comes upon the farm only half-a-dozen times a-year, as its removal away often costs in manual and horse labour from 20s. to 25s. On small farms, it is as well to place a wheat and barley stack together, so that they can be thrashed without moving the machine. For root storing it answers very well to fill a barn once with corn, thrash out early, then fill it with roots, having so placed a stack that when threshed the elevator can, through a window, cover them with straw. It is a good plan to clamp roots near a cornstack, so that when the latter is thrashed they can by the elevator be covered with eight or ten feet of straw, particularly if they be placed close to the root house, so as to require no further carting. Some farmers (and I am inclined to agree with them) think that chaff-cutting is now carried on to an excess. It is supposed the more chaff we, so to speak, smuggle into our cattle, the better. How so? Stock will not fatten upon it, and it prevents them cutting and masticating for themselves, which is more beneficial; particularly, I think, in case of cart horses. From them, where an excess of cut chaff is given, it can be seen to pass from them merely bruised and quite whole. I am led to form an unfavourable opinion of giving much cut chaff, from having observed bullocks do better on finger pieces of root than on minced. Fences are a great expense to keep neat and effective, and foul the land, hence we should have as few as possible. I am not sure whether clipped ones are not the cheapest, the clipping being put out by the score rods. It is best to put out work, but the changeableness of the weather renders it difficult at times to do so. Manure filling and spreading ought always to be done by the piece and stint. Hay carting and stacking might also in most cases be done by the acre. Unless men have been accustomed to take work they are generally indifferent judges of it, consequently the masters must rely very much upon their judgment in such matters The suggestions I have made are rather those arising from recent thought on the subject than from my own practice. Most of them are open to discussion, which I now invite.

Mr. LEECH thought barley after fallow wheat bad farming, but barley after clover wheat was good farming. If they had three or four layers and ploughed them up just before harvest they would not want more than half the labour in keeping land clean.

Mr. BIDDELL asked Mr. Leech for his experience in reference to the two-year-old layers.

Mr. LEECH said he had had no experience as to that, but he was now beginning the system.

Mr. J. E. WRIGHT observed that the paper which had just been read contained many valuable hints, and one occurred to him as being very important, and that was the use of cut chaff. He (Mr. Wright) thought there was in the present day a deal too much used. He this year lost a valuable mare owing, he believed, to his man carelessly giving it too much cut chaff. If given at all it ought to be mixed extensively with other articles of food. With reference to the two-year-old layers, his experience was that no kind he had ever left on the land had answered but sanfoin. When red clover was left a second year he found the land got very foul. He thought it possible to economise labour if they reverted back to the old four-course system, sheep-feeding, &c.; and if wages continued to advance they would have to keep less horses and employ less manual labour. It seemed to him that they were now paying what he might term a fictitious price for their labour—they did not get value for their money. There were some good men who earned the money which was paid them, but there were some men who received 2s. 2d. or 2s. per day whose labour was not worth 1s. 6d. to the farm. They could no more go on at that rate than certain societies could go on paying men 9s. per week to wear a blue ribbon and do nothing.

Mr. VINCE remarked that the labour question had assumed a serious form. When he first went into business he calculated that 27s. per acre was all that he would have to pay, and he found he could manage it at that; but now he found that his labour cost him £2 per acre, which, upon an occupation of 450 acres, made all the difference, the amount being £900, whereas, at 27s. per acre it would be only about £600. Some of it was to be accounted for by the extra cropping. He agreed with the observation of Mr. Wright, that if they fell back upon the old four-course system they would be benefited, though the public might have to pay a little more for the produce. He (Mr. Vince) also thought that the two-years' green crop would not answer in anything excepting in sanfoin. He tried clover once, and then he found that it would not answer.

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If they had more meadow land the expenses would be less, and so they would be if the Scotch system of growing three green crops before ploughing were adopted. He thought labour had reached its maximum price, and his belief was that there was a surplus of labour in almost every parish in the neighbourhood. He concurred in the remark that had been made, that farmers did not get the value for the money which they paid to the labourers. For his own part he did not mind paying a good man good wages, but it was necessary for farmers to look closely after their men.

Mr. W. BAKER complimented Mr. Biddell on the manner in which he had introduced the subject, and said that gentleman always brought a vast amount of practical ability to bear upon every subject which he introduced to the Club. As to the question of labour, he (Mr. Baker) was sure that if they fell back upon the four-course system they would find labour a much lighter item in their expenditure. He had adopted the five-course system; he had taken white straw after white straw, but he found in the long-run that he was money out of pocket. There was extra cleaning and other work to do, but the land could not be kept so clean as under the old system, and to that system, he, believed, they would have to revert. He considered that they had spent a good deal of money that might have been saved if they had laid down the principle followed by their forefathers. We might pride ourselves in being in advance of them, but the rules followed by our fathers were in the main the right ones; and whatever people might say about artificial principles it was impossible to make them succeed. It was possible to force a principle, but in the end it would not be successful. It had been said that the agricultural population was decreasing. In some of the outlying districts this might be so, but in centres like Lavenham and Melford there was actually a surplus. It must not be taken for granted that the agricultural population was diminishing. There was still ample labour for all agricultural purposes. He contended that there was greater elasticity in agriculture than many people suspected, and that if they studied economy of labour they could, if so disposed, create a surplussage of labour. He pointed out that something like 1,000 men who were in the militia had been called up, and they were not at all missed from the rural parishes; and he added, that for his own part, he did not employ so many men as he did a few years ago by four or five, and he actually found his work in a more forward state than when he carried on the five-course system. If higher wages were paid some men would be greatly benefited, but it must be at the expense of others, who would have to walk about in idleness. In the course of further remarks on the labour question, Mr. Baker submitted that the agricultural labourers had benefited as much by the increased prosperity of the country as any other class, and he instanced wages which were paid now, as compared with formerly. With respect to the use of cut chaff, he expressed his belief that to give large quantities of it to horses was very injudicious, and said the saving (if any) by the use of it was more than counterbalanced by the losses of animals which would be sure to ensue.

Mr. LEECH said he believed he used as much cut chaff as most people. He fed 65 score ewes on it, and a great many horses. The plan he adopted was to grind it with one of Maynard's machines, and allowed it to lay a long time, and mixed it with corn chaff, and if this were done no evil results would follow. He should like to cut barley straw directly after it left the machine. If it was left out all night, and there was any rain, it would be nearly spoiled. If cut chaff was used directly it left the machine it was then injurious.

Mr. BRAND said he did not agree with Mr. Biddell's suggestion as to letting out the ploughing. A good deal depended upon good ploughing. If land was not properly ploughed it cost more to clean it afterwards than if it was well done at the first. If the men were paid so much per acre they would hurry over the work, and the horses would be unfairly taxed. He contended that it was the business of farmers to use two-year-old horses, and to work them till they were worth more money, and then to sell them. It must certainly be a wrong policy for a farmer to work a horse out—their business was rather to make them useful, and his fear was that if men were allowed to use young horses on piece-work they might spoil them. He agreed with what Mr. Biddell had said on the subject of fences. No doubt there were miles of useless fences in that country; they were a nuisance to everybody, to master and men. The trees impoverished the land, and thousands of weeds were blown from the hedge-rows and scattered over the field. For his own part he believed it quite possible to have large fields on heavy land. If it was thoroughly well drained there could be large stetches, the larger the better. It was easy to fold sheep by means of iron hurdles, which until recently could be had at a moderate cost. It was better to fold them than to place them in a small field with ditches all round, for the stock were sure to be in the ditch half the summer time, and all the manure was washed away and spoiled. With regard to the question of leaving higher stubbles, he should like to know what was the object in doing that. He should like to know if that straw which would be left on the ground was worth as much to the ground as it would be if carted to the homestead. That straw was worth money, and he could not see the policy of leaving it on the ground. If they had more straw than they really wanted, why not sell it? But he did not find that he had more straw than he could use. With respect to storing mangolds, the plan he had adopted was to throw the roots into big heaps, and then to thatch them, and if kept water-tight he did not find that the frost hurt them. It was well to let the roots lie a little time before covering them up. In reference to the subject of economy of labour, many people seemed to think that if farmers could let their work the present difficulties would be overcome. He did not hold with farmers letting their work. They got more done no doubt, but the work was generally of a very indifferent kind. No doubt there were many useless jobs which the men were set to do, and many farmers kept three men where they had no business to keep more than two.

Mr. GARDINER said he could never see the policy of growing mangolds, considering the cost it involved. He knew a gentleman who was as good a farmer as any in the county. He was in the habit of growing fifty acres of mangolds. He had to put on twelve loads of manure per acre, beside some artificial. He had to go to the expense of carting them home, and to keep them; but what virtue was there in them to make corn grow? He (Mr. Gardiner) calculated that they cost £15 per acre, considering that the land was impoverished for several crops following.

The CHAIRMAN then summed up the discussion, remarking at the outset that they, as a Club, were greatly indebted to Mr. Biddell for his interesting and practical paper. There was one thing, however, that gentleman had omitted to refer to, and that was as to the use of agricultural machinery in economising manual labour. He (Mr. Hawkins) did not intend to argue that the use of machinery necessarily economised labour, but there was no doubt machinery had done very much for the farming community. If they could get their grass and their corn cut quickly it was a great advantage, but as to how far labour was economised in a financial point of view was quite another matter. In the course of the discussion which had taken place, it had been suggested that one way of meeting the labour difficulty was to revert back to the old four-course system. He did not agree with this, and for one was not prepared to advocate the plan of economising labour. They had the public to feed, and under the four-course system the land would not produce what it did under the system more generally followed. Besides, he did not now consider it necessary. Many landlords had been very kind, and had given leases to persons who worked the land fairly and consistently, enabling farmers to farm just as they liked. They could grow all they liked, and such farmers would hardly find it to their interests to economise labour in the manner suggested. The labourers had very greatly benefited by the system which had been of late generally pursued in the cultivation of the land. They now had opportunities which they had not enjoyed for, he might say, generations. One-fourth of the land was not now under fallow as formerly, but almost the whole of it was under cultivation, giving men the opportunity of being employed. Mr. Hawkins referred to other matters which had been raised in the course of the discussion, and he said he did not think that farmers would suffer so much from emigration and migration as many would lead them to suppose. He also spoke of the happy position the farmers were in just at the present juncture, owing to the very favourable season they had enjoyed for farming operations.

Mr. BIDDELL then replied. He was very glad to find so practical a man as Mr. Leech agreeing with his views as to having two years' green crops and taking two years' corn crops,

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if they had to pay a higher price for their labour, which he (Mr. Biddell) did not anticipate. One of the greatest arguments against it was the dryness of our climate. The grasses, &c., would not grow here as they did in those places where there was more rain; but at the same time he thought they might find it to answer their purpose to adopt that system. He argued that red clover would hardly do to lay two years, but he imagined that they could have layers composed of mixed grasses that would. A mixed layer would he thought grow profitably for two years. Mr. Vince had referred to the large increase which had taken place in the cost of labour since he had been in business. That fact alone must rebut a good deal that had been said of late about the labourer not having shared in the general prosperity of the country. The returns showed that there had been a decrease in the agricultural population, and this fact, coupled with the other that farmers paid a great deal more, was conclusive to his mind that the labourers had got up in the world. The position of the labourer had been and might be benefited in this way, but he had no confidence in those artificial attempts which had been made of late to force up the rate of wages faster than was reasonable. Several speakers had recommended that farmers should go back to the old four-course system. That was the very thing he was getting tired of. When he recommended the two years' layer and the two years' corn crops, he did not of course recommend that the whole farm should be so treated; but he was convinced they would require much less manual labour under that system than under the four-course. With respect to Mr. Brand's remarks, a good deal that gentleman said might be perfectly correct provided everybody had nice level land as he had at Waldringfield, but the case might be different on the strong heavy lands such as were to be found in the neighbourhood of Lavenham. He (Mr. Biddell) had come to the conclusion that good horses were quite as cheap to work on land as colts. As to letting the ploughing, it should be borne in mind that the horses would not have to go the hours they now did, and to his mind the less the number of hours that horses were out the better, as they were often left standing about when they were hot, which was their ruin. If men were allowed to earn a good wage there would be nothing of the sort, as the men would keep the horses going, and they would go fewer hours than they did now. With respect to leaving tall stubbles, he remarked that it had been said by an eminent agriculturist that straw was worth 15s. a ton to plough in, and if that were so it was hardly right to cart off all they did, straw being so bulky a commodity that it could not be taken to a distant market with profit. It was hardly right to cart lots of straw off the land to make a lot of inferior muck to cart back again—it was certainly wiser to make better manure with less straw. The Chairman had charged him with having said but little on the subject of machinery. He was a thorough advocate for the use of reaping machines. Last year he spent something like £70, and as far as he could see the benefits were shared between him and his men. They had received just as much benefit from the machines as he had. How long farmers were to go upon that system he did not know. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Biddell for his admirable paper.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S MEETING AT BEDFORD.— This, by the entries, will be the largest show, alike of stock and implements, ever held; all the Cattle classes being capitally filled, and the nominations in the several sections of horses being something extraordinary.

THE BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND MEETING AT BRISTOL.—Mr. B. St. John Ackers' white bull Cymbeline was highly commended in the old class of Shorthorn bulls. It is alike discreditable and an act of injustice to exhibitors that the Bath Society does not issue an official and intelligible prize-list, after the manner of the Royal Agricultural Society.

AN ABERDEENSHIRE FARMER IN CANADA.—I have resided forty-five years in Canada. Thirty-five years I have been a farmer. I began in the woods two miles from a neighbour, and, I may further state, I am an exception to the general rule. I paid £100 for a half-lot of 100 acres. I had £150 in money, a strong healthy constitution, a wife and three infant children. There was no school or church, and we were 15 miles to a mill, 14 miles to a store, and I had to carry my flour on my back two miles, and had to go seven miles to buy a ham, and that through the trackless forest, with the wolf, the bear, and the deer. I bought a yoke of oxen, and lost one by death, and was cheated out of the other. My best cow got her leg broken, and I lost her. My wife was taken sick, and was so for three years, and could not wash a cap for her head. I had almost lost my life when rolling logs on a heap, had my neck almost broken and my teeth thrust out by the blow, and for one year was unable to work. I paid 42 dollars for two visits to an M.D. I have lost ten cows, besides oxen, sheep, and hogs. I have had crops. I have got 30 bushels of wheat to an acre, and at other times not two bushels. I paid 16 dollars an acre for clearing and fencing, and many a night have had to work until nearly morning fighting fire from my clearing. After all, I am considered one of the most successful farmers. When I look around, and see how few of my old neighbours are left, I am lost in wonder at seeing how many have died. There are just a few left, and our burying grounds are well tenanted We had ten children, nine of whom are alive, but the money bills for medicine are incredible, and to tell you the truth no pen can do justice or pourtray the hardships of bush life. The winter is excessively cold, and to-day we may plough, but not sow. Summer is excessively hot. A labourer with you can work out off doors at all times. Not so here. We have six months steady winter, and about four months warm. The frost a few days ago was two feet deep, and our fall wheat is badly winter-killed. It won't be half a crop. There is no hay; the grasshoppers took it all, and the Colorado beetle ate all our potatoes. There is nothing we plant which will pay for the labour, and our youth are leaving and going South to the United States. And yet we pay idlers to go and tell what a fine country Canada is. Those who are persuading your people to come here are not your friends. They are paid to do so. I am not. I tell you, beware and look ere you leap. I may send you the report of the Crown Lands. There are nearly 70 townships surveyed, but beware, be not too confident. You gain little by coming to Canada, and lose much. If I made a mistake in coming here, I hope others may profit by my experience. I am from Aberdeenshire, and a graduate of the University. I am now the owner of five good farms, and would gladly sell to get away. For the farm I live on, I was offered a thousand pounds twenty years ago, and I cannot now sell at any price.—SCRIBENDER in the *Banffshire Journal*.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.—A supplement to the *London Gazette* of Tuesday contains the following Order, which may be cited as the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Order of 1874: Article 28 of the Animals Order of 1871 shall extend to authorize a local authority to make regulations for prohibiting or regulating the movement, as therein provided, of any animal affected with foot-and-mouth disease; but nothing in this Order, or in any regulation of a local authority thereunder, shall be deemed to authorize the movement of any animal in contravention of section 57, or of any other provision of the Act of 1869. Article 5 of the Animals (Amendment) Order of 1873 is hereby revoked. When an animal become affected with foot-and-mout't disease while exposed, or placed, or being carried, led, or driven as in section 57 of the Act of 1869 mentioned, it may, notwitstanding anything in that section, be, with a licence of an inspector of the local authority authorized to issue the same, but not otherwise, moved for purposes of feeding, or watering, or other ordinary purposes connected with the breeding or rearing of animals, to any land or building in the occupation of the owner of the animal, or for slaughter to the nearest slaughter-house, or some other slaughter-house approved by the local authority.

SALE OF THE COBHAM STUD YEARLINGS.—At the second sale the thirty-three lots realised 9,570 gs., or an average of 290 gs., which shows a falling off compared with last year's, when an average of 383 gs. was obtained for thirty-four lots.

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EAST LOTHIAN FARMERS' CLUB.

THE CHEMICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the monthly meeting, held at Haddington,

Mr. Gaukroger (Southfield), in the chair, said: The subject for discussion to-day is "What should the Highland Society do in regard to the chemical department in order to confer the greatest benefit upon the agriculture of Scotland?" It is not necessary to refer to the importance of a scientific education or of the establishment of an agricultural college for Scotland. As you will observe our discussion refers only to what we think the Society should do in regard to its chemical department. The matter we have to consider is of paramount importance to every person engaged in agriculture. Let anyone consider for a moment the amount laid out for artificial manures and feeding stuffs in this country alone, and he will find that in very many cases the sums paid for them is equal, if not above, the rent of the land. There are many gentlemen in this room who pay more, year by year, for these articles than they do for rent and taxes combined. If, then, this subject is so weighty to us in a given district or a county, it is necessarily more so to the agriculture of Scotland. I believe, moreover, that the sums paid by the the farmers of Scotland over and above what the manures are worth from being deficient in quality is incalculable. Farmers do not generally get their manures analysed, but the facilities for doing so would be considerably increased and the cost trifling were the Highland Society to appoint a first-rate chemist, with headquarters in Edinburgh, and, if found necessary, appoint assistants under him in different districts. I am not at all clear that it would prove beneficial to the department or promote the interests of agriculture were the Society to endow a Chair of Agricultural Chemistry, as is advocated in some quarters. I have some misgivings in this respect. What I think we desiderate is a first-rate, active, energetic chemist, whose whole time should be devoted to, and position depend upon, the manner in which he does his duty to the Society. Supposing the Highland Society were to offer £400 or £500 a year as salary, and £100 each for two or three assistants, this would, with the large amount of fees collected, even were the fees on a very low scale, put this department in good and thorough working order. The Society is wealthy, and nobody will gainsay that one of the best purposes to which it could apply some of its funds is in providing a high-class and well-appointed chemist. With these few remarks by way of opening the discussion, I shall now be glad to hear what the members have got to say.

Mr. Smith (Stevenson Mains) said: Since our last meeting, when this subject was proposed, a good deal has been said and written on it. To a certain extent, therefore, our discussion has been anticipated. However, as the directors have still to decide what form their efforts are to take, it can do no harm to talk the matter over here. A good many suggestions have been thrown out for the Society to adopt, some of which I approve, others I do not. That the Society should make arrangements and apply its funds for the purpose of having its elements of agricultural chemistry taught in our public schools, I do not approve of. I think this is matter for Government or for the country at large to see to. We have just had an Education Act passed, an Act that will by the carrying of it out entail great expense on the community at large, but I hope, and have no doubt, it will be the means of greatly improving the education of the people, and if, as I have suggested, the elements of agricultural chemistry are taught in all our public schools, it will be paid for by the people, and they will reap the advantage in course of time of that education being brought to bear on the progress of agriculture, which is a nation's wealth. Sir, it seems to me the Society ought to appoint a first-class man as chemist, and one who would devote his whole time to the interests of the Society and agriculture, and be paid a fixed salary for doing so. I would deprecate the Society's chemist being to a certain extent dependant upon fees for analysis of manures, &c., as part of his remuneration. Much harm has been done to the pockets of farmers by the facility whereby manufacturers of manures can have a chemist's analysis of the commodity they wish to sell written out in a form agreeable to their own requirements, and in a way in which they may mislead many farmers who are not themselves acquainted with analysis. It is of the utmost importance that farmers should have the means of having the commodities they purchase, whether manures or feeding substances, tested by analysis, conducted by an able chemist who is independent of the fees drawn therefrom, and I see no better way of getting at this than through the agency of the Highland and Agricultural Society. Another very important duty of the chemist would be to bring the science of chemistry to bear on practical field experiments. By this means the cultivation of land may become more of a science than it is at the present day. For this purpose the Society would require the services of a practical farmer. These experiments I would have carried out on different farms in different parts of the country, and not on what is called a model farm. I anticipate there would be no difficulty whatever in securing ground in different localities for this purpose.

Mr. Paton (Standingstones) said: Before discussing the subject in question, perhaps we might look for a minute at what the Society has been doing in the past. I understand the Society was at first formed for the advancement of agriculture generally. At that time farming was not conducted on such scientific principles as it now is. Then there was no such thing as guano or nitrate of soda used. What are now called artificial manures were not even dreamed of. As the funds and membership of the Society increased, more money was given for the best animals and implements exhibited, and to such perfection have these animals been brought that it is doubtful if much more can be done in that direction. By-and-by bones and rape dust began to be used as manures. The former suited light soils, the latter told well on clay. It was found, however, that by applying acid to the bone they could be used profitably on heavy soils, as well as on light. Some farmers, a little more enterprising than others, made double the quantity they required themselves, and supplied their neighbours, and by-and-by, finding that supplying their neighbours paid even better than supplying themselves, made a business of it and left farming for good. However, after a little practice, the clever ones found that, with the help of a little acid and a pinch of guano, they could make artificial manure of any given thing, and the best of it all, at a handsome profit. Some, by accident or mistake perhaps, forgot to put in the bones or guano, and although the honest farmer did not know any difference, the turnips proved badly. Hence the value of a chemist to prevent such mistakes recurring. In recent years the chemist of the Highland Society, as well as many other chemists, have been invaluable to the farmers of Scotland. But is it not just possible that too much reliance may be placed in chemistry? Can it be trusted in every case that it takes in hand? We are almost inclined to think that, if relied too much upon, in some cases it is apt to mislead. Chemists tell you that if you apply ammonia and phosphates to almost any crop they will act like magic, especially if the soil be poor or the crop sickly, and practice corroborates this. But, again, chemistry will tell you that rapecake will feed a bullock as well as oilcake, or that the tops of turnips contain as much nutriment as the bulbs; but to this practice decidedly says, No. Or again, it is found by practice that a manure composed of dissolved bones and nitrate of soda, analysing the same as the best Peruvian guano, will not produce effects equal to the latter. On this account, I fear we have been trusting too much to theory alone, both as regards cakes and manures. We know that if we get pure guano, or pure oilcake, or a well-made manure containing so much ammonia and soluble phosphates, it is sure to show good results, if properly applied under favourable circumstances. To know if we obtain this, however, is the question, and the Highland Society's chemist has, at a comparatively moderate charge, been ready to assist farmers by analysis. Since the appointment of the late professor, however, the business done in manures and cakes has assumed such a gigantic form, and the adulteration has been practised, in many cases, to such an extent, that the Society ought now to have the best chemist that can be had entirely for itself. The Society is wealthy. The question is of the very utmost importance to the country

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generally; therefore let the salary be liberal, and a good man will be got, seeing that such an enormous sum is spent every year by farmers on what is called artificial manures and cakes, and these, in ninety cases out of a hundred, the farmer knows little himself about. How can he? I doubt if even the chemist himself is very sure sometimes what to say about it. Such being the case, will the Society do what is right if it does not do its very best to protect the farmer and the honest dealer, and put down the rogue? One or two assistants, not apprentices, paid by the Society, would be also requisite to do the thing well. By attending the principal grain markets now, and then farmers would be able to consult them readily and get their advice, and by charging a small fee for such advice I have no doubt but they would make money by their visits. Farmers as a class don't care to send samples to Edinburgh, far less to go there and consult a chemist. Some may think this impracticable, but I hold that it would do more good to prevent farmers being victimised than anything that has yet been done by the Society. I hold also that by the chemists meeting and talking over matters with the farmers both would be greatly benefited; for how can any one be a thorough agricultural chemist unless he knows something practically about farming? The farmer and chemist must work together to attain the best results. Adam Smith, in his "Wealth of Nations," says, and I believe it has never been contradicted, that "no equal capital puts into motion a greater quantity of productive labour than that of the farmer." Seeing that since this was first written about three times the amount of capital is now required for the same extent of land, is it not to be deplored that the farmers of Scotland still go about their business in a very haphazard way, groping in many cases in utter darkness, and investing their capital in many things not the right ones? Farming is in this respect unlike other businesses. How would a corn merchant or a butcher succeed if he did not know to a nicety what he was buying from the farmer? Still, it is for no want of shrewdness that the farmer is so much at the mercy of the unscrupulous merchant. Let any retired successful merchant or tradesman begin farming, and he finds he is equally at sea when he goes to invest in manures or cakes for his farm. Hence the crying necessity for the directors of the Society exerting themselves to the very uttermost to secure to the farmers of Scotland full value for their money. Here I would find fault with the Society in the past. Cases of the grossest adulteration came to the knowledge of their chemist, still that was kept quiet, and no names were given to the public. I ask if that was creditable to the Society, or was it fair to the farmer or the honest dealer? It almost showed a want of moral courage on the part of the Society. The Royal Society of England does very differently, and several such cases have been exposed. I hope in time to come that ours will do the same. I know the fair dealer wishes it, and it would only be a matter of kindness to the unprincipled dealer himself to be stopped in his ways of wickedness. The profits in many of these manures and cakes are sometimes tremendous. At all times they are good, and when an agent can be allowed in many cases from £1 to £2 per ton, it is not difficult to imagine what the maker's profits will be. The whole thing bears absurdity on the face of it. Go into any of the principal corn markets at present, and I am confident I am not overstating when I say that at least every third man and sometimes a larger percentage is in the manure, cake, or seed trade. This very circumstance shows that the trade is profitable. They must all do more or less business or they could not live. What we ask the Society to do, then, is to "save us from our friends." And again, I repeat, by having a chemist authorised by the Society appearing pretty often, especially in spring, at our markets, it would, I hold, be the most useful and best thing the Society has yet done for the benefit of the farmers of Scotland. A great deal of late has been written about education generally, and not a little about agricultural education. The other week we had a professor of agriculture, and also a factor, strongly recommending the appointment of an agricultural chemistry chair. To that I would just say, what might the average attendance be expected to be? Surely there are chemistry schools enough already, and any one who has a taste for such things can have his attention directed to any particular subject in the laboratory. I hold that there is little need for a chair of agriculture, and less for one of agricultural chemistry. Fifteen years' experience has proved what I say as regards the former to be correct, as witness the very small attendance—not that there is anything to be said against the professor, very far from it, but it is found that more can be learned as regards practical farming from a shrewd rent-paying farmer in his every day work on his own farm than within the walls of a university. But some may say it is surely a good thing to be able to analyse your own purchases of manures, &c. True, but though some may be able to do that while at the classes, I doubt if any could trust themselves to do it after being one or two years busily engaged on a farm. Their chemical staff get old, their minds are fully taken up with the practical work of the farm, and if they are keen farmers they would rather hand it over to the chemist, who is daily at it, than be bothered, and perhaps fail in the end. Besides, the merchant would not take the farmer's analysis. Then, again, an agricultural station or farm, under the direction of the said professors, have been spoken of—and near Edinburgh, of course, it would be. That might suit proprietors' sons or any who wished to make themselves a little acquainted with agriculture. I confess it is very pleasant to attend these lectures, but anyone who has been brought up on a farm, or who has been a year or two with a practical farmer, learns very little indeed. I speak here from experience, and I feel quite confident that for any young man to spend three or four years at an agricultural college, or on a farm connected with it, is not taking the best means to become a thorough practical farmer. Should he have a great taste for science or agricultural literature, he is almost sure to turn his attention to that, and when he gets a farm of his own he does not care for looking after the details, and is no likely to have a real interest in stock, and therefore will never farm with pleasure, and his heart will never be in his work; or should be not have a taste for his studies, then he is losing his time and money, is very apt to get fond of bitter beer and tobacco, and idleness, and perhaps set a bad example to those whose intentions were good. But supposing a model farm were started near Edinburgh, not one of the farmers of that district would change their present style of farming, and any experiments made there would be of little use to those living twenty or a hundred miles distant. So far as experimenting goes, to be worth anything it must be done in different districts by some practical rent-paying farmer who has a taste and a pleasure in conducting such experiments. In a word, I doubt if chemistry will do much more for some time to come than it has already done in unfolding the mysteries of the soil and vegetable and animal world, but it has come to a great height already, and it only requires that that knowledge be properly directed and brought to bear practically on agriculture. A farmer knows, or ought to know, something about most of what he buys, with the exception of manures, cakes, and seeds, but in all these he is often taken in. Therefore let us have good chemists always at hand, under the superintendence of the Highland Society. A premium was lately given by the Society for an essay on "What has Chemistry Done for Agriculture?" It strikes me forcibly that chemistry has done a precious deal more for the manure merchant and the lairds than it has done for the tenants, for were the farmers' profits not larger some thirty years ago, when £100 went as far as £200 does now in stocking a farm, when rents were little more than half what they now are, and when an artificial manure merchant of the present day would have been looked upon as a curiosity and a lunatic had he presented himself in Haddington market with his bottles and samples of

Calces o' fossils, earths, and trees,
True Salmarinum o' the seas,
The farina of beans and peas,
He has in plenty;
Aqua fortes—what you please
He can content ye?

Mr. Sherriff (Saltcoats) paid a high compliment to the attaiments of the late chemist of the Society—Professor Anderson. How the society were to fill Professor Anderson's place was a difficult question to answer. He agreed with Lord Kinnaird's views on this subject, expressed in the letter sent by his lordship to Mr. Wilson, Eddington Mains, and published in the newspapers.

Mr. C. Smith, Whittingham, said there could be no question about the practical knowledge of agriculture being of the greatest possible importance. There could be little question also that the man possessed of the scientific knowledge bearing on agriculture, when combined with practical experience, was

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in a more advantageous position, was a superior man, and was more likely to be successful than the mere practical farmer. At this juncture they ought to express their opinions, and look to the future as well as to the present. No doubt at present the great interest with farmers was to secure unadultered manures and feeding stuffs: but, keeping in view what was desirable for the future he held it was not enough that the Highland Society should simply procure a chemist of high standing. They should also endeavour to make provision for, and encourage the education and training of the young in the sciences bearing on agriculture. To the young they must look for the future of agriculture, and while it may have been that in former times men of ordinary qualifications were sufficient for developing and carrying through their farming operations with the then knowledge and the then use of implements and light manures, they were at a very different time of day now. It would be a retrograde movement altogether if they were in the least degree to slight anything calculated to forward or raise the educational and scientific attainments of all those connected with agriculture. Some men seemed to think there was no field for the mind in agriculture—that it was mere clod-hoppers who were engaged in it, and if a man wanted scope for the intellect he must turn himself to something else. That was a delusion. Of course if a man stuck merely to the practical, there might be something in the direction of the treadmill about it, but if he occupied his mind investigating day by day and studying the phenomena around him, he will find plenty of mental occupation about farming. They should give forth no uncertain sound on the question now before the club. So far as the Society's means and influence could go, scientific education should be encouraged. The Society's aid and influence could not be better bestowed. A man of science was apt to be rather ignored because he was not practical, but what was wanted was a combination of the scientific and the practical. If they got the young farmers thus trained, he was sanguine of great progress in agriculture.

Mr. SCOT-SKIRVING said he was glad he had proposed this subject to the Club, for it had elicited a very interesting discussion. The Highland Society had a capital of about £60,000; but it was not in their power to do so much as had been proposed. He would have them first to consider what chemistry had done in the past for agriculture. He had a profound veneration for science, and he might say he was profoundly ignorant of it; but, as a practical man, he protested against the statements that had been circulated by certain distinguished parties of late to the effect that science would increase the produce of the soil by from one half to one-third. He did not believe chemists or scientific men had so much to teach them as they said they had. Why, if they looked at the past, they would find that they were not indebted to chemistry for the application of bones to the land, which was one of their greatest improvements. They owed that to a Yorkshire farmer. He (Mr. Scot-Skirving) had found out how to make the grain crops grow, and he challenged all the chemists in Europe to tell him how to make these crops stand up. If they applied plenty of good manure they could make crops grow, but they could not make them stand. As he had already indicated, he had no wish to slight the importance of science, but the reverse; and he believed that gradually the scientific man and the practical man working together would result in a considerable increase in the produce of this country. As to the appointment of a first-class man as a chemist, he had no hope of getting such under £1,000 a year. Then the question came to be whether, having regard to the available funds of the Society, they would not have to fall back on the second-best class, and perhaps appoint three or four young men—stationing one at Edinburgh, one at Glasgow, and one at Aberdeen, and so on.

Mr. DURIE: One at Inverness.

Mr. SCOT-SKIRVING: Yes; perhaps one at Inverness. He objected entirely to Mr. Smith's proposal that the Society should educate farmers' sons for them. It was not the Society's duty at all to relieve the parents of this obligation. To show how much chemists differed themselves, he referred to a paper on milk adulteration lately read before the Physical Society, of which he was president, by Mr. Falconer King, analyst for Edinburgh, in which the author endeavoured to show that another man, whose name was longer and better known, knew nothing about the subject. He did not say which of the two was right, but the fact was that the one was anything but complimentary to the other's professional worth. The science schools and colleges on the Continent and in America had been referred to as producing results far ahead of what could be found in Scotland. Well, it was only the other day that Mr. Saddler, an East-Lothian farmer, was asked to become a professor in one of those American colleges, and an East-Lothian farm-steward had just been offered a situation as practical manager of one of these institutions. He had been in most of the countries held up to them as examples in respect of scientific education, and he failed to see any such superiority in their agriculture as some recent writers and speakers would have them to believe. He was rather inclined to have a professor of agricultural chemistry in the University. Because, if they were to be such fools as to make their sons farmers—to keep them wasting their brains, time, and money making money for other people—the best thing to do was to give them a good general education, including everything that teachers and science could give them.

Mr. SHERRIFF observed that Mr. Scot-Skirving, being a director of the Highland Society, naturally wished to keep down expenditure. He denied that they were not indebted to science and chemistry for the successful application of bones to the soil, and he hoped it would not go forth as the opinion of this Club that they were not.

Mr. C. SMITH said he did not entertain the idea that the Highland Society was going to educate farmers' sons for them. Mr. Scot-Skirving had misunderstood him; he only meant that the Society should lend its influence and support as far as possible to the scientific teaching of the young.

Mr. HARVEY (Whittingham Mains) thought the Highland Society should take every available means to put down dealers in spurious manures—have them exposed. He did not care much about the appointment of a professor of agricultural chemistry. Nor was he particularly in favour of a model farm. The Highland Society should advertise for a first-class chemist for themselves, and he thought this Club might send a deputation to the directors of the Highland Society on the subject.

Mr. ROBERTSON (New Mains) thought if they gave a man £1,000 he would have enough to do to spend it. Surely they could get a good chemist for at least half that sum. Field experiments should be conducted in different parts of the country, and these ought to be reported on periodically by a practical as well as scientific men. They had among the manure dealers very respectable men, but there were also those who sold spurious articles. He knew one gentleman who was offered from 20s. to 30s. per ton commission for selling manures, the total price of which was only £6 a ton. He knew also an individual who was selling hundreds of tons of that very article in a county not far from Haddington.

Mr. DURIE said it was desirable that this Club should come to something like a finding on the subject. He moved: "It is the opinion of this Club that the appointment of chemists in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, and Aberdeen will be the greatest chemical advantage to agriculture; the principal chemist to be resident in Edinburgh, and small fees to be charged for analysis."

Mr. ELDER (Bearford) seconded.

PROVOST BRODIE (North Berwick) suggested that a chemist should be apppointed to inspect the manures, and he had no doubt the agents would be glad to pay the fees if the farmers would do their duty, and only purchase from those who showed the result of such an analysis.

Mr. STEVENSON (Gallane) believed the Highland Society would confer a benefit on agriculturists by publishing cheap reprints of valuable works on agriculture.

Mr. ADAM SMITH moved: "That the Highland and Agricultural Society should appoint a first-class man as chemist, who would devote his whole time to the interests of agriculture, and be paid a fixed salary for doing so, any fees charged for analyses to be paid into the funds of the Society, the duties of the chemist being to make an analysis of manures and feeding stuffs, &c., and, with the assistance of an experienced practical man to conduct field experiments in different parts of the country, thoroughly investigating and reporting on the same."

Mr. CHRISTIE (West Mains) seconded the motion.

After a good deal of discussion as to whether the discussion

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should be adjourned or not, a division took place, when 10 voted for Mr. Smith's motion, and 4 for Mr. Durie's. Several members declined to vote, on the ground that the debate should have been adjourned. Mr. Smith motion was, however, declared carried.

The Game-law Bills are to be discussed at the next meeting.

FRAMLINGHAM FARMERS' CLUB.

OUR EXPENSES.

At the last meeting the following lecture was delivered by the Rev. Henry Hill, of Buxhall, Mr. F. S. Corrance in the chair.

The Rev. Henry Hill said: At the time I was asked by your worthy President to read a paper at Framlingham, some letters were appearing on the subject of taking a small farm; hence my paper this evening, which I may say is not yet quite out of date. Perhaps the best advice to be given to such men—presumed to know nothing—would be that given by Mr. *Punch* to people about to marry—"Don't." But it struck me then, and still does, that the expenses of land are too heavy in proportion to those of money, as represented in any other form. I assume that land represents money, and that money in any shape is capital. The Government of a country is to be carried on by the taxation of that capital, while interior administration—county, borough, or parochial—is indebted for funds to local taxation, or, what is easier to understand, by rates, as opposed to taxes. If I am properly understood, one of the great questions of the day is, whether we farmers, occupiers — ratepayers in some form or other — do not pay more than we ought in strict fairness to be called on to pay, as compared with the other capitalists of the country? Mr. Read, I think, remarked that a farmer may get 8 per cent. for his money, the landlord may get 3 per cent., while the capitalist in trade or some profession gets 15 or 20 per cent. Not that I appeal *ad misericordiam*, but for justice, equity—simple fairness; for, looking at it in a commercial point of view, there is no reason to my mind why farming should be considered a worse investment than any other calling or profession. If you have the capital, and can depend on your own skill and judgment, you may do well, and need not ruin your neighbours. In fact, a farmer failing always reminds me of the gentleman in the "Ingoldsby Legends," who felt queer in the morning, after taking too much (Gladstone's) claret over night, and said that "salmon always made him so." I think, as the advertisements say, "there is many an opening for a young man of talent, with a little capital, in a gentlemanly profession, without much risk." It is not the risk so much as the certainty that takes the gilt off the gingerbread. One recently published letter wanted five rents for the land divided thus: 1. Landlord and tithe. 2. Labour. 3. Rates, taxes, bills, and sundries. 4. Cake, manure, etc. 5. Time, profit, interest. I do not think I should put it in that form, but for comparison or argument it will do very well. And first for comparison: the great Mechi tells us that in 1873—a very bad year—that for his farm of 170 acres, after paying all expenses, he had very nearly £700 for rent, interest, and profit—that is for items one and five (because his time is of course well paid for in Leadenhall-street)—but that is, or ought to be, one of the best farms in England, and any of you gentlemen will be able to calculate its value from the figures I give, and on the supposition I mention as easily as the value of your own farm. Well, gentlemen, No. 1. Landlord and tithe you will and must allow. 2. Labour is a difficulty that has increased since I wrote this paper, but will eventually settle itself. 3. Rates, taxes, etc., is a real difficulty. 4. Cake, manure, etc., depends on the man. 5. Time, profit, and interest is to be calculated according to the bank rate. No. 1. Rent and tithe are necessary evils of the present day, though perhaps in the far distant future the latter may be given up as a sop to the independent landlords of the country, but rely on it some new imposition will be found, in the same way that the giant Education-rate is now taking the place of the pigmy Church-rate. Still it is to be remembered that the tenants—not the owners—fix the rent of the land. We cannot let if you will not hire. No. 2. Labour is a very serious item for consideration. As you well know, it varies with the locality and description of land, so much so that I doubt if it is to be taken as the same as another rent. But whatever its price, the amount employed is a sign of the prosperity of the concern. Mr. Walter, M.P., in *The Times*, Oct. 1, 1873, compared the body politic to the human body, and called, rightly, agriculture the trunk, and said that while it prospered, all the branches of trade, &c., would get on. But if one small wheel in an engine breaks the whole must stop—not for long—but all is out of gear for a time. So it is with labour. Every man has a right to ask his own price, but I need not buy the article. Still, for labourers or farmers to ask a third party what that price is to be, is opposed to political economy and common sense. I do not wish to be called in as an arbitrator, but I advise every man to do the best he can for himself, "and never mind the rest." The value of manual labour is variable, just as all engines are not of the same horse-power. It always will be money that keeps the world's engines going. If a fair amount of money is offered to the labourer, artisan, or mechanic, working for his daily bread, and refused, I doubt if after some few weeks in summer have used up the Union capital they will find the ratepayers willing to keep them in idleness, or even in work, for the short hours of winter. And yet it is said higher wages will reduce the poor-rate. Said, perhaps, by some one who pays neither the one or the other. The various devices for reducing farm labour is a subject of great importance; but I doubt if our machinists at present have done much more than hold out great hopes for the future, and if manufacturers' prices must go up, why flesh and bone will still be the most economical servant we farmers can use, as it has been since "Adam delved and Eve span." In short an engine, especially on small occupations, always reminds me of the boy on a farm—it takes two men to look after him. Mr. Beach, at the Highclere Agricultural Association, remarked "that men would obtain higher wages, not by agitation, but by the legitimate improvements in agriculture, the most important of these being the much larger introduction of machinery into operations" (*The Times*, Oct. 1, 1873). That means, in my idea, the more machinery you have the more money you will spend in labour. But I hope no one will imagine I think the farming will be the worse. Some of our would-be instructors tell us one way to reduce the labour bill is to increase the permanent grasses. I am not going into the question of initial loss and ultimate gain in that case, but will merely remark that leave to plough up grass is no uncommon request out my way; and I myself do not believe in leaving a clean fallow to grow thistles, etc., for the next tenant to keep his sheep on. One of our leading agriculturists, Mr. Read, M.P. for Norfolk, gives us very good advice, because he does it by example, and as a tenant-farmer. He says, since the rise in wages he has reduced his labour expenditure by £100 a-year on a 400 acre farm. I can only say it looks as if he did not think much of his chance of getting compensation for those improvements, temporary, durable, and permanent, in which he and his co-operative partner, Mr. Howard, take so much delight. Following my unknown friend's letter, suppose we take expenses No. 3, rates, taxes, &c. (bills and sundries being beneath our consideration). Again, I say, here lies the difficulty. As I have remarked, taxes and rates are to be divided into two divisions—imperial, applying to taxes; and local, applying to rates. A man with £10,000 in the Funds pays income-tax on his actual income. A man with £10,000 in land pays on his rent, with no allowance for repairs, insurance, &c., in which the funds run no Fisk. It is Schedule A you pay under, whatever your capital consists of. Is the landlord to take a rack rent, and are the repairs to be done at the expense of the tenant, perhaps going out next year? Any ordinary mortal might imagine that a tax on land would be considered as an equivalent to a tax on money, but no such thing. Land pays right and left always, money once now and then, when wanted, as a War-tax say. And to prove the injustice of the Land-tax, any Government will allow you to redeem it at £8 to £9 below Consols, with an eye to the

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future when all is redeemed. It was a happy thought to imagine the rent of a farm was all income, which could be taxed for the benefit of the manufacturing districts at the expense of us agriculturists. To get Schedule A in the case of those individuals who pay no rent, 15 per cent. is added to the rateable, or about 4½ to the gross value. In this way the Imperialists (the Londoners) show some sense, for they assume the local authorities are better judges than themselves in the Land Question. If you are too highly assessed you must blame your neighbours at the Union Assessment Committee, but you must pay schedule A. Can it be said money, and land representing money, pay their fair share of the expenses? I do not think I need say any more about Schedule A in a company supposed to be occupiers (strictly speaking), but I may add it is a curious anomaly that there should be so many different assessments as to the value of the same property for different purposes. I can only suppose that as we are gradually drifting into decimal notation, we shall some day have a fixed set of figures for our assessment, and merely remove that "caused" little dot according to the tax or rate that is being collected. Still, until the education of the country has become much more elementary than at present, we must carry on our dealings as we do our religion, in language "understanded of the people." Let us then remove the dot (I need hardly say which way) to Schedule B. I suppose in merciful consideration of his other burdens, the occupier is found worthy of a deduction of one-eighth of rent and tithe, and so he compounds for good and bad years, his landlord needing no consideration under Schedule A. But in late years it has been found the landlords spend so much money on the farm houses, that occupiers are called on for House-tax, as of course every gentleman should be. There is one tax going to the Imperial Treasury, which I hardly like to mention to a meeting strictly non-political. I mean the Malt-tax. The great difficulty in its abolition is not the justice or injustice of its infliction on a class, but the enormous amount raised for the benefit of everybody else—not belonging to that class. And now I may pass from Imperial to Local Taxation; as occupiers we all—landlord and tenant—feel the pressure. Schedule A takes a moiety even from the Great Western Railway stock when you get a dividend. But do the Three Per Cents., railways, coal mines, ironstone, pay rates or local taxation like ordinary land. I have read somewhere, but cannot quote, that ironstone pays no rates. Then do we farmers pay more than we ought, in comparison? First I take Poor-rates. The country is divided into districts, and so the amount in the £ will vary—I was going to say according to the prosperity, but it perhaps ought to be the population of the land. The vicinity of large towns may have advantages to the farmer to make up for an increase in rates. But in many cases, the Poor-rate falls heavy on the ratepayer, while the tax-payer proper is exempt altogether. To show the increasing magnitude of the Poor-rate, Professor Levi found out by means of a calculating machine, or some boy educated under Government, that in 1863 the Poor-rate was 8s. 4d. per head, and in 1873 16s. 3½d., while Imperial taxation in 1863 was £2 8s. 4d., and in 1870 £3 8s. 2d. *i.e.*, in some ten years the ratepayer's expenses on one item doubled themselves while the taxpayer's were somewhat reduced. But I doubt if Professor Levi caught the full sum total—perhaps he left out decimals! "W. F.," writing to *The Times* from Lincolnshire, December 29, 1873, says they pay high wages (I leave out the price of labour on purpose), and employ the old men on the roads. I do not say that no other county does the same. In this way a portion of the expense for maintaining the poor is charged on the Highway-rate, and the workhouse with its expensive organization is to a great extent useless. Surely it shows the Poor-rate does not include everything, or rather that we rob Peter to pay Paul. It has been remarked that the Poor-rate is an inheritance devolving on the land, but surely when it was settled that "each rood should maintain its man," no bargain was made that the man should have a wife and family. Then why with our half-empty workhouses and large establishments do we keep large asylums with just as large establishments? Why do we keep up half-empty prisons to be filled with military invalids and deserters, to be maintained at the same expense to the ratepayers, and for the benefit of the tax-payers of the country? The question of lunatics is under consideration in another place, and we will leave it there. Well, then, we have a surveyor's rate, which I ought now-a-days to call the highway-rate. The ratepayers—principally farmers—pay; and who use the roads? Why, the capitalists of the country, who will soon be able to drive the Four-in-hand Club from John o'Groat's to the Land's End, and a return ticket, without paying a decimal fraction towards the expenses of maintenance. I sometimes fancy the Highway Boards are a sort of feeler for the School Boards: if you cannot manage either yourselves, both can be carried out for you at your expense by Government officials. It is by no means a bad idea that the assessed taxes on locomotion should be employed to defray the maintenance of the highway roads, but then we know enough of Government officials looking after expenditure. It is paying a guinea to look after a pound, and yet a new Government relieves the rich at the expense of the poor by taking off the tax on horses. Surely a man that can buy a nag and keep a nag can pay tax for a nag. In Russia there are local provincial parliaments to control local taxation for roads and other purposes. We, as a country, are trying this system in a small way, with what result I leave you to guess who can and do read your county papers, and merely remind you of the proverb of the man who looks after his neighbours' business being able to take care of his own. But, gentlemen, I have not done yet, although I own the straws on our back get lighter as I proceed. There is the County-rate, not very serious perhaps, but so unsatisfactory that a new assessment in our case is talked of; so move the dot once more. In 1872 the assessment increased £1,637,354 on the last year, and I fancy the rate has increased in due proportion. One reason is the bridges have to be made strong enough for steam engines to pass over now-a-days. And the Police-rate. Do those ubiquitous gentlemen in blue simply look after the property of ratepayers, or is their leisure time appropriated to the benefit of taxpayers? The average rate is a mere song, but is it right? This question is also under consideration in another place. And then comes the militia. Why should we ratepayers keep up an almost permanent militia and the regular army be reduced to a minimum for the benefit of the taxpayer? Is the taxpayer to have the use of our best sinews of war for a few years, and then send them back on the ratepayers to support in uselessness for their decaying years? And last perhaps at present, but by no means least, comes a rate I have already alluded to—the Education-rate—a fine healthy child that does not mean dying. I fancy our grandchildren will find the labourer just as anxious that the parson should write his name for him at his wedding as now-a-days, because he can handle his scythe easier and oftener than a steel pen—his hand shakes so. I have said item No. 3 was the difficulty, it remains for you to say if you agree with me. I now ask a few minutes as to Nos. 4 and 5. No. 4, cake and manure. The man who spends a rent on this proves himself to be well-off in this world's goods, and I sincerely hope he will reap his reward; for if anyone deserve two blades of corn instead of one, such a man does. But I am rather inclined to think it is a case of that rare bird, the dodo. If that argument is not satisfactory, I hope someone better up to it than I am will take "Cake, manures, and the etceteras," as the subject of some future paper. No. 5, Time, profit, interest. We farmers are all as greedy as a Co-operative Association. Cheap articles and large remuneration we want. A man farming 100 or 200 acres could as easily look after double; therefore his time's cost is to be counted as bailiff's wages. Profit is to be counted by what you might get in another concern with the capital you have, or ought to have invested in your farm, and no bailiff is wanted. If you have to pay another rent for the capital, you and I know the profit will go with the interest—to the banker. Interest—as the great Duke said—small interest means good security. Let us hope a good valuation, with compensation for long-forgotten improvements, will make our books look better than we think of; and remember the capital once put into the farm is not lost by the cultivation of it. To sum up all this, gentlemen, both Box and Cox seem to think Local Taxation requires consideration; and without even hinting at the "ways and means" for granting relief to the ratepayer, I hope something will be done shortly. If your discussion on the subject should lead to anything, I am content with having simply drawn your attention to it. Mr. Hill also quoted the following figures from a Parliamentary return relating to the several counties of England, showing the valuation for the country and police assessments, the amount in the £ levied, the amount realised by Her Majesty's Treasury

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subvention, the amount of loans effected on the security of the rates, and the loans outstanding at Michaelmas, 1872. The following are the figures relating to Suffolk and Norfolk:

	Suffolk. East D.	Suffolk. West D.	Norfolk.
Valuation for County Asst.	£907,360	£521,441	£1,994,227
„ for Police	£878,916		
County Rate (in the £) ...	1¾d.	1¾d.	1¾d.
Police Rate (in the £) ...	1½d.	2¾d.	1½d.
Amount of County Rate...	£6,626	£3,802	£14,022
„ Police Rate ...	£5,494	£5,975	£12,464
Treasury subv. for Police..	£2,078	£1,621	£3,151
„ „ for Criminals	£1,102	£656	£1,262
Fines, fees, &c.	£1,065	£933	£1,950
Total Receipts.....	£16,394	£13,250	£35,004
Total Expenditure	£17,168	£13,110	£35,063
Payments in Loans.....	£438	£256	£1,717
Outstanding Loans.....	£3,492	nil.	£14,967

And the following resolution passed by the Lancaster Chamber of Agriculture: "Inasmuch as the present operation o Local Taxation presses unfairly on the owners and occupiers of land and houses, it is the opinion of this Chamber that there should be such a revision as will ensure that every description of property should contribute its fair proportion."

The PRESIDENT, in opening the discussion, said it was his duty to invite discussion on that matter, of which they all knew a great deal practically, "our expenses." It came under a great number of heads, which Mr. Hill had put so ably before them. There were one or two points, and prominently was the question of labour. That was a question that they must touch upon with extreme delicacy. It was a subject in the discussion of which every incautious word would be sure, he feared, to carry its own punishment. He was almost inclined to think that as the question now stood, the less said about it the better; nevertheless, it was their duty to put their opinions before the public. He felt that it was a manifest injustice to the farmer, who felt that his dealings with his labourers had been fair, to be misrepresented, as they had been in many cases, and they ought to speak out to remove the false impressions thus raised. He felt that all that was said upon the subject ought to possess some practica. value, derived from experience, because there could not be harm in stating the truth properly, and in a temperate manner, and it would be found to be a matter not wholly devoid of interest.

Mr. GOODWYN said the question introduced by Mr. Hill was certainly a most important one, for they found that their burdens were not lightened, but increased year by year. As they were all members of one body, he felt that each kind of property ought to bear its share of the burdens of Local Taxation. The question of the education rate was important to them, but he denied that in opposing this the farmers were actuated by a wish to keep the people in ignorance. He thought, however, that if the working-classes were to be benefited by education, and if they were to be led on by others to believe that they could have what wages they pleased, it was only right that they should also be taught to put their hands into their own pockets and educate their own children. He would rather leave the labour question, not because he had no opinions on the subject, but because he would wish rather to throw oil on the troubled waters if he could. He would, however, confine himself to a denial of what had been said so often and so strongly—that the farmers were attacking the men. It should be known whenever the question was considered, that the first attack came from the other side.

Mr. PAUL READ denied that the Malt-tax was a burden upon the farmers. Did the farmers really think that if the Malt-tax were repealed, they would be making such a price of their barley as at present? He looked upon the Malt-tax as one paid by the public entirely to keep up the price of the farmers' barley. This was the effect of the tax, as it kept out the foreign barley. As to the reduction of their expenses, he advised the farmers to farm their land so as to make it produce more, and then the expenses would be lessened in proportion. Lord Derby had said that the land of England would produce double what it now did if farmed differently, and if they made it produce double, their expenses in rates and taxes would only remain the same as at present.

Mr. GONNER would defy Mr. Read to explain how a man could grow as much upon 100 acres as he did now upon 200.

Mr. W. KENT had heard the same quotation from the Earl of Derby's speeches, but he questioned whether such a statement had ever been made without some qualification. If the Earl of Derby did say that, he could not have meant acre for acre, but that the waste lands should be brought into cultivation.

Mr. CLUTTEN said that there could be no doubt as to there being some mistake in this, as even the best cultivated allotments did not produce more than one or two coombs per acre above the produce of an average farmer.

Mr. GONNER said that no system of husbandry could command the season. They might produce straw, but the corn must come from a higher Power.

Mr. PAUL READ said that all that was talked about was corn, but they might also produce more meat and poultry.

Mr. GOODWYN agreed with the remarks which had been made as to the use of artificial manures. He only regarded them as stimulants. As to the Malt-tax he was one of those who thought that the repeal of that tax would not be of benefit to the farmer. He thought they would not have the present price for their barley if it were not for the tax.

Mr. ROBERT GARRARD must protest against what had been said about the Malt-tax. He was a strong Malt-tax repealer, and he had no faith about the Malt-tax raising the price of barley. He thought that farmers had great interest in the repeal of that tax. As consumers, the repeal of that tax would be to them equal to a repeal of the Property-tax. As to the importation of foreign barley they must recollect that the Eastern Counties were peculiarly well situated for barley growing, and therefore they were interested in the repeal of the Malt-tax. He hoped it would not go forth to the country that the Framlingham Farmers' Club advocated the keeping on the Malt-tax.

Mr. GOODWYN: It will go forth that we are not unanimous.

A MEMBER: If barley was down to 20s. a coomb we should hear plenty about repealing the tax.

Mr. PATERSON said he did not agree with Mr. Garrard about the Malt-tax. He quoted Colonel Brise's letter on the labour question, and said that he agreed with the opinion there expressed as to making improvements in the Unions. The manufacturing interests had not been able to abolish the Unions, and there was great reason to doubt whether the farmers could prevent them. He did not think that the Unions had improved the condition of the labouring classes where they had been established.

Mr. GONNER said that the Union had caused more drunkenness in that town than ever they had before. He did not entirely blame the men for forming the Unions, and believed that if the masters had looked properly after the men in all cases, they would not have heard of the Union. He maintained that the labouring classes had been better cared for in this country than in any other. He did not say they had been as well cared for as they ought to be, but was certain that they were better cared for by the classes above them than the lower classes of mechanics.

The PRESIDENT, in closing the discussion, said, as a landlord he could not agree with Mr. Hill's advice not to take small farms, or with the division of the gross produce into five rentals. The good old-fashioned calculation was four. He also questioned the statistics of Mr. Mechi which Mr. Hill had quoted. Coming to the labour question, he was pleased with the manner in which it had been touched upon. They as farmers did not approve of the Union. In the first place, what had been said as to its incompatibility with hired labour of that sort was right, but there were other reasons which some excellent gentlemen philanthropically inclined seemed to have overlooked. The principle of all Unions was an equality of wages—the worst man to be paid the same as the best, and the young the same as the old—a principle which he would never agree to. If they affirmed the principle of Unionism they affirmed that principle. It was useless to talk about rules which could be altered any day. This was the principle upon which all Unions had been based. Whether they should proceed to such extremities as to lock-out was another question altogether; but they should do all in their power to discourage what they believed to be a vicious social arrangement; one which seemed to be entirely subversive of the present system under which England had been cultivated, and to be econo-

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mically false and socially mischievous. The labouring classes hitherto had been socially dependent, and with the poor-rate and education rate they could never be called independent if the principles of Unionism were affirmed. Were he in the House of Commons he would immediately propose the abolition of the Poor-laws. He agreed in hoping for a speedy termination of the dispute, but could not see how, without incurring many of the difficulties he had mentioned, it could be done by arbitration. It was a fact that the labourers were the aggressors, and he believed if they withdrew the attack, the farmers would be contented to take the men back on the old terms without any reference to the Union. He recommended persistent agitation as to Local Taxation, and, as to the Malt-tax, remarked that in the face of a recent division it must be considered to be in abeyance.

Mr. HILL, in reply, said, in reference to the education question, that he was afraid the labourer would not take the trouble to retain what he learnt. Upon the Malt-tax he had not expressed an opinion. As to the quantity of corn which could be grown, there was no doubt that the more money spent on a farm the more crops would be grown, but it must be done in judgment. He agreed with Mr. Goodwyn as to manure, and he might say that Mr. Corrance's remarks on the labour question were most sensible. His advice about taking small farms was to those who did not understand farming. A man who knew his business would get on best on a small farm. Though not responsible for Mr. Mechi's figures, he hardly agreed with the Chairman's way of putting them.

THE FINANCIAL PROPOSALS.

At a general meeting of the Wisbech Chamber of Agriculture, the principal business was to consider the financial proposals of the Government so far as they relate to agriculture, Mr. A. S. Reston in the chair,

Mr. W. C. LITTLE said that when the Council met some weeks ago, before the Chancellor of the Exchequer had brought in his Budget, it was thought that the Chamber would probably be glad of an opportunity of expressing its opinion upon the proposals of the Government, whenever they were made They would observe that they were limited to the question so far as it regarded agriculture. They had nothing whatever to do with the general political question; they had nothing to do with estimates, whether they were inadequate or otherwise; but they had simply to accept the opinions of the Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the necessary amount to be spent and as to the means by which that amount was to be raised. Accepting those opinions, the question before them appeared to him to be this: What expectations had they formed before the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced his plan? He should like at the beginning to say that the agricultural interest, in considering this subject from their own point of view, had no desire to take a selfish or a class view; they had no desire, nor the slightest hope, that they should be greatly relieved by taxation, while other classes would have fresh taxation imposed upon them. The position of Chambers of Agriculture was this: They found that other classes of the community, by organization and by making a great deal of noise, had succeeded in getting relieved of taxation, while the agricultural interest had by means of increased local rates and continually increasing burdens been unfairly taxed. There was one point upon which agriculturists were unanimous, viz., that some relief should be given to ratepayers, and that local taxation was one of the first questions that required to be considered by the Government. Another subject which was thought of importance by a considerable section of the agriculturists, although it was not thought of so much importance in this part of the country, was the Malt-tax. He believed the farmers of England were by no means unanimous upon that point; for although a considerable number of them looked upon it as a heavy tax upon the producer, there were about as many who thought it fell upon the consumer. Therefore, so far as this Chamber was concerned, there would not be any great disappointment felt that the Malt-tax had not been dealt with by the Government. In considering the proposals of the Government they might look upon them first of all so far as they affected agriculturists in common with other classes. The remission of 1d. on the income-tax would certainly affect many classes besides themselves, but at the same time it would afford them considerable relief. When they remembered that farmers were assessed upon their full incomes, and that in no other business was it so difficult to arrive at an exact statement of profits and losses, it was evident that the farmer paid his full share of imperial taxation to the income-tax, and therefore he would receive his full benefit from any remission of that tax. The horse duty was not quite so clear a benefit to the farmer, because farmers' horses employed in agriculture were exempt from the duty, but still the farmer would derive some benefit from it, because there were few of them who did not keep a horse that paid the tax. Then the horsedealers' duty being taken off would remote some restrictions upon trade, and the farmers, as the breeders and rearers of horses, must derive some advantage from it. Besides, there were other reasons why they should accept these proposals of the Government. It was a question whether farmers who bought horses to graze for a short time and then sold them again were not liable to pay duty as horse-dealers, and in some cases the duty had been imposed upon them. They got rid of all liability upon that point, and they also got rid of a threat once thrown out by Mr. Lowe that he did not see why horses employed in agriculture should be exempt from duty. The concession made by the Government on local taxation was not a very large one, the amount to be given away being something less than 1½ millions; but they would observe that it recognised the principle they had maintained ever since they had agitated the subject—that Government ought to contribute more largely than it has hitherto done towards those objects that are of national interest. With regard to the remission for the police, the Government had hitherto paid nominally one-fourth of the cost of the police, but practically it had been one-fifth. The total amount which the metropolis, which had an extra grant of one-third, would gain was £210,000 out of £500,000, the boroughs would gain £120,000, and the counties £150,000. But although the amount to be distributed among the counties was not very large, it would make a slight difference to their rates He had obtained from the Treasurer of the Isle an account o the sums paid by the Government on account of the police, and it seemed that the average for the last four or five years had been slightly under £900 a year. They might assume that this amount would now be doubled, and that the county-rate would thereby be reduced ½d. in the pound per annum. With reference to lunatics, the Government proposed to contribute 4s. per head per week. The figures for the Wisbech Union gave an average for the last three years of 41 lunatics, who were maintained at a charge to the county of £1,163 a year. The Government allowance of 4s. a week would amount to about £418, or nearly ½d. in the pound, so that by these two Government contributions their rates would be reduced very nearly 1d. in the pound. That was not a very large remission, but, as he had said before, it accepted the principle they had for years contended for. While on the subject of lunatics he should like to point out that the average cost of maintenance throughout the country was 10s. a week. The Wisbech Union sent lunatic to two asylums—the one in Norfolk, where the average cost of maintenance was 9s. 6d., and the other at Cambridge, where the cost was 11s. 1d. He should like to draw the attention of the visitors of the Cambridgeshire Asylum to the fact, which was worthy of their attention, that the cost of maintenance in their asylum was 1s. 1d. a week more than the average throughout the kingdom, and 1s. 7d. more than that of the asylum at Thorpe, in Norfolk. But the remissions of taxation to which he had referred were not all that the Government proposed to do. They were the only definite proposals that had as yet been made, but every one who had read the report of the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer must have seen there was a desire on the part of the Government to examine into the question of local taxation, with the object of affording them substantial relief. There were some great sources of expen-

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diture not dealt with at all, as, for instance, the administration of justice. That was a question of imperial interest, and one upon which no additional contribution was made. The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated in his speech that the subject was receiving the attention of a Royal Commission, and that he did not feel it would be right at present to make any proposal respecting it. Then there was the question of highways, upon which they thought they were entitled to ask for some relief, but it had not been dealt with by the Government at present. Therefore, taking the proposals of the Government as a desire on their part to afford them some relief—coupled with the expressions of sympathy that had fallen from the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer—he thought they might fairly congratulate themselves upon their present position. They had no right to accept those propositions as final, and they would scarcely be satisfied with them if they were to be considered as such. There were many ways in which the Government might give them greater assistance, but taking all the circumstances into consideration—that they had been in office only a few weeks, and had had no time to mature a plan—he thought that they would be doing wrong if they were to express their disapproval of their proposals. He would conclude therefore by moving the following resolution: "That this Chamber accepts provisionally the financial proposals of the Government, as admitting the principle that ratepayers are entitled to some relief on account of charges imposed upon them for objects of national interest, and trusts that so soon as the Government shall have completed that inquiry into the subject of Local Taxation, which they have promised, they will considerably extend the principle which they have thus admitted."

Mr. W. L. Ollard, in seconding the motion, said he should confine himself to the remission of the horse duty; and he perfectly agreed with Mr. Little that it was almost impossible for farmers to buy horses and graze them, and then sell them again, without making themselves liable to pay duty. He had a case in point; and an expression of opinion was given by magistrates that many persons who had no intention of becoming horsedealers in the ordinary sense of the word, ran the risk of having the penalty imposed upon them while carrying on their ordinary business pursuits. Then again cases frequently arose where persons might be made liable to the duty simply for rendering an act of kindness to their neighbours. He was glad these anomalies had been done away with by the remission of the duty, and throughout the country he thought there was but one opinion, that, considering the circumstances, the Budget was a very fair one to all classes, and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had raised himself in public estimation by the manner in which he had dealt with the subject.

Mr. H. J. Little agreed with his brother that if the proposals of the Government were to be considered as final, they would have a grievance against the Government, but he believed they were fully resolved to take the whole question of local taxation into consideration, and that the ratepayers might speedily look for a revision of the system. With regard to the Malt-tax, no doubt in many Chambers of Agriculture the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be severely censured for not taking something off it. He himself thought, when there was a surplus of five millions, that it would now become a question of dealing with the Malt-tax, but on reflection he appeared before them in the interesting character of a pervert, for after the experience of the last year or two he did not think the farmers had any grievance with regard to the Malt-tax. So long as he was a grower of barley, he considered it more as a grievance upon the agricultural labourer than upon the grower, for he felt that the labourer was entitled to have the beverage of his country at as cheap a rate and as wholesome as he could possibly get it; but the whole tendency of legislation had lately been to take off taxation from the necessaries of life, so that tea, sugar, coffee, and such-like necessaries had been enormously reduced in price. It now rested almost with the labouring man to say how much he was willing to give towards the taxation of his country. He was scarcely taxed for anything except for the beer which he drank; and if he chose not to tax himself in that respect he might go scot-free, but if on the other hand he chose to indulge to a considerable extent, as unfortunately too many of them did, he would contribute considerably to the revenue of his country. As one who had seen reason to alter his views with regard to this question, he thought he would give the reasons why he felt they ought no longer to look to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for any alteration in the Malt-tax; especially as any alteration in the tax must lead to a great revision in the spirit duties, and they all knew that in the large towns any great decrease in the price of spirits would lead to greater habits of drunkenness among the lower classes.

Mr. H. Sharpe thought they might well afford to be indifferent with reference to the Malt-tax, when the growers and the great consumers regarded it with so much apathy. He felt satisfied both parties in the House of Commons were prepared to go fully into the question of local taxation, and he hoped when another session had passed they would get all they wished.

Mr. Brown remarked that the subject was too one-sided; they could not get up any opposition, and without opposition there could be no discussion. He acknowledged he had always been a Malt-tax repealer, and he thought it would only have been fair if with such a large surplus some remission had been made to the beer drinker as well as to the tea and sugar drinkers. A good deal had been taken off the free breakfast table, but no notice had been taken of the hard-working man who required his glass of beer. It had been said that the tax upon beer was almost the only one paid by the poor man, but it must be remembered that he very much enjoyed his pipe of tobacco, and no article of consumption was more heavily taxed or raised a greater amount of money than that. He did not know, however, that he should advocate much reduction of the duty on tobacco, for sometimes when he saw in the large towns boys under twelve years of age with cigars in their mouths before dinner, he thought tobacco was cheap enough.

The Chairman quite concurred with the remarks made by Mr. Little in introducing the subject, and he had come to the same conclusion as he had done. He felt that the Government, having had so little opportunity of maturing their scheme, could not go thoroughly into the question of local taxation, but as they had so clearly intimated their intention of giving the subject due consideration during the coming year, he thought they were free to suppose it would be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. As to the small relief that had been offered to the ratepayers, he thought they might take it as an admission of the principle; and if it was to become a question of the Malt-tax *versus* Local Taxation, he felt it would be to the interest of the towns as well as to the owners and occupiers that the reduction should be made in the shape of local taxation rather than the Malt-tax. Any remission of the Malt-tax must necessarily bring about a revision of the spirit duties, and it was a question whether that would not involve too large a sum of money to be thrown away in one direction. His own idea was that they should ask the Government to afford reasonable and just help to the ratepayers, which would be of much greater interest to the country at large, and therefore he was quite disposed to adopt the resolution as it stood before the meeting.

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. G. F. Moore, secretary to the Chamber, to introduce the next subject: "The report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Locomotives on Roads."

Mr. Moore said his notes consisted chiefly on extracts from the report of the select committee, but his object was to show that the present law is anomalous and unsatisfactory and requires alteration. Some idea of the large amount of capital invested in this kind of machinery might be gathered from the statements made by two witnesses before the committee, that their firms alone had supplied about 1,500 self-moving engines for use in this country, of the total value of £700,000; besides which there were many other engineering firms who were large makers of them, and there was little doubt that if greater freedom were given to their use, before long the majority of thrashing and other heavy machinery would be moved from place to place by steam, especially as many of the existing portable engines could be converted at a little cost into self-movers; besides which the increasing cost of horses of their maintenance showed the national importance of the substitution of steam for horse-power wherever practicable. With reference to the danger to which horses and carriages would be liable from the use of locomotives on roads, Mr. Moore read extracts from the report of the committee showing that considerable difference of opinion existed among the witnesses upon this point, but they were almost unanimous in

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saying that the inconvenience soon disappears, although there were, and probably always would be some few horses which would take fright at an engine, as at many other objects. We know (he continued) there are some few places in the country where, even in this year of grace 1874, the inhabitants play long whist, and have to go ten miles to a railway station, but the spot where locomotives have not been introduced at all must be the veritable *Ultima Thule*, and no legislation is likely to reach it. With regard to the damage done to the roads, evidence was taken before the committee showing that on ordinary well-made roads little or no damage is caused by the engine; and, on the contrary, it was stated that benefit results to the road from the consolidation produced by the pressure of the engine, and one witness informed the committee that he had successfully used the broad wheels of his engine as a roller in constructing a new road. On roads which are only slightly metalled, or which rest upon a bad or an insufficient foundation, as is the case in some of the occupation roads in this neighbourhood, there is no doubt damage would be done by the frequent passage over them of heavy locomotives; but the same result would be obtained by the use of horse-power. As to the bridges, the anomalous state of the present law was pointed out by the evidence given before the committee by Mr. Aveling, to the effect that, "If I send a boiler, weighing 15 tons, over the county bridge, drawn by 15 horses, and that boiler breaks through the bridge, I have nothing to pay; but if I send the same boiler over a bridge with an engine weighing eight tons, and the boiler breaks through the bridge, I have the whole expenses to pay." Almost all the witnesses examined before the committee admitted that agricultural engines have become a necessity in many localities, and in this immediate neighbourhood he (Mr. Moore) believed there were more self-moving engines than there are private carriages drawn by a pair of horses. Why then should not they be considered the ordinary traffic of the district? The recommendations of the committee as to roads and bridges were to the following effect:

1. No owner shall be liable for damage done to any bridge provided his engines does not exceed 20 tons weight, and provided no notice be affixed to the bridge.

2. If notice be affixed the owner shall be liable if the weight of his engine exceeds that named in the notice.

3. If the engine exceeds 20 tons, the owner shall be liable whether notice be affixed or not.

4. Any person taking an engine of more than 20 tons weight over any public road shall be liable to all damage caused to such road in consequence.

The Committee also recommend that except on narrow roads, the local authorities shall have no power to prohibit the passage of locomotives at any hour. Having read the recommendations as to speed, Mr. Moore concluded by moving the following resolution: "That it is desirable for the advancement and assistance of agriculture that the use of locomotives should be encouraged to the fullest possible extent, having due regard to the public safety and interests. Resolved, therefore, that this Chamber approves the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Locomotives on Roads, and the recommendations therein contained."

The CHAIRMAN suggested that as the Chamber had not as yet had the opportunity of reading the report of the Select Committee the latter part of the resolution should be omitted, as it would be unwise for them to approve a report of which they had only heard a few passages read.

Mr. MOORE concurred with the suggestion; and

Mr. SHARPE then seconded the resolution, remarking that he was afraid they were a little behind-hand in not having examined the report of the Select Committee. He pointed out the awkward position agriculturists were placed in, by certain districts being intersected with drains without the promoters being compelled to build the bridges of sufficient strength to bear the passage over them of steam locomotives, which were becoming indispensable to agriculture.

Mr. BROWN readily assented to the resolution, but he said there was no part of England where the subject ought to be approached with more care and consideration than in the Isle of Ely. The roads were intersected in every direction with rivers and ditches, the bridges over which were originally constructed to carry the ordinary traffic of the country, and he pointed out that if all these bridges were to be strengthened so as to allow the passage over them of locomotives weighing 20 tons, the county rate would be very considerably increased. He did not wish to throw any obstacle in the way of advancement of agriculture, but he thought the interests of steam cultivation would be better served by the adoption of a lighter implement, which would be more suitable for private individuals, especially in the fen districts, than the large engines used by cultivating companies. He agreed with the first part of the resolution; but looking to the novelty of the subject he thought they ought to approach it with discretion, and he was not prepared to vote for the second portion.

Mr. W. L. OLLARD agreed with Mr. Sharpe that it was against all reason that any company should be allowed to intersect the country with drains and to build bridges over them so light that persons engaged in agriculture could not get their implements over them. He apprehended that every year would witness an increase in the use of steam agricultural implements, and unless they could be freely moved from one part of the country to another, the result would be that certain farmers would be prevented, from their isolated position, from using machines which their neighbours could use with profit and advantage; or else that every litte area must have an engine of its own, which could not possibly travel beyond the limits of its own district. The subject resolved itself into the question whether or not steam implements are a necessity in agriculture; and if they are so the bridges must be so constructed that they can pass freely from place to place.

Mr. DEBOROUGH also made some remarks on the subject, from which he wandered on to the question of sewerage and docks, and concluded, amidst some amusement, with the sound observations that "those who want sewerage ought to pay for it, and those who want docks ought to pay for them."

The CHAIRMAN said the great difficulty in the matter was unquestionably the bridges. Everything should be done to encourage scientific agriculture, especially in a district like this, which depends so much upon agriculture; and if these locomotives were necessary for the successful cultivation of the land, every facility ought to be afforded for using them. At the same time there was a question as to what was the proper weight of the engines. He did not think it necessary to have them weighing 20 tons, but he thought engines from 10 to 14 tons would be quite sufficient for cultivating all lands requiring cultivation, especially in the Fen districts. In that case, the expense of strengthening the bridges would be much less, and he thought they would be of opinion that it was desirable to strengthen the bridges to that extent, and thus place every district in the Fens in a position to successfully cultivate its land.

Mr. MOORE, in reply, said it was necessary that the engines be from 10 to 12 or 14 tons weight, but 20 tons was put down as the maximum, and the owner of any engine above that weight would be liable for any injury that it might cause.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried.

A POTATO CASE.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, the case of Havell *v.* Coupland, involved a curious point, arising out of the potato disease. The defendant, a Lincolnshire farmer, had entered into a contract with the plaintiff in March to sell him "200 tons of potatoes, grown on his land at Whaplode," at the price of £3 6s. 8d. per ton, to be delivered in September. There were 68 acres of the defendant's land in course of cultivation, and 250 acres were actually planted at Whaplode, and it appeared that they would produce seven tons an acre, so that there was abundant land sown to raise the quantity contracted for. In August, however, the potato disease attacked the crop and destroyed it, so that the farmer was unable to complete his contract. The question was whether he was excused in law. Mr. Seymour, Q.C., and Mr. Waddy, Q.C., were for the plaintiff; Mr. Field, Q.C., and Mr. Beasley were for the defendant. After a long argument, which took up the best part of the day, the Court gave judgment in favour of the defendant, the farmer. Mr. Justice Blackburn said the effect of the contract was that the potatoes should be delivered out of the crop of the defendant's farm, so that it was to be the produce of particular land, and in that respect it resembled a contract for a certain quantity out of a particular cargo. So far, therefore, it was a contract for specific goods, and there was an excuse in law if they perished in the mean time, as in the present case, without any default on the part of the farmer. Mr. Justice Quain also said the potatoes to be delivered were to be potatoes grown upon

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the particular farm, and no others could have been supplied; so that when that became impossible in consequence of the potato disease the performance of the contract became impossible. Mr. Justice Archibald also concurred on similar grounds, observing that there was no default on the part of the farmer.

THE DISEASES OF STOCK IN 1873.

[From the Report of the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council.]

The Lords of the Council have not, during the year 1873, been required to exercise, by means of Orders of Council, the powers conferred upon them by The Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1869, on many occasions; only seven Orders have been passed during the year. It has been considered advisable to give a reprint of these Orders in the Appendix. In considering these Orders it will be necessary to refer to the labours of the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the operations of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1869, the Cattle Diseases Acts (Ireland), and the Constitution of the Veterinary Departments in Great Britain and Ireland, as one of these Orders is based upon their recommendations. This Committee met for the first time on Thursday, the 6th of March, 1873, and continued its sittings until Friday the 25th of July, at which meeting the report, a copy of which will be found in the Appendix, was agreed to. The Lords of the Council, after having carefully considered such of the recommendations of the Committee as did not require fresh legislation, issued the Order of the 2nd of August, 1873 (No. 366), which makes the slaughter of cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia compulsory, removes foot-and-mouth disease from the contagious and infectious diseases as regards the Orders of Council under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1869, and relaxes the restriction contained in section 57 relating to foot-and-mouth disease. Besides this Order, their Lordships issued two Orders relating to foreign countries; the first, dated the 7th of January, 1873 (No. 363), relieved sheep brought from Germany to this country from the Order of the 31st of July, 1872, requiring their slaughter; the other, dated the 11th of June, 1873 (No. 364), relieved, under certain conditions, the cattle brought to this country from Schleswig and Holstein from the provisions of the fourth schedule of the Act. The effects of the relaxation of these restrictions upon our imports is not apparent. As regards German sheep there is a decrease in 1873 of upwards of 78,000 upon the import of 1872, although the restriction requiring the slaughter of these sheep was removed in January 1873, and although the total imports of foreign sheep increased in 1873 by nearly 39,000. And with regard to cattle from Schleswig and Holstein, the return show that in 1872, when more than five-sixths of these cattle were landed at Deptford, 38,730 cattle were received from these states; while in 1873, when none of them were landed at Deptford for slaughter, all being permitted to go to the Metropolitan Cattle Market, we only received 38,100, although the total import from Germany increased in that year. Of the other four Orders, one, dated the 30th June, 1873 (No. 365), declares "farcy" to be a contagious disease within the meaning of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1869, and provides for the making by local authorities of regulations as to glanders and farcy; another, dated the 25th of September, 1873 (No. 367), relates to an alteration in the limits of the part of the port of Southampton defined for the quarantine of foreign animals not intended for slaughter; and two, dated the 13th of November, 1873 (No. 368 and No. 369), revoke previous Orders of Council which allowed cattle from scheduled countries to be landed at Liverpool and Shoreham. With regard to the Order relating to farcy and glanders, very little effect can, as yet, have been produced. Only seven local authorities have applied for power for making regulations as to glanders, and we have only been informed of regulations having been made by six of these; there being 404 local authorities in Great Britain. The Order of Council requiring the compulsory slaughter of cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia only came into operation on the 1st of September, and does not, as yet, appear to have had much effect in checking this disease. The prevalence of pleuro-pneumonia is probably due to several causes—

First. To neglect of owners in giving notice of the disease. Nor is it likely that this notice will be given generally until the compensation is increased to such an extent as to make it the owner's interest to do so.

Secondly. To delay in the slaughter of the diseased cattle.

Thirdly. To the want of efficient separation of cattle in the incipient stages of the disease before they are capable of giving it to others, from those which are not so diseased. The latest information from the Netherlands confirms this opinion, as the head of the veterinary administration of that country, Dr. Van Cappelle, states his experience to be that strict isolation is absolutely necessary, and he attributes the success with which the disease has been encountered in the Netherlands more to the isolation of suspected animals for three months, than to the slaughter of the affected animals only.

Legislation suggested in this Country.—Many important suggestions as to future legislation on the subject of the contagious and infectious diseases of animals were brought before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and the result of their consideration of these suggestions is embodied in their Report. The action pursued by the Privy Council with regard to the importation of foreign animals was approved by that Committee, who did not suggest any change of legislation as regards this branch of the subjects under their consideration. With regard to the contagious and infectious diseases of animals, the suggestions of the Committee are arranged under the various diseases beginning with *cattle plague*. In this disease they recommended the power of slaughter contained in the Act to be extended; and there does not appear to be a doubt, if the experience of other countries is to be relied upon, that the extension recommended would greatly tend to check the spreading of this disease. They also recommended a higher rate of compensation generally. The Committee's recommendations on the subject of the necessity for isolation in *pleuro-pneumonia* do not differ materially from the regulations which are at present in force in the Netherlands. The time of isolation is, however, different; being two months in the case of the recommendations of the Select Committee, and three months in the Netherlands regulations. There does not appear to be a doubt that the longer the isolation is kept up, the greater will be the security; but there is no evidence to prove that even three months would give absolute security. The Committee recommended slaughter of animals suffering from this disease and compensation, and the Privy Council gave effect to this recommendation in their Order of the 2nd of August, 1873. The Committee also recommended that whatever compensation is paid should bear a certain proportion to the owner's loss rather than, as at present enacted, to the value of the animal, but as the Lords of the Council did not consider that they would be justified, without fresh legislation, in changing the principle upon which Parliament had based compensation, the payment was provided for in this Order in the same manner as is ordered by the Act as regards cattle plague. In the Order of the 2nd of August, 1873, the compensation in *pleuro-pneumonia* is therefore at present limited to the same amount as that ordered by the Act as regards cattle plague, and thus the owner, in the greater number of cases, does not realise through the local authority so much for the cattle as he might himself make for them. The result is, that in a great number of cases no notice is given of the existence of this disease. Nor is it likely that notices will be generally given until the amount of compensation renders the giving of the required notices a gain to the owner, instead of a loss. It would appear to be open to discussion whether a compensation of three-fourths of the loss sustained by the owner, as recommended generally by the Committee, would be a sufficient inducement to all owners of cattle suffering from pleuro-pneumonia to give notice of its existence. The length of time recommended by the Select Committee for the isolation of cattle which have been herded with animals affected with this disease has already been referred to; but the movement of

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these cattle, recommended under the head of pleuro-pneumonia, paragraph (*b*), will require extreme care in drafting the regulations for isolation, or it will tend to the spreading of the disease. The recommendation of the chief inspector of this department is that those cattle which show an internal temperature of above 103 degrees Fahrenheit should be dealt with as infected animals, and should be kept separate from those which do not show such increase of temperature. The power proposed to be given to the inspector by paragraph (*c*) of the recommendations of the Committee would meet a difficulty which has long been felt, of not being able to apply the necessary restrictions in cases where the disease has not been detected until after death. Compulsory slaughter and compensation in *sheep-pox* were recommended by the Committee, and would doubtless help in stamping out this disease if it again appears in this country. The compulsory slaughter of horses affected with *glanders* and compensation to the value of the carcases of the animals slaughtered, were also recommended by the Select Committee. This will require great caution in its application so long as the inspectors as a body are not qualified for the detection of the disease. It appears also to be the present practice throughout Great Britain to slaughter in this disease. 965 cases were reported during the years 1871, 1872, and 1873, and of these 896 were slaughtered, 48 died, and 20 are said to have recovered. The latter statement is, however, questioned by the inspectors of the department, and it is quite possible that errors in the returns may have been made, either in the disease or in the recovery, as of the 1,678 inspectors of local authorities in Great Britain during 1873, about 22 per cent. only were veterinary surgeons, and about 59 per cent. were members of the police force; whilst the other 19 per cent. consisted of persons who were neither veterinary surgeons nor policemen, nor does it appear that they were possessed of any special qualification for the duties entrusted to them. The Select Committee examined a large number of witnesses, to whose opinions, as regards *foot-and-mouth* disease, great weight must necessarily be attached; the result of which was that recommendations were agreed to which almost wholly interdict any interference for the purpose of checking it. The experience of other countries appears also to support these conclusions; but, so far as regards the information in the possession of this department, it remains yet to be proved that restrictions of a severe character would be ineffectual, as it does not appear that such restrictions have, as yet, ever been really carried into effect. The report also recommended the inspection of vessels engaged in the Irish and coasting, as well as in the foreign trades, and also of railways, fairs, markets, and fairs, and the employment of travelling inspectors for this purpose.

Importation of Animals.—The total number of live animals imported into Great Britain during the year 1873 exceeded that of 1872 by upwards of 200,000, there being an increase of more that 95,000 in the cattle, nearly 125,000 in the sheep, and a falling off of upwards of 15,000 in the swine. The latter may perhaps be accounted for by the increase in our imports of bacon and pork.

Foreign: Our imports of foreign animals during the past year show an increase upon 1872 in each class of animal; during the latter year we received 174,760 cattle, 810,551 sheep, and 16,084 swine, whilst in 1873 we imported 201,531 cattle, 849,286 sheep, and 80,042 swine.

On referring to the table showing the foreign countries from which we have obtained our imports of animals for the last five years, it will be seen that great changes have taken place. Belgium and France, which together furnished us in 1869 with nearly 16 per cent. of our total supply of foreign cattle, in 1873 sent us little more than ½ per cent. of such supply. On the other hand, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, which in 1869 sent us less than 4 per cent. of our total foreign supply, in 1873 has supplied us with more than 21 per cent. of all our foreign cattle. And with regard to our imports of sheep, similar changes have taken place, although not of so marked a character. For instance, taking Denmark, Norway, and Sweden together, there appears to have been a steady increase in our imports of sheep during this period; these three countries sent us only 4,303 of these animals in 1869, whilst we received 27,455 from them in 1873. That France and Belgium should heve sent us less cattle in 1870 and 1871 may have arisen from the restrictive Orders then in force on account of the cattle plague, but it is difficult to explain why such a sudden increase of our import of sheep from France should have taken place in 1872, accompanied by a decrease in the import from Beligum, whilst in 1873 the increase occurs in sheep from Belgium, and the decrease in sheep from France. Variations of a similar nature may be observed in our imports of swine, although but little importance can be attached to this trade, as our total import is comparatively insignificant. Changes have also taken place in the amount of importation into the various ports. Thus, in 1869 nearly 71 per cent. of our foreign cattle were landed in the port of London; in 1873 only about 50½ per cent. were landed at that port. These changes in the course of trade might formerly have been accounted for by the difference of practice on the part of the various inspectors as to the examination of the foreign animals and the necessity for their detention, but of late years the examination has been uniform, and there does not appear to be any reason other than that of trading advantages to cause the transfer of the trade from London to the other ports. Animals brought from the Channel Islands are, under section 6 of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1869, foreign animals, but are not so considered by the Customs. In the Appendix will be found tables showing the amount of our imports from these islands during the last two years. Similar information has not hitherto been published in the annual reports.

Irish: From Ireland the imports into Great Britain have increased during the past year by upwards of 68,000 cattle and 86,000 sheep, but the import of disease has decreased by upwards of 79,000. The latter may have been counteracted by a larger import of pork and bacon, but on this point no information can be obtained from the Customs, as they have ceased to keep any separate record of these imports from Ireland.

Contagious Diseases amongst Animals.—*Home*: No cattle plague or sheep-pox has occurred amongst our home stock during the past year. Although the number of cases of pleuro-pneumonia reported during the year 1873 is nearly 15 per cent. less than in 1872, it is difficult to show that this is due to any of the preventive measures taken. Compulsory slaughter has been too short a time in operation to show its effects, and both slaughter and isolation have been so ineffectually carried out generally that no inference can be deduced as to its success or non-success in checking the spreading of this disease. On comparing, however, the returns for the last four months of 1873 with the same period of 1872, it will be found that although there is an increase during that period of last year in the number of outbreaks and in the number of cattle on the infected premises, yet the number attacked is less, being in 1870 nearly 17 per cent., and in 1873 a little over 12 per cent. In the last four months of 1872, only 49 per cent. of those attacked were killed; in 1873, 94 per cent. were killed. The average number of cattle attacked in the above-mentioned periods during each outbreak in 1872 was 3.313; in 1873 it was 2.369. Two local authorities, however, have reported that they have carried out the Orders, and that they have succeeded in checking the disease in the one case, and in stamping it out in the other; but the former state that they do not consider the result adequate to the outlay incurred. This outlay is in many cases very large from the fact that the carcases of cattle slaughtered even in the early stages of the disease have been by some local authorities ordered to be destroyed as unfit for human food without examination. The Lords of the Council have been advised that the owner of any animal slaughtered on account of being affected with this disease has an absolute right to the carcase, and to dispose thereof, subject to the ordinary law, and with regard to the provisions of the second section of the Nuisances Removal Act for England (Amendment) Act, 1863 (26 & 27 Vict. cap. 117), it would appear that the medical officer or inspector of nuisances acting under the above-mentioned section is only authorised thereby to inspect and examine, and to form his opinion on the appearance presenting itself to him on that inspection and examination, and is not justified in basing his opinion to any extent on the history of the object inspected, and his own view of the facts of that history. There is no conclusive evidence that any injurious results have followed from the consumption of these carcases, and it is known that very large numbers of them are sold for food. The official information with regard to foot-and-mouth disease is very small, but there does not appear to be a doubt that it has been less prevalent during the past year than it was in 1872. There is no

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reason, however, to believe that the immunity from this disease will continue. A report on this subject by the chief inspector of the Department will be found in the Appendix. Sheep-scab is evidently on the decrease if reliance is to be placed upon the returns furnished to this Department. In 1872, the number of attacks was 60,354; in 1873, the number was only 41,104. But this does not represent the real decrease in those districts where it was most prevalent. Taking seven counties, in each of which more than 2,000 cases of this disease occurred in 1871, it will be found that the total number of cases in them for 1871, 1872, and 1873 are respectively, 34,702, 23,200, and 15,044, showing a decrease during the three years of more than 50 per cent. Nor does this show the full effect that may be anticipated from our legislation, as in the greater number of these districts the provisions contained in the Order in Council were only partially carried out. Thus, in the case of one county in which, according to information received, the permissive Order was carried out fully from August, 1871, the number of cases decreased from 2,951 in that year to 1,546 in 1872, and to 378 in 1873. It would therefore appear that the legislation as regards this disease, if effectually carried out, would be attended with a very beneficial result. The returns of cases of glanders in Great Britain during the last three years show a gradual increase from 204 in 1871 to 325 in 1872, and 436 in 1873. It is impossible to decide whether this increase is real or apparent; whether it is due to increased vigilance on the part of the inspectors, conscientiousness on the part of the owners, or a real increase of the disease. There is reason to believe that even now only a small percentage of the cases which occur are returned. Farcy has only been included under the meaning of contagious or infectious disease since the 2nd of July, 1873, and the number of cases reported is so small as not to require any further notice.

Foreign: Cattle-plague has existed during the year 1873 in between 90 and 100 different places in Austro-Hungary; in Germany, in the States of Bavaria and Silesia; in Greece, in the Islands of Corfu, Andros, Naxos, Jos, and Tinos; in Russia and Poland; in Turkey in Europe and Turkey in Asia; in Egypt; in China, and in Japan. A reference to the appendix with show the names of the different places in these countries in which the disease existed. The importation of cattle from Russia being prohibited, and there being little probability of any importation from Greece, Turkey, Egypt, China, or Japan, the fact of the existence of this disease in Austro-Hungary, and in Germany during the past year appears to be the only one which requires particular attention. The risk of the introduction of cattle plague from Austro-Hungary direct is very small, as we receive no imports from the Austrian ports, and our risk of getting it indirectly is very much reduced since the adjoining countries have become alive to the necessity of immediate action. From Germany there is greater danger, but this will be reduced to a minimum when the international arrangements already referred to are completed. Then it is thought that the cattle plague will be confined to Russia, for if Russia does not succeed in stamping out rinderpest, it may be hoped that the disease will be prevented from extending beyond the neighbourhood of the Steppes. The outbreaks of the past year in Germany which occurred in Silesia and Bavaria, did not extend beyond those districts. In fact, for some years the undoubted outbreaks of cattle plague which have occurred in Germany, with the single exception of the Hamburg outbreak in 1872, against the recurrence of which special measures have been taken, have been confined to the States bordering upon Russia or Austria. Information has been received of the existence of pleuro-pneumonia during the past year in France, Prussia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey in Europe, Turkey in Asia, and in the United States. We have also received from Hamburg five cattle affected with this disease. There is no evidence to support the assertions which have often been made, that our foreign imports of cattle add to or keep up this disease in Great Britain. Foot-and-mouth disease has been reported to have existed during the past year in Algeria, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, and Turkey in Asia. In addition to the above official information of the existence of foot-and-mouth disease, there is reason to believe that it existed in the Netherlands, as we received during 1873 three cattle from that country suffering from this disease. Sheep-pox is reported to have existed during the past year in Pomerania, Spain, and Turkey in Europe. We have not, however, received any foreign sheep affected with this disease into any of our ports during the year 1873. As regards Spain this disease only existed in one of the Balearic Islands, and as we get no importation of sheep from Turkey, the only danger of its introduction into this country was from Pomerania, from which, however, we have had no direct importation of sheep during the past year. There is reason to believe that the immunity from this disease which we have enjoyed during the last few years is due rather to the regulations of Germany than to our port inspection, which, although it prevents the introduction of sheep actually suffering from this disease, would fail to detect it in the incubative stage. Reports have been received of the existence of sheep-scab and glanders from Germany only during the past year, but it may be assumed that sheep-scab also exists in Belgium and the Netherlands, as this disease has been detected in sheep brought from both these countries by the inspectors of the department at the ports.

INSPECTIONS.—*Foreign:* The inspection at the ports of the foreign animals brought to this country is still, as a rule, satisfactorily carried out, and there is no reason to believe that during the past year any diseased animals have been admitted. It has been found, however, that a considerable amount of the time of the inspectors has been occupied in examining store animals brought in vessels for the use of the crew or passengers. As these animals do not add any appreciable amount to our food supply, it would appear to be unjust that the expense of the inspection of them, which amounts to a considerable sum, should be paid by the public.

Irish: The inspection of Irish animals on landing in Great Britain has not hitherto been attempted, nor does there seem any advantage to be gained by such inspection, unless effective measures can be taken to detain the animals which are found to be affected with any contagious disease.

Home: The inspection of home animals in great Britain has during the past year been performed by 1,678 inspectors, about 22 per cent. of whom are members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, about 59 per cent. are members of the police force, and the remainder are neither veterinary surgeons nor policemen, nor do they appear to possess any qualification entitling them to occupy this office. Neither do the local authorities as a rule appear to see the necessity for professional inspectors, for, although the number of inspectors has been increased from 1,450 in 1871 to 1,678 in 1873, yet the number of veterinary surgeons has decreased from 372 in 1871 to 367 in 1873. The number of police officers employed as inspectors has during the same period increased from 738 to 997. Although many of the local authorities do not appoint veterinary surgeons as inspectors, some of them allow their lay inspectors to call in professional aid.

Transit by Land: The Lords of the Council have not as yet appointed any travelling inspectors for the purpose of ascertaining that their Orders relating to the transit of animals and the disinfection of vessels and trucks, &c., have been carried into effect.

THE NEW CORN EXCHANGE AT CAMBRIDGE.—At a cost of £6,000 the Cambridge Corporation are about to erect a new Corn Exchange, the foundation-stone of which was on Tuesday laid by the Mayor of Cambridge. It will form a room, 168 feet long by 55 feet wide, and 60 feet high to the ridge. On the south side there will be a transept 48 feet long by 28 feet wide. The whole will allow space for 220 merchants' desks, without crowding. At the luncheon Mr. Marten, M.P. for Cambridge, said he believed that Cambridge would become the eastern metropolis. He also spoke to the need of the new cattle market, that should be in close proximity to the railway station. Mr. T. V. Webb, chairman of the Cambridgeshire Chamber of Agriculture, in replying to the toast of "Success to agriculture," regretted there was disruption with the labourers; and if he might say a word of advice to the farmers, it would be that they should attempt a compromise. The combination on the part of the men was right and lawful, and he hoped that the farmers would accede to the propositions now put before them.

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THE INFLUENCE OF COLD UPON THE PRODUCTION OF WOOL.

By Dr. Hector George.

[TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF THE "JOURNAL D'AGRICULTURE PRATIQUE," EXPRESSLY FOR "THE MARK LANE EXPRESS."]

Amongst the many products which the domestic animals supply to man, wool is one of the most valuable and the most in request by the manufacturer. Every means are employed to improve that of the indigenous flocks, and to introduce into our counties new species of wool-bearing animals—as the lama, the vicuna, the alpaca, &c. But a quite unexpected transformation has puzzled the breeders, namely, that the simple change of climate greatly modifies the character of the wool, and even causes it wholly to disappear. It is then replaced by a coat of another species, and of a commercial value much inferior to it, so that the object of the acclimations is completely baffled. This influence of the climate—or to speak more correctly, of the temperature—on the production and disappearance of the wool, has been proved by numerous observations which it is not without interest to recall in a few words.

In order the better to describe these modifications, we must not lose sight of this fundamental observation that the coat is composed of two kinds of hair, variable in their proportions according to the several species of animals, but which may be made to reappear at pleasure under certain influences, of which the principal is assuredly that of temperature. Of these two sorts of hair, one is rigid, shining, coarse, well fixed. It is the *jarre*, which exists nearly alone in the ordinary conditions of the horse and the ox. The other hair, hidden under the first, is distinguished by being more curled and tangled and more dull than the jarre and much finer. It is the *wool*, which exists nearly alone in the Merino sheep and in the Cashmere goats. It is well known that the wool is greatly preferred to the jarre by the manufacturer. The wool, in fact, is much finer, curls more readily, and is found bristling with little scaly asperities (due to its mode of development), which render it more preferable for felting and the manufacture of tissues. From the coats of sheep, goats, rabbits, &c., the coarse and rigid hair is carefully removed. We can already state that amongst our domestic animals (horses, dogs, cats, &c.) a new kind of hair has been produced at the beginning of winter, which grows between that of the jarre, in order to guarantee the animals against the cold. This winter-hair is wool, and it disappears in the spring with the return of warmth.

Let us take a few types of domestic animals, in order to follow in them these modifications of the temperature; we shall find the facts sufficiently curious. If we begin with the horse, we observe that in this country they have little coat except the jarre. But let us go farther north—to Norway, for instance, or Lapland, or Mongolia or Siberia, and we shall find the jarre has disappeared, being displaced by a wool as thick as that of a sheep, constituted of a curled hair, which is a true fleece. The same is stated of the wild horses of Asia and America; and if we should possess them for their wool only, we should soon be obliged to give them up; for when once taken and confined in a stable, they lose in a few months their abundant curled fleece, which is replaced by a bright and short coat of hair. This is the jarre which reappears alone. The wool, having become useless, has disappeared. Lastly, as we have often stated, the horses of India, clothed simply with the jarre, when they are taken to the mountains of Cashmere or Thibet, are soon covered with wool, these like all other mountains being much colder than the plains. When they again descend into the plain the wool disappears.

It is the same with dogs; and the Indian dogs, when taken to the mountains of Thibet, are covered with wool. On the contrary, dogs that are kept for a long time in a warm country have eventually no coat; such is the Guinea dog, called alternately Egyptian, African, Turkish, Chinese, Calongo, &c. Of oxen some curious observations have been published by M. Routin in a voyage to America. The following was noticed by him in the Cordilleras, where he found oxen at nearly all altitudes. At a tolerably high level, where the average temperature is from 9 to 10 degrees, animals of the bovine species have a long close-pressed badly-laid coat—in fact, a true wool. Lower down, and in the warm plains, the wool disappeared, and the scanty hair which remains is straight. This is the jarre (these animals are known under the name of pilones). Lastly, with very hot regions, the skin becomes entirely naked (Calongos); and it is observed the animals with a naked skin are never found in the cold regions.

Even in France we can observe analogous modifications, which are transitory on account of the variations of climate, but which a prolonged influence might render durable. In Auvergne the farmers often send, during the summer, the calves to pasture in the mountains. Those which have passed six months in those high regions—very cold—and which descend in the middle of October, are clothed with a true wool, long, curled, and cottony, very different from the jarre of the calves remaining in the low countries.

We now go back to find the same effects on the sheep. Our ordinary breeds are, above all, furnished with wool, but they have still a little jarre: this has almost wholly disappeared amongst the Merino sheep, the fleece of which, since the fourteenth century, has produced the fine wools of Segovia of European reputation. These flocks of Spanish Merinos were *transhumants*—that is to say, they were led to pasture in summer upon the mountains; and if that fine breed has been successfully established in France, it is because our climate is very like that of Spain. But we must not ascribe this fleece wholly to the effect of climate. A proof of this is, that our European sheep transported into warmer climates (to Peru, Chili, the American valleys, Guinea, &c.) lose their wool at the end of a variable time, and it is then replaced by a short hair, bright, well established—the jarre, in fact—and the wool never after makes its appearance. We have observed the same changes in the Merinos transported by the English into some of the islands of the South Seas.

The goats also present analagous modifications, according to the climate. The most renowned of these—the cashmeres—live in the mountains of Thibet, that is, in the very cold regions. Their coats are composed almost exclusively of an abundant and very fine wool, which is manufactured into shawls of unrivalled beauty. Amongst the coat there is scarcely any jarre. When these are brought down into the plains their wool diminishes and their jarre increases, which lowers the quality and the value of their fleece. In 1818, our celebrated manufacturer, Terneau, resolved to take from India the manufacture of these shawls; and he brought, at a heavy

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expense, from Thibet a flock of goats, intended for the foundation of a race destined to supply the wool for the Indian shawls. But the Thibet goats quickly degenerated in France. Other attempts proved also fruitless, and it was found necessary to give up the idea of preserving in these goats the quality of their wool in a climate different to their own. The wool of these goats disappeared completely in the warm climates, like that of certain low and burning vallies of America; and it is then replaced by a short, bright, well-set hair, which is no other than the jarre—a very curious example of the influence of temperature on the production and predominance of one or the other of these two species of animal coverings.

From what has been stated, the breeders of animals may draw a very clear conclusion that whatever food and care they may bestow upon wool-bearing animals, they are not the only condition proper to soften their fleeces. For exotic animals which we wish to acclimatise, it requires the nearest possible approach to the condition of the native climate; and for indigenous animals themselves the question of temperature has great importance. The jarre may be compared to summer clothing, and the wool to that of winter. Nature furnishes so much more abundantly the winter clothing that the animal may resist the most severe frost. It remains to determine the extreme degree of cold that an animal can support; and, when once that limit is known, it will be necessary to approach the nearest possible to it, in order to produce in the animal all that it can furnish of the best in quality and quantity of wool. The mountains offer, at different heights, all the climates desirable, and may become a fertile field of experiments of which all the known observations warrant the success.

THE LONDON MARKET FROM A FOREIGN POINT OF VIEW.

[TRANSLATED FOR THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.]

A pamphlet has recently been published in Rome, written by *Cavalier Olshen, Director* of the *Bollettino del Comizio Agrario*, which treats upon the cattle markets of the largest capitals in Europe, London, Paris, and Berlin. It may be interesting to know the author's opinion respecting the cattle market of the British metropolis. London, says the Cavalier, is not only the greatest city in Great Britain, but it is the greatest city in the world. The visitor from the rural districts, whilst he walks through the many streets, and observes the immense and increasing crowd of people, asks himself the question—by what means agriculture is able to provide for the nourishment of such a multitude of persons, and how are the products of agricultural industry brought to market to supply the wants of such colossal wealth. In respect to the consumption of meat, it is very apparent to any one who makes even a short stay in London and gives his attention to the subject, that these demands are enormous. Well, this large demand is supplied exclusively from a single slaughter market for cattle, from which the butchers of the metropolis make their purchases. Owing to the excessive growth of London, the former cattle market in the city became too restricted and altogether inaccessible, and there was opened in the northern part, in the suburb of Islington, in 1857, an immense new market called the Islington Cattle market. Here the arrangements, formed upon the best and most accurate results derived from long experience, excellent and simple of themselves, make this market a model for others, and he admiration of all visitors. The circumference of the piazza, or space occupied by the market and its approaches, covers 285,960 square metres; one half of this area is intended for the animals, and the other for the approaches to the market itself. Where the animals intended for sale are exposed is a quadrangular space of 63,832 square metres in extent, paved, and well drained by means of subterranean drains. Divers basins of iron provide the space abundantly with water. In the middle stands an octagonal building with a tower, which has a clock facing each way. This building, which is called the Bank Buildings, contains the offices of the employés of the market, certain rooms for banking purposes, an office for tickets, a postal and telegraph station. Upon one of the sides of this vast piazza one observes two great buildings covered in with roofs and open at the sides, with a pavement which is two feet above the level of the piazza. Here are exposed for sale the pigs and calves, and each of these buildings is able to accommodate 1,000 head of these animals. The space covered by the market is divided by a broad street into two parts—one being intended for the exhibition of the bovine race, and the other for the sheep. For the latter there are enclosures, where from 20 to 30 head can enter, and on the whole there may be collected 30,000 of these animals. For the cattle have been erected very substantially-built compartments and bars, to which the animals are bound by their horns and by the neck. The space intended for the cattle will contain 7,000 head. To shelter conveniently such of the beasts as arrive upon the piazza before the days of sale, as well as those which remain unsold, there have been constructed 12 great lairs on the western side and another 12 on the southern side. Those on the western are intended for the sheep, and contain space enough for 10,000 of these animals: those on the southern are intended for the cattle, and accommodate about 3,000 head. Upon one side these lairs are entirely open, and in their vicinity there are situated several slaughter-houses. In order to facilitate the business, the City of London, which has carried out all the arrangements for the market, has caused to be built in the immediate neighbourhood of the market itself five large hotels, where the buyers and the sellers of the animals are able to find accommodation and convenient lodgings. Twice in the week (on Monday and Thursday) the market is held; but the most important day is the Monday. On that day we found, for example, on sale, about 5,000 head of cattle, 24,000 sheep, 400 calves, and 400 pigs; whilst on the Thursday following there were only one-half that number. The sale of the beasts takes place in the market itself, and the commission agents who effect these sales receive accommodation, differing according to the description of animals. The auctions are held by an agent, who stands amongst the animals, upon a space which is limited by a cord, and he is assisted by a clerk, who makes a note of the sale. The butchers who are purchasers take their stand opposite to this enclosure. The management of the Metropolitan Cattle Market of London is entrusted to a director of the market, two controllers, and two inspectors, with a number of drovers specially employed to drive the cattle. These are persons whose ability and probity have been stoutly tested by the director of the market, nor can they exercise their calling without a special permission from the director himself. They do not receive, as the other employés named, a fixed salary, but they are paid by the persons who avail themselves of their services. The animals going to the

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market are allowed to traverse the streets of London only at night after 12 o'clock, and the animals sold can be taken away from the market only in the morning until 11 o'clock, and then again after 7 in the evening. During the time of the prevalence of cattle disease, the Metropolitan Market was exclusively used for slaughtering purposes, and owners were not allowed to remove their animals to any other markets, but to slaughter within eight days. The butchers of London are divided into three classes—the wholesale, the retail, and the contractors. The wholesale butchers purchase live-stock upon the market, where they kill and dispose of the meat without dividing it or at the most quartering it. The sales are made at their own houses or at the meat market. These wholesale butchers often slaughter in a week 200 head of cattle, and more than 1,000 sheep, especially during the season when Parliament sits and at Christmas. The retailers slaughter a few animals, providing from the market the remainder of the meat which they require for sale. Besides this great market for animals, there takes place in London daily, with the exception of the Sundays and holidays, three great meat markets—the Metropolitan New Market, Leadenhall, and Whitechapel. All three are situated within the radius of the City. That of the New Metropolitan is of great extent and the most frequented. At Leadenhall Market are also sold rabbits, poultry, and wild-fowl. All these markets are held under the control of the inspectors, whose duty it is to maintain order and to examine the meat which is brought thither for sale, and to seize any that is unwholesome. The quantity which is thus annually seized amounts to a considerable total, that is, from 90,000 to 113,500 kilos. According to statistical returns, there were consumed daily in the metropolis about 1,100 cattle and 5,200 sheep, or for the week 7,700 cattle and 36,400 sheep. It is evident that English agriculture is not able to suffice for such an enormous consumption, and London has therefore to look for provisions from other countries, where the competition is carried on very actively to supply this necessity. At the Islington Market, not only English, but beasts from all parts of the Continent may be seen, and how considerable is the share taken by the foreigners appears clearly from the fact that from the Continent are furnished annually to the British Isles, in round numbers, about 227,500 head of fat cattle, 55,700 calves, 914,000 sheep, and 132,900 pigs. The largest importations are derived from France, Holland, and Germany; then from Denmark, Portugal, and Spain; and even a few from Austria.

THE LUMBERING BUSINESS IN MICHIGAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—I am inclined to believe that a sketch of Michigan stock in connection with the lumbering business will be interesting to your readers. At Millington station on the Bay City Railroad I was met by Mr. Murphy, jun., who conveyed me with a very substantial tram, that could go to the lumber camps of Messrs. Avery and Murphy. Here are thirteen thousand acres of land, owned by this company, from which they had sent the logs down Gooden Creek at high water into Cass River, from there boomed and rafted to the mill at Bay City. They have cut upwards of six million feet of lumber at this point for the past eight or nine years. There are two camps on the tract, and upwards of eighty men have been at work during the winter, thirty teams of horses, and nine yoke of oxen. Here I found some thoroughbred Shorthorns, and about forty-five very superior grades; also seventeen large heavy mares, which they bred to their large Clydesdale horse Young Richmond: these mares are all of a very superior character, and have been hauling logs all the winter, but have recently turned out to foal. There were seventeen yearlings thus bred, all from the Clydesdale, uniform in good quarters, short backs, and much substance, varying in colour. It would be difficult to find a better lot of colts in this country for heavy draught. They are destined for the lumbering business and other heavy work. I visited this establishment last winter, and it was pleasing to see with what system the business was carried on. From Millington I went to Port Huron, near which Messrs. Avery and Murphy own ten thousand acres of fine land, and the logs are conveyed in the same way by water to their mills at that place. Upwards of six million feet of lumber have been cut by them yearly at this point for the past twenty-one years. These mills are on a more extensive scale than those at Bay City. Here I met Mr. Stebbins, the agent for this company, to whom I am indebted for much kind attention. The stables are near the mills, and we were soon inside of them examining the Shorthorns. I found at the head of the herd Duke of Aindrie 23rd, bred by Mr. Alexander, of Kentucky, and purchased of him for 3,000 dollars. He is amongst the best of the Dukes; still, like all the rest of them, lacking in the crops; but he has a straight top and bottom, and is good in his thigh, twist, and rumps. Although I cannot admire these Dukes, this is the second best I have met with. The Miss Wileys 15th, 24th, and 25th are superior animals, all purchased at high figures. Welcome, bred by Mr. Joseph Beasley, Plifford Hall, England. is a very fine heifer, and her calf is very superior. Michigan Casket is a still better heifer, bred by Mr. Cruikshanks, Sityon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Michigan Daisy, bred by Mr. Kanildie, Scotland, is a very superior heifer, and will make a good show cow. The three last imported heifers are three years old each, and are hard animals to be beaten. There are some heifers of the Rose of Sharon tribe, which are much admired and valued by their owners; but I consider Miss Barnum 2nd preferable to either, and her heifer-calf is very superior; a cow with such quality, symmetry, and substance, proving an excellent breeder, although not ranking in the fashionable class of fancy, is one of the plums of the herd. She is descended from Mrs. Mott, therefore traces back to the importation of 1817, a family that are getting into better repute every day. The better they are known the more they are appreciated. This cow was bred by Mr. John Cunningham, of Kentucky. There are others in the herd with short pedigrees that are not to be despised. Mr. John B. Sanborn kindly invited me to view his herd, and we were conveyed there behind an excellent driving mare to see the Shorthorns. Mr. Sanborn ordered out some of the best, and they were tied in a row for close examination. It would certainly have been a grand feature in any state fair. At the head stood Highland Chief, and an excellent bull he is. I will not attempt to enumerate his good points for they were many, his deficiencies are but slight. This bull, as is asserted, was very superior to the two which triumphed over him at the last state fair. Mistakes of judgment in selecting animals for premiums are ruinous to good breeding. This bull was owned by Mr. G. F. Wastell at the time he met

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with this inglorious defeat at Grand Rapids. Jenny Lind, bred by Mr. A. E. Hector, of Colly Hill, Scotland, perfect in symmetery, quality, and substance, short legs, fine bone, and I think is an animal that cannot be easily beaten in the showing. Golden Drop is a three-year-old bred by Mr. S. Campbell, Hamilton, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. It would be difficult to decide between Jenny Lind and this heifer, choice in *colour* men might prefer red to roan, or *vice versâ*. This heifer's calf is a good one. Countess of Henton is another superior heifer. Miss Bell, bred by Mr. Robert Miller, Pickering, Canada, is a good heifer and has taken several first prizes. Mr. Sanborn has some Rose of Sharon heifers, which he values highly, and I think will nick well with Highland Chief. Duchess of Oakland he values highly, and there are others of short pedigrees worthy of special notice. Earl of Oxford is a bull valued by those preferring the fashionable Duchess strain, but he having been injured when on the way from England, and in very low condition, could not be criticised. Mr. Sanborn paid a very high price for him, through the appearance of his produce; but I will back that of Highland Chief against him, notwithstanding his fashionable pedigree. I prefer the *true made* animals to pedigree, or fashion, when they breed uniformly good. My opinion is that Messrs. Avery and Murphy, and Mr. J. Sanborn will be difficult opponents for breeders to meet in the showing of next fall. Yours,, WM. H. SOTHAM.

Cass Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, May 10th, 1874.

MANORIAL RIGHTS.

In the Court of Error in the Exchequer Chamber, the case of SMITH *v.* SOWERBY has raised a question of some interest in rural districts. The point is as to the right of lords of manors to shoot over enclosed lands in their manors. The question has arisen repeatedly since Enclosure Acts became numerous, and in the case of Sir James Graham, some years ago, the House of Lords affirmed the right, by reason of the clause, always in some form inserted in Enclosure Acts, preserving the rights of the lord of the manor, including right of shooting over all the enclosed lands. In the present case the question was whether the lord has the right of shooting over all the enclosures from the waste of his manor. The plaintiff is the allottee of a piece of land formerly part of the waste of the Manor of Messingham, in the county of Lincoln. The defendant represents the lord of the manor. The plaintiff, an allottee, sued him for shooting over his allotment under the Enclosure Act. The defendant set up the usual clause reserving the rights of the lord, and the short question was this—Whether, by virtue of the Enclosure Act of 1798, the allottee of the waste land or the lord of the manor was entitled to sport over the waste land enclosed. Two Judges in the Common Pleas held that the allottee, and not the lord, was entitled; but Mr. Justice Honyman differed, thinking that the decision in the House of Lords decided the case. The question was whether it did—that is, whether there was any substantial difference in the present case from that of Sir J. Graham. The terms of the clause reserving the rights of the lord in this case were the following: "That nothing shall prejudice or lessen the right or interest of the lord of the manor in or to the seigniory or royalties incident to the manor, but that he shall have all rights on liberties of hawking, hunting, coursing, fishing, and fowling within the manor, pertaining to the manor, or belonging to the lord, or which have been heretofore held or exercised by the lord or his ancestors." It was contended on the part of the defendant, who represents the lord of the manor, that this included the right of shooting over the waste land of the manor, and that, therefore, it is reserved over the enclosed portions of the waste. The Court of Common Pleas, by two Judges to one, decided against the lord, and the defendant, representing the lord, now appealed.

Mr. Field, Q.C., and Mr. Barker were for the defendant, the appellant; Mr. John Mellor and Mr. Jeune were against him.

On the part of the appellant, who set up the right of the lord of the manor, Sir James Graham's case was relied upon, and it was urged that the present case was substantially the same—it was part of the contract with the lord of the manor in cases of enclosure that his rights of sporting over the wastes should be preserved, and it was the object of the Legislature to preserve it. There was once, indeed, as the Judges observed, a notion that lords of manors had a right of shooting over all the lands within the manor, even though the private property of other persons; but this has long been exploded, and all that is now claimed on the part of the lords of manors is the right of shooting over the wastes of their manors. This right it was the object, it was said, of the Legislature to preserve to the lords of manors in Enclosure Acts. On the other side it was insisted that Sir James Graham's case was different, because the Act gave the lord in express terms the right to shoot over the land to be enclosed; whereas here there was only a reservation of such rights as had existed over the manor, and, it was urged, the lord could not have any "right" in the waste of the manor except as incident to his right of ownership, which was gone. In short, it was urged that the right of shooting was not a manorial right, but a right of ownership, and only manorial rights were reserved. In reply, it was urged that the contract with the lord was that he should retain his rights of sport over the allotted lands; that this was clearly the object and intention of the Legislature, and that technical objections ought not to prevail against it. Surely, in common sense, the power of the lord of a manor to shoot over his wastes was a "right," and, if so, it was reserved?

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE observed that if the words had been, as in Sir James Graham's case, that the lord should have the right of shooting "over the allotted lands," the case would have been free from doubt. As it was, however, there was room for doubt whether the Legislature had used language to carry out their assumed intention. But the question was, whether, looking at the scope of the Act, it could not be seen that the effect was substantially the same as in Sir James Graham's case, and that the effect was to preserve the lord's right of shooting over the lands enclosed from his waste.—At the close of the argument, the Court took time to consider their judgment.

THE HORSE'S WALK.—In all pictures, from the cartoon in *Punch* to the works of our ancient and modern animal painters, how seldom do we see a horse at a walk properly put upon paper or canvas! I have given this subject much attention, and must confess that it is one of the most difficult to draw accurately, if not *the* most difficult, an animal painter has to contend with. Without wishing to withhold merit from the very first-rate representations we see in the *Illustrated London News* of our many reviews and processions, what a sameness there is in the figures represented there of the "horse at a walk"!—three legs down and one in the air is the general rule. Again, look at the white pony in Sir E. Landseer's "Deer Stalkers Returning," with his near fore foot and off hind foot off the ground together. A horse in starting to walk takes his hind foot up first, on whichever side he is made to "lead off with." The fore foot is removed to make room for it, and the moment it is placed in or nearly the same print, the other hind foot is taken up to replace the other fore foot, as in the first instance. "A horse at a walk" should be put upon canvas with the fore and hind foot under him, and the other two moderately extended. The best illustration I know of a "horse at a walk" is the frontispiece in Corbet's *Tales and Traits of Sporting Life*, drawn, I believe, by the author. Animal painters seldom study their profession in detail, and are not sufficiently close observers of nature—many, I have no doubt, could not tell you which legs a cow gets up on first, her fore or her hind ones.—MR. SEPTIMUS FIELD in *The Field*. [The sketch referred to in *Tales and Traits* is not by the author, but his brother, Edward Corbet, who is an animal painter.]

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ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

MONTHLY COUNCIL: *Wednesday, June* 3.—Present: Mr. Holland, President, in the chair; the Duke of Bedford; Earl Cathcart; the Earl of Powis, the Earl of Leicester; the Hon. W. Egerton, M.P.; Sir A. K. Macdonald, Bart.; Mr. Barnett, Mr. Bowly; Mr. Dent; Mr. Edmonds; Mr. Brandreth Gibbs; Mr. Horley; Mr. Hornsby; Mr. Bowen Jones; Colonel Kingscote, M.P.; Mr. Laws; Mr. Leeds; Mr. M'Intosh; Mr. Masfen; Mr. Randell; Mr. Ridley, M.P.; Mr. Shuttleworth; Mr. Statter; Mr. Torr, M.P.; Mr. Jabez Turner; Mr. Wilby, M.P.; Mr. W. Wells; Lieut.-Col. Wilson; Mr. Jacob Wilson.

Lord Calthorpe was elected a Governor of the Society.

The following members were elected:

Allsopp, Samuel Charles, M.P., Marchington, Uttoxeter.
Jach, Philip Elsich, Bromfield, Salop.
Butler, Frank, Childerditch Hall, Brentwood.
Chadwick, James, High Bank, Prestwich, Manchester.
Cheesman, Frederick Walter Morley, Northiam, Hawkhurst.
Corcoran, James, High-street, Bedford.
Crowther, James Firth, Knowl-grove, Mirfield, Yorks.
Dean, Seth Ellis, Dowsby Hall, Folkingham.
Easton, Richard, Stone House, Taunton.
Egar, Samuel Wryde, Thorney, Cambs.
Evans, Frederick, Sawston, Cambs.
Exeter, the Bishop of, the Palace, Exeter.
Faulkner, William, Rothersthorpe, Northampton.
Firmstone, William Francis, Rockingham Hall, Hagley.
Foster, John N., Sandy-place, Sandy, Beds.
Franeklin, John Liell, Gonalstone Hall, Nottingham.
Giddens, William, Walpole St. Peters, Wisbeach.
Haughton, David, Cosford, Shifnal.
Hawkins, Edmund, Dinthill Shrewsbury.
Hawkins Robert Samuel, Broad-street, Oxford.
Hawkshaw, Sir John, Hollycombe, Sussex.
Hayward, Charles Cooper, Southill, Biggleswade.
Hine, George, Oakley, Bedford.
Horner, Edward, May-place, Crayford.
Horsford, James, 7, Well-street, Bedford.
Hunt, Frederick, Harmondsworth, Slough.
Ivatt, Charles Edward, Rampton, Cambridge.
King, John, Rowington, Warwick.
Lees, Benjamin Christy, Sandon, Royston.
Lesey, Frederick, Wateringbury, Maidstone.
Little, William Cutlack, Stags' Holt, March, Cambs.
Mather, Henry, 46, Deane-road, Liverpool.
Macandrew, Henry Cockburn, Midmills, Inverness.
Mott, William, Littleport, Isle of Ely.
Munk, Harry, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.
Nunnerley, William Belton, Whitchurch, Salop.
Owen, William, Hendre Vaur, Abergele.
Parker, Banastre, Riccall Hall, York.
Perry, William Henry, Sytch House, Claverly, Bridgnorth.
Richards, Richard, Glascold, Llansilin, Oswestry.
Richards, Westley, Ashwell, Oakham.
Robinson, John Wright, Titton Hall, Wyberton, Boston.
Sharp, Francis B., Finedon, Wellingborough.
Shaw, John, Normanton House, Derby.
Shaw, the Rev. Morton, Rougham Rectory, Bury St. Edmunds.
Sheraton, John Robinson, Ellesmere, Salop.
Sibley, Charles Francis, Annables Farm, Harpenden, Luton.
Slack, Alfred Soham, Ely.
Sladen, Frederick St. Barbe, Hartabourne Manor, Watford.
Smith, Garland, Eaton Constantine, Wellington.
Stanley, Lieut.-Col. the Hon. F. A., M.P., Witherslack Hall, Grange, Carnforth.
Stone, Henry Robert, Bedfords, Haverine-atte-Bower, Essex.
Tillyer, Richard Henry, Heathrow, Hounslow.
Toller, James Blaxhall, Wickham Market.
Topham, Joseph, Crown Farm, Great Staunton, St. Neots.
Verney, Commander Edmund Hope, R.N., Rhianva, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.
Vickers, Edward, Newbridge Farm, Billingshurst.
Warmington, Cornelius, Granville Hall, Kinton, Evesham.
Welch, Bryan S., Gringly-on-the-Hill, Bawtry.
Wilson, Porter, 3, Westgate, Louth.

FINANCES.—Colonel Kingscote, M.P., presented the report, from which it appeared that the Secretary's receipts during the past month had been duly examined by the Committee, and by Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co., the Society's accountants, and found correct. The balance at the Bankers on May 31 was £3,162 11s. 6d., while £2,000 remains at deposit. This report was adopted.

JOURNAL.—Mr. J. Dent Dent (chairman) reported the recommendation of the committee that the editor of the *Agricultural Gazette* be allowed to have electrotypes of the woodcuts in the last number of the Journal at his own expense. Also that the Secretary be authorised to make a tour in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, for the purpose of inquiring into the stock-farming of those countries with reference to the probable supplies of cattle from there to the United Kingdom. This report having been adopted, Mr. Dent gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would ask for a grant of £150 for the investigation referred to.

CHEMICAL.—Mr. W. Wells (chairman) reported that the committee had received Dr. Voelcker's Quarterly Report, and had ordered it to be printed for further consideration at the next monthly meeting. This report was adopted.

GENERAL, BEDFORD.—Mr. Shuttleworth reported the following recommendations of the Committee:

(1.) That the Home Secretary be asked to allow the Society the services of the usual number of London police. (2.) That the Bedford meeting be advertised at a cost not exceeding £700. (3.) That Professor Brown and Mr. Hunt be asked to act as Veterinary Inspectors at the Bedford meeting. (4.) That the pupils of the Bedford middle-class public school be admitted to the showyard at half-price on one of the shilling days. (5.) That the Royal Agricultural College Club having failed to obtain accommodation in the town, they be allowed to have their annual dinner in the steward's refreshment room. (6.) That the secretary be authorised to make arrangements for providing a turret-clock at the entrances. (7.) That Messrs. Hipwell and Sons be appointed purveyors of corn, meal, &c., at a tariff to be approved by the steward of forage. (8.) That a plan of Bedford be printed on the back of the showyard plan which is published in the catalogue.

This report was adopted subject to the following addition, which was moved by Mr. Dent Dent, seconded by Mr. Jacob Wilson, and carried with two dissentients: "That members' tickets admit to the stand at the Horse Ring." Mr. Shuttleworth then presented the report of the surveyor in reference to the showyard works at Bedford, which were stated to be in a forward condition, and on account of which the contractor was entitled to a payment of £1,200. This report was adopted.

EDUCATION.—The Duke of BEDFORD (Chairman) moved, on behalf of the committee, and in accordance with notice given at the monthly Council, "That the Education Grant for the current year be increased to the sum of £500, for the purpose of carrying out the examinations of pupils at middle-class schools, on the plan adopted by the Council at their last meeting." This resolution was seconded by Mr. Dent Dent, and carried unanimously. The following recommendations of the committee were also adopted; (1) That a syllabus of the examinations to be held in November be sent to the head masters of middle-class schools; and (2) That the secretary be instructed to advertise these examinations as soon as possible.

The Hon. WILBRAHAM EGERTON, M.P., then moved

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that the following statements and recommendations be embodied in a communication from the President of the Society to the Lord President of the Privy Council: The Council of the Royal Agricultural Society are still of opinion that, in order to deal efficiently with the whole question of the contagious and infectious diseases of animals, there is urgent need of such recommendations as were made by them to the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., as Vice-President of the Privy Council, in December, 1872. Several of these recommendations would, however, require the sanction of Parliament to enable them to be put in force; and, in view of the pressing necessity of dealing immediately with the renewed outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, the Council beg to make to the Government the following recommendations:

1. That sec. 4 of the Animals (Amendment) Order of 1873 be revoked. 2. That the orders relating to foot-and-mouth disease, enumerated in the first schedule of the Animals (Amendment) Order of 1873, be reissued. 3. That under the authority given in sec. 57 of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, which makes the exposure or carriage of animals affected with a contagious or infectious disease an offence against the Act, the Privy Council should issue an order to facilitate the discovery of disease (especially foot-and-mouth disease) in lairs or other places, adjacent to or connected with a market or fair, or where horses or animals are commonly placed before exposure for sale (these being the words of the Act), with a view to preventing the movement of animals to fairs and markets from such lairs and other places where disease exists; and to the adequate punishment of offenders against this section of the Act.

The Council regret that they cannot accept the conclusions of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Contagious Diseases of Animals with reference to Foot-and-mouth Disease; and they are of opinion that the evidence of English agriculturists who were examined before the committee does not justify the conclusions of the committee with reference to that disease.

With regard to the scientific evidence taken before that committee, the Council think that too much stress was laid upon the impossibility of stamping out the disease without very stringent measures, and too little weight attached to the importance of limiting the centres of disease at the commencement of an outbreak.

The evidence of cattle dealers also largely influenced the decision of the committee respecting foot-and-mouth disease. The Council, however, submit that the interest of a cattle dealer in the animals which he buys or sells is limited to a few days, and that he has no interest in the suppression of foot-and-mouth disease; while, by the exclusion of that disease from the Animals Order of 1871, he escapes liabilities to fines for trading in diseased animals. The farmer, however, has to bear the great pecuniary loss which results from the animals of his farm been attacked by this disease. In the majority of cases the disease is conveyed to his home-stock by the purchase of extraneous animals, necessary for the purposes of his farm.

In moving this resolution, Mr. EGERTON stated that he was asking the Council to pursue the same policy as they had done on former occasions. The deputation from the Council which had waited upon the Lord President after the last monthly meeting had been requested to place the recommendations of the Council in writing; and the Lord President had also stated that until the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act had been protested against by the Royal Agricultural Society and other agricultural institutions on behalf of English agriculturists, it must be taken to represent their opinions. Mr. Egerton contended, however, that the Committee had not been guided by the evidence of agriculturists, but by that of veterinary surgeons, and principally by that of cattle salesmen. The Committee included only six English county members (representing Huntingdon, Norfolk, Leicester, Essex, Sussex, and Northumberland). Out of 47 witnesses examined, only seven were English agriculturists, and all of these who gave evidence with regard to foot-and-mouth disease were in favour of stringent regulations being enforced, as also were the Scotch farmers who were examined on the question. Mr. Egerton gave an analysis of the evidence of these witnesses, and then showed that the veterinary surgeons who were examined were very much divided in opinion, summarising their opinions as follows.

Professor Brown is in favour of leaving foot-and-mouth disease as it is in 57 and 58 sections of Act, unless much more stringent measures were taken for its prevention. Professor Simonds says that he would make it an offence to expose an animal affected with foot-and-mouth disease in any market or fair, or in any sale-yard, or any lair connected therewith. He is in favour of slaughtering fat animals when disease breaks out at ports, and sending store animals back.

Mr. Fisher would not allow any cattle to leave any farm without the farmer signing a declaration that the cattle to be removed were clear of the disease, and that they had not been in contact with diseased animals so many days.

Mr. Lepper, veterinary surgeon at Aylesbury, would keep animals affected with foot-and-mouth disease by themselves, and all animals which had been in contact with them. Would have every farmer report the foot-and-mouth disease when it broke out.

Mr. Thompson, veterinary surgeon, Aberdeenshire, would not leave it optional for the local authorities to adopt regulations for the foot-and-mouth disease. I would make it imperative for all local authorities to adopt the present regulations and the powers of the Privy Council Orders.

Mr. Goodlet, Forfarshire, thinks foot-and-mouth disease would certainly be abolished if the places where the disease broke out were declared infected, and farmers prohibited from removing infected animals and those in contact with them.

Morrow, Irish grazier and cattle exporter, approves of present restrictions, though opposed to any increase thereof.

Professor Brown, in an article in the *Royal Agricultural Journal*, on foot-and-mouth disease, says, "Much injury is produced by turning animals out of a market into adjacent lairs to wait till the next market day; such places become in times of prevalence of the disease centres of infection, which should be dealt with stringently, and regularly cleaned and disinfected under proper provisions." Asks the question, is foot-and-mouth disease an affection of such a serious character as to render a high degree of circumspection necessary or desirable? The answer must be left to the agriculturists: if they decide the object is worth the cost, there need be no difficulty in carrying out regulations which have been suggested.

In reply to the question whether the object is worth the cost, Mr. EGERTON stated that in Cheshire 130,000 animals had been attacked during the last four years, and the average loss per head was considered to be as much as £4, although only 2,000 animals had died in consequence of the disease; but such an enormous loss in one county alone showed that it was not only an agricultural but a public question.

In the unavoidable absence of Colonel Kingscote, C.B., M.P., Mr. JAREZ TURNER seconded the resolution. He referred to the fact that a deputation, stated to consist of butchers, cattle-dealers, farmers, and graziers connected with Liverpool, had waited upon the Duke of Richmond

asking for free trade in diseased animals, and they had taken care to get their arguments widely published, whereas the public were not informed of the enormous losses which they sustained in consequence of the attacks of foot-and-mouth disease.

Mr. RANDELL suggested that a paragraph should be added to the resolutions, stating the loss of meat to the public caused by this disease. He thought it could be shown that the loss sustained had been ten times as great from foot-and-mouth disease as from cattle plague; and he would advocate measures quite as stringent as those which prevailed during the cattle plague.

Mr. DENT DENT reminded the Council that when the subject was discussed at the last monthly meeting, he had urged that the recommendations to be submitted to the Lord President of the Council should be put on paper. It now appeared that when the deputation waited upon the Duke of Richmond, he had made a request to that effect, although the Council had no report before them of what had taken place at the interview which the deputation had had with the Lord President. He thought that Mr. Egerton had made a very able speech, which he should have delivered in the House of Commons, as it to a great extent reflected upon the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, of which he (Mr. Dent) had been a member. He avowed that the immense divergence of opinion expressed by the numerous witnesses who gave evidence before that Select Committee, had led him to the conclusion, which he had arrived at with much regret, that the disease should not be interfered with except as provided in clause 57 of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act. With regard to the proposition of Mr. Egerton, he could not give support to it further than that he agreed with the proposal embodied in the third recommendation. As to the subsequent paragraphs, he considered that it was beyond the province of the Council to criticise a report of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, especially as he felt sure that not one member of the Council in ten had read the evidence upon which that report was founded. Much stress has been laid upon the loss which was caused by an attack of foot-and-mouth disease, and if these assertions were true they ought to be established beyond the possibility of a doubt; but the increase in the number of cattle in the country the last four years had led him to the opinion that the loss arising from the disease had been very much exaggerated. He gave the following figures to show the increase in cattle between 1869 and 1873 inclusive:

England	443,428
Scotland	97,140
Ireland	531,209
Total	1,071,777

It had been stated that the Select Committee had been influenced by cattle dealers; but, in fact, cattle dealers were a necessity, and could not be done without, therefore they should have their proper influence. Finally, he stated that, although he did not agree with the necessity of imposing additional regulations, he considered that if any were to be established they ought to be made uniform throughout the country. He therefore moved the following amendment: "That inasmuch as the issuing of different regulations by various local authorities in respect of cattle diseases has been proved to cause serious injury to trade, and has in no way checked the progress of disease, it seems to this Council undesirable that any discretionary power to make such regulations should be given to local authorities. And as any uniform regulations which would prove efficient must be of so stringent a character as to be almost unbearable, it is not desirable to make any further order with respect to foot-and-mouth disease; and that in the opinion of the Council it is desirable that any Orders of the Privy Council with a view to the above objects should be uniform and compulsory, and not left to the discretion of the local authorities."

Earl CATHCART seconded the amendment. He held that desperate diseases required desperate remedies; and the question, therefore, arose, whether foot-and-mouth was a desperate disease or not, as he considered that the remedy required would be a desperate one indeed. With regard to this question he would take Mr. Egerton's own figures, and ask him whether the loss of £4 per head sustained by the county of Chester on 180,000 animals in the course of four years was at all comparable to the loss from cattle plague sustained by that county, when nearly the whole of their cattle were annihilated. Diverse authorities and half-measures could not possibly bring about any effectual remedy; and although he admitted that much loss of meat was caused by foot-and-mouth disease, as well as loss of milk and of offspring, in consequence of diminished fecundity, he held that they could not adopt the rigorous measures that would be required to check the disease effectually.

Mr. JACOB WILSON remarked that it should be remembered that foot-and-mouth disease had not been at so low an ebb for many years as during the cattle plague restrictions; and it was therefore only fair to assume that this fact was the result of those restrictions. While those restrictions were in force, fairs and markets were not held, and, in his opinion, very much to the benefit of the farmer, the dealer, and the consumer. He rarely buys an animal from a fair or market even now, but always, if possible, direct from a farm; and this was the universal and necessary practice during the cattle plague restrictions. So far as he was able to ascertain, the cattle dealers then made just as much money without fairs and markets as they do now; while it is certain that foot-and-mouth disease is fostered and kept active at the ports in England and Ireland, and at the localities of great fairs and markets, through the medium of the lairs and fields in the occupation of dealers. It is now well known that they employ veterinary surgeons to select those animals that are "safe" to be sent to the fair or market the day before the fair or market is held. The tainted animals which do not exhibit outward signs of disease are thus selected to be sent to the market, and to become centres of infection in the different localities to which they are sent, and where they develope the disease a few days or a week or more after purchase. The disease is kept up throughout the season in consequence of the animals consigned to these dealers being sent week after week to the same tainted ground, and in contact with animals which are visibly diseased, and which for that reason cannot be sent to a fair or market to be sold without entailing upon the dealer the infliction of a fine. He considered that the recent increase in the number of cattle was due to the fact that the fear of disease and the high price of stock had combined to make farmers breed more home stock instead of relying so much on purchases as they had hitherto done.

Colonel WILSON agreed with the first part of Mr. Dent's amendment, viz., that the regulation should be uniform and compulsory; but he disagreed with the latter part.

The Hon. WILBRAHAM EGERTON explained that this object was sought to be attained by the first paragraph of his resolution, which referred to the previous recommendations of the Council, upon which he by no means wished to turn his back. But as many of those recommendations could not be carried out without a new Act of Parliament, he was anxious to induce the Privy Council to do at once what lay in their power towards checking the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, without waiting for the result of further legislation, which he nevertheless hoped

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would soon follow in the direction of the previous recommendations of the Council. With regard to the increase in the number of cattle, he observed that it had not been contended the foot-and-mouth disease diminished their number greatly; but that it diminished the production of meat and milk.

On a division Mr. Dent's amendment was lost by a majority of one, 11 members voting for it and 12 against.

Mr. DENT then moved the omission of the last three paragraphs of Mr. Egerton's proposition.

Mr. JOHN TORR, M.P., seconded this amendment, and took the opportunity of stating that he had attended with the deputation which had been referred to by Mr. Jabez Turner, and which consisted of butchers and cattle-dealers from Liverpool and graziers from Ireland. The people of Liverpool and its neighbourhood get nine-tenths of the meat consumed by 500,000 people from Ireland, and therefore they had good cause to represent their own view of the matter to the Lord President of the Privy Council. It must also be remembered that the cattle market of the town of Liverpool was not under the regulations of the Town Council, and there was, therefore, no power for the town authorities to order the slaughter of diseased animals. He thought that statistics should be obtained as to the damage done by foot-and-mouth disease; and if it was found to be great, that an adequate remedy ought to be provided; but whatever regulations were made ought to be compulsory on the local authorities.

The Hon. WILBRAHAM EGERTON reminded Mr. Torr that the action of the late Government in discontinuing the compulsory returns of attacks of foot-and-mouth disease had rendered it impossible to obtain statistics on the subject for the whole of Great Britain. However, he had no objection to withdraw the three paragraphs referring to the report of the Select Committee.

The remaining paragraphs were then voted upon *seriatim*.

The first paragraph was carried by 8 votes to 6.

The second paragraph was carried unanimously, subject to the following addition moved by Mr. W. E. Welby, M.P., and seconded by Col. Wilson: "And that these orders be made compulsory upon all local authorities."

The third paragraph was also agreed to, subject to the addition of the same words.

The question was then put that the communication as amended be sent to the Lord President of the Privy Council, and on a division was carried by 9 votes to 7, as follows:

The Council of the Royal Agricultural Society are still of opinion that, in order to deal efficiently with the whole question of the contagious and infectious diseases of animals, there is urgent need of such recommendations as were made by them to the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., as Vice-President of the Privy Council, in December, 1872.

Several of these recommendations would, however, require the sanction of Parliament to enable them to be put in force; and, in view of the pressing necessity of dealing immediately with the renewed outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, the Council beg to make to the Government the following recommendations:

1. That sec. 4 of the Animals (Amendment) Order of 1873 be revoked. 2. That the Orders relating to foot-and-mouth disease, enumerated in the first schedule of the Animals (Amendment) Order of 1873, be re-issued, and made compulsory on all the local authorities. 3. That under the authority given in sec. 57 of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, which makes the exposure or carriage of animals affected with a contagious or infectious disease an offence against the Act, the Privy Council should issue an order, compulsory on all the local authorities, to facilitate the discovery of disease (especially foot-and-mouth disease) in lairs or other places adjacent to, or connected with, a market or fair, or where horses or animals are commonly placed before exposure for sale (these being the words of the Act), with a view to preventing the movement of animals to fairs and markets from such lairs and other places where disease exists, and to the adequate punishment of offenders against this section of the Act.

Mr. DENT DENT withdrew the motion of which he had given notice with reference to farm prizes.

Mr. SHUTTLEWORTH then moved the resolution of which he had given notice, and after a conversation it was amended, seconded by Lord CATHCART, and carried as follows:

"That the last paragraph in the last Report of the Implement Committee be rescinded, and that a ring in the showyard be provided (under the direction of the stewards) for the exhibition of automatic implements worked by horse-power."

Letters were read from the Earl of Powis and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs communicating "Reports furnished to the Board of Admiralty and communicated to the Foreign Office in reference to newly-discovered guano deposits in Peru." The letter from the Foreign Office also requested that, considering the public interest exhibited upon this subject, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should be informed whether the Council would wish to be furnished with a sample of the guano for the purpose of analysis. The Secretary was thereupon instructed to apply for samples of the guano from each of the deposits, and the whole subject was referred to the Journal Committee for further consideration.

The Earl of Powis also communicated a copy of the Supplement to *The South Pacific Times*, dated April 14, 1874, giving a report from Mr. Thierry, C.E., on these deposits, which lie to the south of Iquique, and one relating to the verification of that survey, by Mr. Hindle, chief engineer of the department of Tarapaca. From these reports it appears that there exist the following workable guano deposits in this region:

Name.	Estimated quantity.
	Cubic metres.
Chipana	89,500
Huanillos	700,000
Punta de Lobos	1,601,000
Pabellon de Pica	5,000,000
Chanavaju	150,000
Patache	125,000
Patillos	15,000
Total	7,680,500

Mr. Thierry adds: "The guano dug from the various islands to the northward has always given the mean weight of one ton and a third per cubic metre; but after making some slight experiments, and remembering the dry state of the great deposits, I believe that prudence will not allow me to estimate the weight of the cubic metre at more than a ton. If we adopt then this number of cubic metres as that of tons, we find more than seven millions and a half of tons of guano in the different deposits already mentioned."

Mr. Joseph Hindle observes on this point: "As regards the quantity of guano contained in this deposit, I think that Senor Thierry has calculated it as correctly as a slight survey would allow. In order to survey with some exactness months would be required, those of Huanillos and Punta Gorda, Lobos, Pabellon de Pica, from the difficulties they present, and without seeing it is impossible to judge, I think that until they are worked it will be impossible to determine the quantity they contain."

A letter was read from M. Drouyn de Lhuys, President of the Société des Agriculteurs de France, announcing that a deputation from that Society would officially visit the Bedford showyard; and on the motion of Earl Cathcart the Secretary was instructed to send the members of the deputation cards of invitation, and otherwise to facilitate the object of their visit.

An application from Mr. C. Sturgeon, to be allowed to exhibit Merino sheep at Bedford, not for competition for prizes, and unshorn, was granted on the motion of Mr. W Wells, seconded by the Earl of Powis.

Letters were also read from Mr. J. V. Gooch, on the de

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struction by insects of coffee trees in Natal; and from Mr. E. A. Fawcett, in reference to the instructions to the stock judges for awarding prizes to breeding animals at the country meeting.

A letter having been read from the secretaries of the Meteorological Society, requesting the Council to nominate delegates to serve on a committee to organise observations on a systematic basis with reference to the connection between meteorological agencies and the development of vegetable life, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. W. Wells, seconded by Mr. W. J. Edmonds, that Mr. C. Whitehead be requested to act as one delegate, and to nominate and appoint his own colleague.

A suggestion made by Mr. T. Willson at the annual meeting, "That the election of members of Council be by means of voting papers sent to members of the Society," was considered, and the Secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Willson that the charter of the Society gave the privilege of electing members of Council to the annual meeting of members held on the 22nd of May, and that the Council had no power to deprive them of this privilege.

THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.

At the monthly meeting of the directors, Captain Tod in the chair, it was agreed, on the motion of Colonel Innes, of Learney, to propose to the general meeting to memorialise the Committee of the Privy Council on Education to establish science, as applied to agriculture, as one of the subjects to be taught in primary schools. It was also resolved that the Society should offer a premium for a text-book on the application of science to agriculture.

On a report by the local committee, a silver medal was awarded to Messrs. Thomas Pirie and Co., Kinmundy, Longside, Aberdeenshire, for their patent heavy land cultivator, which was tried on the farm of Carsebonny, near Stirling, on the 14th May. The report bears that "the implement is designed to cut the land in slices in order to secure the speedy and uniform breaking down of heavy soil, in such a way as to retain the moisture in it, to ensure a braird of turnips, for which crop it is specially intended; and it seemed to the committee to accomplish its purpose so satisfactorily that they recommend the award of a medal or certificate of merit. At the same time, they considered that, with three horses employed, the work was slowly performed."

A patent potato planting machine, made by Mr. William Dewar, Kellas, Dundee, and exhibited by Mr. Thomas Wight, Perth, was tried at the same time. The committee report that they thought this a most ingenious implement, and one which they believe may, without much difficulty, be made of great practical use; but in its present state it did its work imperfectly, and they did not feel warranted in recommending the award of a prize or medal.

THE CENTRAL CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.

The last meeting of the Council of the Chamber of Agriculture prior to the summer and autumnal recess took place on Tuesday, June 2, in Salisbury-square, Mr. G. F. Muntz in the chair.

Captain Craigie read the following report, which was received and adopted:

Since the Local Taxation Committee presented their last report, the chief Parliamentary matter of interest to ratepayers has been the introduction and second reading of the Valuation of Property Bill. This measure deals, not as might be inferred from its somewhat incorrect title, with the valuation of property already assessable, but with the extension of the rateable area to mines, woods, and game. It thus redeems the pledge given by the Government to bring these properties at once under liability to rates; and in this respect necessarily resembles Mr. Stansfeld's Rating Bill of last session, although your Committee are glad to observe that it does not reproduce the objectionable features of that measure. While admitting, as they have ever done, the impossibility of locally rating personal property, your Committee were last year compelled emphatically to condemn the attempt then made to convert the present temporary concession into a perpetual exemption in favour of personalty, unbalanced and unaccompanied by any compensation to the owners and occupiers of land and houses for the exceptional burdens thus thrown upon them. No such attempt is made in the present bill, which is wisely confined to the extension of the area of rating to certain exempted classes of hereditaments, and in no way prejudges any of those larger and more important questions which are reserved for the careful consideration they demand. It embodies also rules for the guidance of Assessment Committees in dealing with the new subjects of rating, which are for the most part founded on the practical amendments which, at the instance of your Committee, were substituted for the crude and impracticable provisions of last year's measure as originally introduced. Your Committee are therefore of opinion that, although one or two further minor amendments may still be necessary to ensure its ready acceptance by ratepayers, a general approval of the bill may be anticipated. Chambers of Agriculture, which have always contended for the justice of the extension of the local area of assessment now proposed, will be glad to see a measure of reform, however modest, which effects one of the objects for which they have agitated for many years. Especially will they approve of a proposal which comes not only as a practical improvement of the detail of our existing ratal system, but which is at the same time accompanied by a distinct recognition of the real grievance under which ratepayers labour, and an earnest of relief from unfairly borne National charges. Your Committee called attention in their last report to the charges on the rates for the purpose of registration. The second reading of the Registration of Births and Deaths Bill on the 14th ult. afforded the Chairman of your Committee occasion to object not only to any increase of expense, however small, which that measure might entail, but generally to the practice of imposing upon ratepayers a charge which, like that now incurred for the payment of registrars, is subject to no local limitation or control, but is fixed and determined by a central authority and is incurred for an object essentially and peculiarly national. Your Committee will continue to urge the removal of these fixed payments to the Exchequer on grounds not only of justice to the ratepayers, but as a means of facilitating the general reform of the existing system of registration. In the meantime, they are glad to report that the President of the Local Government Board has undertaken that the Chancellor of the Exchequer and not the ratepayers shall be called on to provide for the additional expenditure which the present bill may involve. The second reading of a Bill for discontinuing the election by Ballot of Municipal Auditors and Assessors, presented to your Committee an opportunity of raising the general question of an improved and effective audit of local accounts. The Chairman of your Committee, in objecting to the present measure, pointed out the real importance of the office of auditor, and showed how undesirable it was to remove the formality and publicity of an election to this post under the existing law. He showed the advantage to ratepayers of establishing a thorough and complete audit, urging an extension of the auditors' powers and the assurance of greater independence in these officers. Your Committee are glad to note that the Home Secretary on the part of the Government re-echoed these sentiments and protested against dealing piecemeal with a question of such interest. The Chairman of your Committee has accordingly given notice of motion for a committee to inquire into the subject. Few administrative changes are more required than a thorough reform in this direction. An effective audit and a consistent and complete system of account should prove of great value to all local ratepayers, and will render practicable an accurate general statement of local receipts and expenditure such as it has long been the aim of your Committee to secure.

The Chairman then read the report of the deputation to the Lord President of the Council, the Duke of Richmond, on the Contagious Diseases of Animals, in which the deputation expressed their great disappointment at the answer of the Lord President to the representations made to him, and moved "That the report be received."

Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., in seconding the motion, adverting to a par of the report relating to the slaughter of cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia, said he wanted to know how

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much longer the ratepayers of England were going to be victimised by the present injustice of the slaughtering of cattle in Great Britain when the practice did not extend to Ireland. They were told that if they wanted to get rid of a disease like hat every leak in the bank must be dammed up; but there were the tidal floodgates open continuously in Ireland. It was not of the slightest use for those who lived in the Eastern Counties, which imported so many Irish cattle, to kill animals affected with pleuro-pneumonia in these respective localities unless the power of slaughter extended to Ireland, and he would add unless there were also carried out the recommendations of the Committee of last year that the Orders respecting cattle disease should be applied universally throughout the kingdom; that in order to ensure early discovery of outbreaks and to enlist the sympathy of stockowners for the local authorities, the amount of compensation should be extended to three-fourths instead of one-half the value of the animal; and that the period of isolation in the case of cattle which had been herded with infected cattle should be extended to two months. The loss which was now being sustained in Norfolk was at the rate of £600,000 a year, and the half measures now adopted with regard to pleuro-pneumonia and other infectious diseases were perfectly useless. Such measures imposed vexatious restrictions on owners of stock, but there was not the remotest chance of their stamping out disease.

Mr. Bennett Stanford, M.P., said, during the Whitsuntide recess there had been positive proof of the disastrous working of the present system, in the neighbourhood of the town of Shaftesbury, which he represented in the House of Commons. On the previous day he received a letter on that subject from the agent of the Dowager Marchioness of Westminster, who had an estate in that district. The hon. member then read the letter, which related to a serious outbreak of disease, which had been traced to cattle and sheep purchased at Wilton fair; and he added that he thought the deputation would have had more weight if they had been supported by a number of county and borough members.

Mr. T. Duckham hoped that something would be done to convince the House of Commons that there were others to be considered besides those of the few Liverpool butchers and others, who had made adverse representations before the Select Committee.

Mr. Jabez Turner (Peterborough Chamber) informed the meeting that on the Monday preceding the day on which the deputation from the Chamber went to the President of the Council, his grace was visited by a deputation on the same subject from the Royal Agricultural Society, adding, that although his grace received that deputation with his customary kindness and courtesy, his reply was very similar to that just reported. He (Mr. Jabez Turner) said advisedly, that disease in cattle was now trafficked in, that the quarantine measures were quite ineffectual, and that cattle imported at Bristol were spreading disease in all directions, and he would add, that the losses during the two last sessions in his own neighbourhood were almost ruinous.

After a few words from Lord H. Thynne, M.P., the motion was agreed to.

The Chairman, after observing that the next business on the Agenda was to "receive the Report of the Committee on Unexhausted Improvements," said it would be perfectly impossible to consider it on that occasion, and he should, therefore, simply move, "That the Report now presented be received," the object of that motion being that it might be circulated, with a view to future discussion. He would, however, read the two concluding paragraphs, which were as follows: "The labour of your committee has principally consisted in preparing the Forms of Inquiry, and collecting, arranging, and tabulating the information communicated; and they must refer the Council to the voluminous details condensed in the Summary Schedules, it being impossible to convey in any general statement within the ordinary limits of a Report either a full knowledge of their contents or the comparisons and deductions which, it is hoped, will render them of great value. Your Committee having now completed their inquiry into the existing Agricultural Customs, suggest that they should be further empowered to consider and report upon the most desirable principles to be adopted in legislation for securing the respective interests of owners and occupiers in agricultural tenancies." The Chairman added that the Committee had not been able to complete the Schedules in time for presentation to that meeting, but that they would shortly be placed in the hands of the members, adding that copies of them would be obtainable by others at a moderate price.

Mr. T. Duckham seconded the motion.

In reply to Mr. T. Horley, the Chairman said the Committee were not responsible for the accuracy of the statements with regard to customs, the name of the authority being given in each case.

The motion was then agreed to.

The next subject on the notice paper being "Legislation with respect to compensation for unexhausted improvements,"

The Chairman observed that the resolutions passed by the Chamber having been sent to the various local Chambers, they had been adopted by the Chambers of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Gloucestershire, and partly adopted by the Herefordshire and Leicestershire Chambers, and that in no other instance had there been so much unanimity as appeared to exist among the associated Chambers in relation to that question.

Mr. Adkins said the Northamptonshire Chamber, which he represented, had also adopted the resolutions forwarded to them.

The Chairman said the counties which he had mentioned were the only ones from which replies had been received, but it might fairly be concluded that the feeling among the other counties was similar to that reported (cheers).

Lord Hampton then moved "That the present position of agriculture and the general welfare of the country demand early legislation repecting the tenure and occupation of agricultural land." His lordship said he thought every gentleman present would agree with him that that was not only one of the most important, but also one of the most difficult questions that would engage the attention of a representative body of agriculturists. He thought he might fairly assume that the agricultural world had arrived at two conclusions on that subject: first, that the present system of the tenure of land as between owners and occupiers was not satisfactory; and secondly, that owing to the delicate and difficult nature of the the question, legislation upon it ought to be approached with the greatest degree of caution and moderation. He had said again and again, and now repeated, that the improved cultivation of land was to be regarded as a great question of public policy, involving the interest of the whole nation. The land could not be well and profitably cultivated unless the occupiers were skilful and well-trained agriculturists; and unless they were placed in such a position that they need not be afraid to apply their skill and their capital to the soil which they occupied. They had no right to expect an occupier of land to do that unless he could feel that his capital would be secure. He had always wished to see a tenant in a similar position to that of a tradesman who embarked his capital in any branch of trade or commerce with reasonable security for a fair return for the use of his ability and capital; and as a landowner he had long been of opinion that one of the best means by which occupiers could obtain that security to which they were fairly entitled, was a long lease guarded by carefully considered covenants (Hear, hear). There was, however, a great disinclination on the part of a large number of farmers to embark in a lease. Many persons were, he believed, afraid of the risks which they thought attended leases; but he believed that that apprehension existed chiefly among a class of persons who were not as skilful or as well provided with capital as it was desirable that farmers should be (Hear, hear). He wished to see the system of leases more generally adopted, believing that leases would afford the best security for the capital of the tenant-farmer; but he concurred in the opinion that whether with leases or without leases it was very desirable indeed that the Legislature should lay down and establish the principle of compensation in such a shape as to guard the interests both of landowners and land-occupiers, and he confidently hoped that, proceeding in a spirit of caution and moderation, they would be enabled to arrive at some proposal which might be sanctioned by the Legislature. He thought it best, however, frankly to own, and he hoped the majority of those present would share in the opinion, that he considered it most important that in any legislation on that subject there should be no invasion of the great principle of perfect freedom of contract (Hear, hear). He was strongly opposed to any violation of that freedom which he thought ought on all accounts to exist between landlord and tenant. In his opinion a great step would have been gained if the principle of compensation

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were laid down by the Legislature in such a shape that it would be applied where no distinct agreement had been made between the parties on that subject. It would then become the guiding principle in arrangements between landlord and tenant, while there would be no invasion of the principle of freedom of contract.

Mr. CARPENTER (Herefordshire Chamber), in seconding the resolution, said he was not using a threat, but simply stating a fact when he said that there was a growing disposition on the part of the British farmers if their rights were ignored much longer by the country party to send tenant-farmers to Parliament to represent their interests (cheers). Vote by ballot had made a great alteration in their position; and he believed that unless they were treated differently from what they had been, they would send five per cent. of the county members from their own body, and he believed that in advocating the redress of their grievances on that subject, their representatives would be supported not merely by farmers, but by the community at large (Hear ,hear).

Mr. BUTLER (Essex) believed that in the extension of the system of leases lay the settlement of the question of compensation for unexhausted improvements.

Mr. SPENCER STANHOPE, M.P., thought the Chamber should prepare a measure which might be introduced in Parliament next session if the question were not then taken up by the Government.

Mr. MASFEN said his experience had led him to the conclusion that as a rule tenants were not afraid to accept leases, but landlords were averse to granting them (Hear, hear). He thought it would be found that in most cases where there was the greatest outcry for compensation for unexhausted improvements leases were but little known (Hear, hear). It was but fair that he who sowed should be able to reap, and not leave everything for his successor, and in the absence of a lease, which would give the occupier ample time to recoup himself for his outlay, the tenant-farmers of England ought to be placed by the Legislature in a position in which they would be able to obtain ample compensation for that which they must leave behind. For a long period he was as much opposed to legislation on that subject as anyone could be, hoping that some kind and indulgent landlords would propose a bill which would do justice to the occupiers of land, but he had, in common with thousands of his brother-farmers, looked in vain for such a measure. The country party were now in power, and he hoped they would long continue in power; but they might rely upon it that if they did not use their power to settle that question it would be dealt with in a rude manner by their successors. Lord Hampton had a great objection to interference with freedom of contract, as between landlord and tenant. He would ask his lordship whether he was prepared to suggest some scheme which would compel an unwilling landlord to do his duty towards his tenants (Hear, hear). The great fault of tenant-farmers was that there was a want of unanimity among them on that question (Hear, hear).

Mr. JASPER MORE said it appeared to him that according to Lord Hampton's view of the matter it would be lawful for any landlord to contract with his tenant that he should not be able to claim compensation (Hear, hear). The practical question raised was whether tenant-farmers were to have the substance or only the shadow. A still more practical question was when the question was to be introduced in the House of Commons, and he was happy to say that it would shortly be brought forward there by a gentleman on his right, Mr. Seely, quite irrespective of party, whether Liberal, Conservative, or any other (cheers).

Mr. T. DUCKHAM said he had never heard any farmer object to landlords being secured against a deterioration of their property, and he was astonished that landlords should object to fair compensation being secured to tenants.

Mr. GEORGE TURNER (West Kent) said it seemed to be forgotten that incoming tenants had a deep interest in that question. It almost invariably happened where compensation was paid that it was paid by such persons and not by the landlord, and the amount of capital demanded of them was already very burdensome.

Mr. T. HORLEY (Warwickshire) said the real question was whether legislation was to be compulsory or not. Freedom of contract had been constantly interfered with by Acts of Parliament, and if it was not to be interfered with in that case it would be better not to have any legislation at all (Hear, hear). He would like to know who would have paid the property tax if it had not been enacted that it should be paid by the landlord? (Hear, hear.) If landlords were to be left in their own free will in the matter now under consideration it was not worth while to take up the time of Parliament with the question. As regarded leases he had never been able to understand the unwillingness of tenant farmers to accept them, believing as he did that they afforded the best security and were the best means of promoting that independent feeling that ought to exist between landlord and tenant. He had heard it said that with leases tenants might be a little too independent. He had a lease and he would not yield to any man in respect for his landlord.

Lord HAMPTON, in replying, said he had been in the habit of offering his tenants leases for several years past, and in several cases the offer had been accepted. It was uniformly the best farmers who took leases. During the last two month he had been pressing leases upon tenants, who were unwilling to take them. He hoped that, as the science of agriculture advanced, farmers generally would become more incline for leases. Mr. Masfen said he should like to know how, if freedom of contract remained, an unwilling landlord was to be made to do his duty to his tenant. That gentleman, and others, had assumed that the tenant-farmer was the most helpless being in the world; and his reply to the question was that, if farmers had to take a farm from such unwilling landlords as he referred to, they must guard their own interests. He believed that, as agriculture advanced, landlords who were not inclined to do justice to their tenants would, from year to year, have increasing difficulty in finding tenants who were fit to cultivate their estates.

The resolution was then put and carried.

Mr. BOWEN JONES then moved the following: "That no legislation respecting the tenure of land will be acceptable to this Council which fails to give to tenants security for the existing value at date of quitting of the capital invested by them, and not removable from the farm, excepting tenures in which such value has been already provided for by compensation or consideration specified in a lease or agreement, subject always to the consent of the landlord in the case of permanent improvements." He said the practical question involved in that resolution was whether they were to have a permissive bill or a compulsory one. He found that there was a difference of opinion with regard to the true construction of the resolution previously adopted on that subject. One construction which had been put upon that resolution was that it would admit of a landlord's barring the compensation clause; while another was that if sufficient compensation were not given otherwise the Act should operate. He read the resolution by the light of the latter construction; but he thought the resolution now proposed would more clearly express the opinion that, if compensation were not given under private agreement, the Act must come into force (cheers). If the principle of that resolution were not embodied in the bill it would not be worth while to deal with the question. On the other hand, if they waited till the various customs had all been assimilated they must wait till Doomsday. What he desired was that the landlord and tenant should not be able to contract themselves out of the law.

Mr. LIPSCOMB, in seconding the resolution, said he wanted the plain English of those words to be carried out in any future legislation on the subject. An agreement which provided no compensation for unexhausted improvements could not operate if that resolution were embodied in a law. The class of men whom it was necessary to reach consisted of landlords who took their rents at stated periods and never went near their tenants, but left everything to a lawyer or agent, the result being that their property was an opprobrium to the country. There would be no use in legislation unless it met cases of injustice like those arising from such conduct as that. He protested against leases being made compulsory, because that would do away with small farmers, who formed about half the tenantry of the country.

Mr. CARRINGTON SMITH said he, like Mr. Lipscomb, opposed in that room the twelfth clause of Mr. Howard's bill; but he entirely concurred in the opinion that legislation would be useless if the landlord and tenant could contract themselves out of it. He hoped it would not go forth to the world that Lord Hampton desired a permissive bill.

Mr. J. T. MENCE (Worcestershire Chamber) said his Chamber was of opinion that legislation was necessary, and that the Act should operate in the absence of any lease o

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agreement. He hoped the compensation paid under any bill would be moderate, as otherwise tenants would not be able to take any farm at all.

Mr. PHIPPS, M.P., thought that to pass a bill on that subject which allowed landlords and tenants to contract themselves out of it would be perfectly childish (Hear, hear).

Mr. LITTLE (Wisbeach) thought that if the resolution were carried out in its entirety there might be claims for improvements made centuries ago. The bill of last years limited claims for ordinary improvements to ten years and for permanent ones to twenty years. He was for allowing as much freedom of contract as was desirable; but if the landlord and tenant agreed upon a moderate rent, that might be as good as direct money compensation, and he could see nothing improper in such an arrangement. He strongly objected to perfect freedom of contract, and if the result of that discussion should be to induce every landlord to enter into a written agreement on the subject he would be satisfied without legislation.

The Hon. E. STANHOPE said, in his opinion, the resolution was very obscure. Looking at it with the eye of a lawyer, he did not agree with those who thought that it did not bar freedom of contract. He thought that it distinctly did so. The only cases in which that freedom was now interfered with were those of children, women, lunaties, and Irish tenants (laughter), and did the farmers of England wish to be placed in the same position as those classes of persons? The Lincolnshire tenantry were satisfied with the working of freedom of contract, and not prepared to go in for compulsory legislation. He hoped the effect of delay would be that some measure would be prepared which would be satisfactory to agriculturists generally.

Mr. C. S. READ, M.P., said the last speaker had uttered a sentiment which he had often heard expressed before. It was a common thing for county members to go among their constituents, and after a very pleasant dinner say to them "You belong to the class of the jolly independent farmers of England, and will you suffer yourselves to be classed with the Irish farmers and the lunatics?" (Laughter). That was a very popular thing to say at a public dinner, but it did not really touch the question. The last speaker was greatly mistaken in supposing that there were at present only four classes of persons who were deprived of freedom of contract. What about master and servant, the employer and the employed, the mortagee and the mortgager, the carrier and the consignee, the lawyer and the client, the doctor and the patient? (Hear, hear). In all these cases there were statutes interfering with freedom of contract. "Freedom of contract" was a phrase that required to be understood. Freedom to contract to do wrong ought to be prohibited, and the resolution before the meeting was founded on this principle — that for the good of the nation, the good of the landlord, the good of the tenant, and above all for the good of the labourer, it was necessary that the tenant-farmer's capital should be protected, and that if he left a portion of it in the soil it should not, as a matter of course, belong to the landlord (Hear, hear). Lord Hampton had said, what of course would be said in both Houses of Parliament, that they ought to have freedom of contract, and that it would in many cases be dangerous to interfere with it. Take the case of game. By law game was entirely the property of the tenant. And what was the result of freedom of contract? Why that in nine cases out of ten the tenant bargained away his property to the landlord. In fact, the law of England might just as well be like that of Scotland, where the right of shooting game was inherent in the landlord. There was a most serious opposition in the House of Commons to the 12th clause of Mr. Howard's bill last year, and he daresay that not 50 members would vote for it now as it stood (Hear, hear). He doubted very much whether such a resolution as that proposed, the object of which was to secure to tenants a right to compensation, would be passed in the House of Commons. [A VOICE: "I am sorry for it."] He was sorry for it too, but he felt bound to tell them the truth. It was much easier to pass a resolution there than to get it embodied in an Act of Parliament. He believed that the bill of last year was founded on right principles, and that the 12th clause or some clause equivalent to it would alone meet the necessities of the case. As a tenant-farmer he should like to say one word about independence. It was one thing for a tenant-farmer to be told at a public dinner that he was a fine independent fellow, and another thing for him to go into the landlord's study, or, what was still worse, into the lawyer's office, to sign an agreement. Independence was then entirely taken away from him. He had no other way than farming of getting his living. Useless the payment of compensation were made compulsory by Act of Parliament the law would become a perfectly dead letter, and though it might be of some use the amount of good would be so small that he should not himself care whether such a law was passed at all.

Mr. WHITTAKER (Worcestershire Chamber), with due deference to Mr. Read, must say that nothing would induce him to support, nor did he think the majority of his Chamber desired, a measure by which farmers would be deprived of the right to enter into an agreement for themselves He concluded by proposing as an amendment to strike out the words after "excepting tenures" in the resolution, and to add "under lease or agreement."

Mr. STORER, M.P., seconded the amendment, and said he was opposed to interference with freedom of contract because he held that such interference would create the greatest revolution in the relations of landlord and tenant ever known in this country, and would play into the hands of persons who contended that the land belonged not to the nominal owners but to the State. He quite admitted that tenant-farmers were not as well represented in Parliament as they ought to be, but the fault rested with themselves.

After some remarks from Mr. T. Duckham, Mr. H. P. Price, Mr. T. Horley, and Mr. Bennett Stanford, M.P.,

Lord HAMPTON said agriculturists could do nothing more unwise than to fall out among themselves. No difficult question had ever been settled without a great deal of "give and take," and he hoped there would be less hereafter of laying down that legislation would be absolutely useless unless it were in the shape that one happened to like best (Hear, hear). He had long contended that the arrangements between landlord and tenant should be conducted much more on commercial principles than they had been yet. He should hold up his hand in favour of the amendment of Mr. Whittaker; but much as he differed from the mover of the resolution, he should have voted for it had there been no amendment, because he desired to see the principle of compensation for unexhausted improvements established. When the bill was before Parliament would be the best time to consider how the object might be best carried out; and he ventured to say that they would have done a very important work that day by declaring the necessity for legislation, and declaring that the principle of compensation for unexhausted improvements should receive the sanction of the Legislature.

Mr. GARDINER said as a representative of the Essex Chamber he would be sorry to see the amendment passed.

Mr. SMYTHIES said they were told on the one hand that if they had a bill prepared with compulsory clauses they could not get it passed, and they were told on the other hand that a bill without compulsory clauses would be useless. If that were the case what were they for? (Hear, hear). If they could not have anything like unanimity in favour of compulsion, it would perhaps be best in the first instance to go for a permissive bill, and if that were found to be of no use they might afterwards get something more. As practical men let them if they could not get a whole loaf try to get half a one.

Mr. STRATTON said farmers wanted legislation to protect them against spoliation, and there would be no use in legislation if they could not adopt such a moderate proposition as that before them.

Mr. MAY thought it would be wrong for the Council to separate without coming to a decided vote. As to the phantoms raised by Mr. Storer and other gentlemen, he believed the thing would settle itself rightly, and he could not understand landlords not wishing a bill to be passed which would increase the value of their land.

Capt. CRAIGIE contended that the resolution in no way interfered with freedom of contract; it would only compel parties to contract about compensation at the time when a farm was taken.

Mr. BOWEN JONES having replied,

Mr. SNELL (Corawall) said, having attended various meetings of farmers in the Western Counties at which that subject was discussed he felt certain that 95 per cent. of those who attended them would be satisfied with nothing short of compulsion. He never in his life signed a contract which he

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approved or considered just. Necessity led him to sign in opposition to his judgment. He was always in the hands either of the landlord or of the steward, and if he suggested any amendment he was told that time was precious and that he must take the farm on those conditions or not at all. If he had refused to accept the conditions he must have ceased to farm in England, or at least in the West of England (Hear, hear). As to making the Bill permissive, good landlords would concede what was just now; it was unjust and narrow-minded men, and men who were behind the spirit of the age that they wanted to guard against.

Mr. WADLOW (Shropshire) supported the resolution.

Mr. BOWEN JONES, in replying, explained that what he intended by the resolution was that legislation should be enforced only where a fair agreement providing an equivalent in some form or other did not exist. If a mild reform like that were not carried out landowners would find something much worse in store for them than a moderate Tenant-right, which would be beneficial alike to them and their tenants.

Mr. WHITAKER having also said a few words in reply,

The CHAIRMAN in summing up the discussion said he did not see how it could be maintained that a law which would prevent unjust or inequitable contracts would dispose of freedom of contract altogether (Hear, hear). As the chairman he did not wish to say any more than that.

A show of hands was then taken, and the numbers were

For the amendment	15
Against it	33
Majority	18

The result was received with loud cheers, and the resolution was then adopted almost unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. WILLIAMS, seconded by Mr. RIGBY, it was further resolved, with only two dissentients: "That no legislation respecting the tenure of land will be acceptable to this Council which fails to provide security for compensation to landlords for the damage or deterioration of their property caused by default of tenants."

It being after three o'clock the meeting then adjourned till the following morning at ten o'clock.

When the Council reassembled on Wednesday morning, at ten o'clock,

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. G. F. Muntz) reminded the meeting that on the previous day three resolutions were passed relating to the subject of compensation for unexhausted improvements, and added that it was competent to any gentleman present to propose any other resolution.

Mr. D. LONG said that he was unable to be present the day before when the division took place, otherwise he should have proposed that a committee should be appointed to assist Mr. Seely in drawing up the bill which that hon. gentleman intended to submit to the House of Commons.

Mr. C. S. READ observed that Mr. Seely's notice related not to a bill but only to a resolution.

Mr. BOWEN JONES then moved the following: "That the committee appointed to collect and prepare information on compensation for unexhausted improvements be requested and empowered to draft a Parliamentary bill embodying the principles of the resolution passed by the Council, and that they have power to add to their number."

Mr. JABEZ TURNER seconded the resolution, and it was agreed to.

The meeting then proceeded to resume the adjourned discussion on "Highway Legislation."

The CHAIRMAN, adverting to the agenda paper, reminded the meeting that the following propositions were before the April meeting, when the debate was adjourned. Mr. T. Horley's resolution: "That it is desirable before any definite resolution is passed by this Chamber that further information should be obtained as to the anomalies that exist, and as to the working of the Permissive Highway Act in districts where it is in operation, and to give time for a further discussion of this important matter by the provincial Chambers." Mr. Stratton's amendment: "That as the maintenance of all roads is rapidly becoming a charge on real property only, and as in many cases those who use the roads most pay the least towards the expense of them, it is the opinion of this Council that Government aid should be given as a substitute for tolls, by the appropriation of the licence duties on horses and carriages, or by such other means as may be determined by the wisdom of Parliament."

It was stated that Mr. Stratton, who moved the amendment, was not present.

Mr. T. HORLEY said, feeling that the provincial Chambers had not had sufficient time for considering the subject and that it would be unwise to adopt a hasty conclusion, he did not intend to press his resolution. Under the circumstances he would withdraw it, and propose that the question be adjourned till the meeting of the Council in November (Hear, hear).

Mr. C. S. READ, M.P., said, having served that year on the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Turnpike Acts Continuance Bill, he would say with great sincerity and truth that he thought legislation was greatly needed (Hear, hear). The highway districts did not appear to be as popular as they were a few years ago. They had not been generally adopted throughout the country, and in places where they had been adopted strenuous efforts had been made to get rid of them and revert to the old system. In some of the Eastern Counties the number had been reduced very considerably. It was very important to consider how the great arterial roads could be best managed, and also who should pay for their maintenance, and he was quite sure that the whole subject required more mature consideration. Speaking as a subordinate member of the Government he wished to remark that he should be very much obliged to the District Chambers if during the recess they would take up that question and be prepared with some definite resolutions for the Council meeting in November. There was no chance of the Government doing anything this year beyond passing the Continuance Bill, but he did not see how they could tide over another year without some attempt at legislation on the subject. The state of some of the abandoned turnpike roads was fearful to contemplate. Roads which were in admirable order two or three years ago had now got into a hopeless state of disrepair, and it was a disgrace to the country that things were thus going from bad to worse. Something must be done, and he hoped the Council would be able to state at the meeting in November what that something should be.

Mr. MORRIS having risen to speak,

The CHAIRMAN observed that there was no resolution before he meeting.

Mr. HORLEY having withdrawn his resolution,

Mr. C. S. READ, M.P., moved that the debate be adjourned till November, and that certain questions which had been suggested by the Chairman should be forwarded to the different Chambers for replies.

The SECRETARY, at the request of the Chairman, then read the resolutions already received on the subject from the Chambers of Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough, South Wilts, Ripon, Herefordshire, Devonshire, Lincolnshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Norfolk, the West Riding, and Essex, generally in favour of legislation.

Mr. GARDINER (Essex) proposed, "That as the maintenance of all roads is rapidly becoming a charge on real property only, and as in many cases those who use the roads most pay the least for the expense of maintaining them, it is the opinion of this Council that a general reform of road management and maintenance is necessary."

Mr. BUTLER (Essex) seconded the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN having remarked that it was necessary, as a matter of order, that Mr. Stratton's amendment should first be disposed of, it was put and negatived.

After a desultory discussion, Mr. Read's proposal for adjourning the debate, which was seconded by Mr. LIPSCOMB, was submitted and adopted in the following amended form, the amendment not being pressed: "That this Council, before passing any resolution with reference to the character of the legislation desired, requires further information as to the anomalies which now exist, and therefore requests the local Chambers to consider and reply to the following questions at the November meeting: 1. Is an entire reorganisation of our road system in England, including the management and maintenance of turnpikes and highways, desirable? 2. Is a re-classification of all roads needed? 3. How many different classes of roads should be established under a new system? 4. How should the funds be raised, and from what sources, for the maintenance of each class of roads? 5. What should be the constitution of the governing body of the whole, or of any one class of roads?"

The meeting then proceeded to consider the subject of

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"Locomotives on roads, together with the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons thereon."

Mr. C. S. READ, M.P., observed that the bill then before Parliament was introduced by a private member, Mr. Cawley, and that the object was to regulate the travelling of traction engines over common roads so as to ensure safety. Many highways were not adapted to bear the weight of large engines of that kind. In Norfolk, for example, there were many roads on which they were utterly destructive. Power was given by the bill to local authorities to determine on what roads they should be allowed to go.

Mr. BONFORD moved, "That all traction engines used for agricultural purposes should be exempted from tolls." He had used traction engines, he said, for the last twelve years without ever paying any tolls, and he did not wish to be taxed now.

Mr. HENLEY seconded the motion.

Mr. C. S. READ, M.P., observed that the Council had decided that those who use the roads ought to pay for them, adding that he thought it was high time that Mr. Bonford did so (laughter).

The CHAIRMAN deprecated the passing of such an important resolution when so few persons were present.

Mr. WHITAKER said it would, in his opinion, be a hardship if a new burden were imposed for thrashing machines.

The CHAIRMAN then counted the members present, and found that the number was only nine, ten being required to form a quorum.

This terminated the proceedings, which occupied about two hours and a half.

TENANT-RIGHT.

At a special general meeting of the Staffordshire Chamber of Agriculture, at Stafford, to consider legislation with respect to compensation for unexhausted farming improvements, and to transact general business, Mr. Carrington Smith, president of the Chamber, in the chair, the resolutions, which have been adopted by the business committee of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, were submitted to the meeting.

The Right Hon. Sir C. B. Adderley, M.P., president of the Local Government Board, sent the subjoined letter:

Board of Trade, S.W., May 22.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry I am unable to get away to attend the meeting of the Staffordshire Chamber of Agriculture on the 30th. I have always thought the only useful agreement with tenants is one for securing to them the value of unexhausted improvements agreed on. This is the only plan for encouraging yearly tenants to lay out capital, as leases encourage the Scotch to an enormous extent, greatly increasing the value of the land, both to the owners and to the public as consumers, probably drawing out twice the produce, both in crops, in tenants' profits, and landlords' rents. All agreements about mode of culture are useless to my mind, fettering a tenant, who is under the sufficient control already of yearly tenancy.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the subject of compensation for unexhausted farming improvements, said that the parliamentary representation of the counties was at present in the hands of the owners and occupiers of land; but the time was fast coming when it would be at the disposal of those lower than the landlords and farmers. At this day the tenants were only giving to the landowners a gentle push in the direction of improvement to the existing system of land tenure, for they were anxious that the owners of the land, whom they looked upon as their natural leaders, should lead them in this question. But he thought that, unless the question was satisfactorily settled before the franchise was again extended in counties, the classes below them would give the landlords a stronger and perhaps a rough push in the direction of improvement of land tenure. Referring to the second resolution which the meeting had before it, he said that there was considerable doubt as to the meaning of the words "existing value at date of quitting," and he explained that they were not intended to favour any claim for money spent on land unless increased value had actually resulted. Thus landlords would be carefully protected from any injudicious outlay by tenants. With regard to the third resolution, he had no hesitation in saying that no law ensuring compensation to tenant farmers could possibly be passed unless accompanied by a clause protecting landlords from deterioration of their estates through the tenants' neglect. He had heard it said by a tenant farmer that the Landlord and Tenant Bill would have been bad for some farmers. So it would, for bad farmers; and the law ought to be a terror to evil-doers and the support of those who did well.

The Earl of HARROWBY moved the first resolution. He said that anybody who looked from a distance at the system of the occupation of land in England would say at once that it was the most absurd possible. It would be said that landlords were expecting gentlemen to invest their capital in improving other men's land, without any security whatever for being allowed to continue in possession of it beyond a single year and half-a-year's notice. And it would be said that it was absurd to expect, under such conditions, any good cultivation of the land, especially of the expensive kind usually found necessary in this country. But this was just one of the many questions which showed how, after all, a system which appeared in the abstract a bad one worked well on the whole. When we looked round, we found that, instead of England being the worst cultivated country in the world, it was one of the best. Therefore it was not so clear that the agriculture and general welfare of the country demanded the immediate legislation proposed. In many cases the character of the people who carried out a system was more valuable than the system itself; and the characters of the English occupier and landlord were such that great outlay was made by the former without, practically, any risk. At the same time, while they noted this for their comfort, and as a warning against action founded on abstract propositions, and without reference to facts themselves, they must consider whether what was good in itself could not be amended. The responsibility of the English landowner and occupier was increasing. He (Lord Harrowby) alluded to the responsibility owed to public opinion by everybody who held property or power, that that property or power should be made the best use of possible. It was impossible that every landlord should himself cultivate and improve his land. Such a course would be incompatible with the enjoyment he had a right to expect; but his business was to call into use the capital of those around him, and the demand and security was not unreasonable when viewed from the tenants' point of the question. This demand, however, was not to be settled off-hand; but no man could object to the principle that no tenant should be compelled to leave his land without compensation for real improvements. He (Lord Harrowby) emphasised the words "real improvements" because money might be so badly spent that the result could only be falsely described as improvements. As to the word "immediate" in the resolution which he was proposing, he said that if it meant that immediate attention should be called to the subject in hand, so that next year we should be nearer to a decision on it than at present, he had no objection to it. Respecting compensation to the landlord for injury done to the land from the fault of the tenant, he (Lord Harrowby) did not think that a law to enforce it would be of much practical value; but it would be well to recognise the principle.

Mr. R. H. MASPEN seconded the Earl of Harrowby's motion. He said the landlords would not need compensation for deterioration to their estates if all their tenants did their duty, and this would be the case if tenants had security for any capital which they might invest on the land. Farmers had always looked upon the Conservative party as their friend, and he trusted they would always find reason to do so. The time to put on the spur in order to reach their object was now; for their friends, from whom they had expected something, are in office. While the present system of land tenure remained in force, farmers were practically being invited to take out of their land, during the last few years of their tenancy, all that they had previously put into it in the way of improvement. The remedy for this state of affairs was a law to enforce compensation for unexhausted improvements.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. J. M. MAY moved the second resolution. He remarked that landlords were bound to let their land, if they

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let it at all, on terms which would encourage the tenant to improve it.

The Rev. E. C. Perry, Vice-president of the Chamber, seconded the proposition. He said that the result of a law to enforce compensation for unexhausted improvements on land would be increased production. A very large area of the land of this country was capable of producing more than at present, and the passing of a bill such as tenant farmers wanted would give to this country's agriculture an impetus such as had never yet been experienced. Increased production signified provision for an increased population, and it probably meant cheaper meat and corn. A bill on the subject of land tenure should require at least twelve months' notice to quit to be given, because six months' notice was found to be unsatisfactory in every respect.

Mr. W. T. Carrington expressed a conviction that a great part of Staffordshire could be made to yield, if farmers had security for the outlay of their capital, nearly double the amount of agricultural produce which it gives now.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr. T. Neville moved the third resolution. He said that many of his hearers would have been acquainted with cases in which tenants who had a very bad feeling and little capital had been on the point of leaving their farms in such condition that the landlords would have been losers to a large extent. It might be said that the landlords had their remedy; but that remedy was the vexatious one of an expensive lawsuit. Under the law such as that Chamber desired, cases like those he had mentioned would never occur, because tenants would know that they would receive compensation for any improvements which they made in the land occupied by them.

Mr. Joseph Booker seconded the motion. When the Chamber was first formed it was hoped and supposed that it would be the means of bringing landlords among their tenants more frequently than before. But this had not been the case; and he was sorry to say that landlords did not mix much with the farmers.

The resolution was agreed to without opposition.

CROP PROSPECTS IN AMERICA.

After an unusual winter it is not surprising that the estimates of the condition of winter wheat should greatly vary. The faculty of making accurate calculations of this character is possessed by comparatively few persons, and this truth is nowhere better illustrated than in the conflicting reports as to the condition of the growing crops, and the promise of those now in process of seeding or the sowing of which is just completed. For the better realisation of the purport of the synopsis which follows it will be well to remember the States in which the largest amount of winter and spring wheat is grown. The main production of winter wheat is in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Missouri and New York, these States producing about five-sevenths of the total yield, and their several proportions being in the order in which they are placed. The spring wheat growing States are California, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois, producing proportionately in the order named, and in the aggregate about nine-elevenths of the whole crop.

In Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Missouri, New-Jersey, and Texas, the condition of winter wheat is declared to be favourable. Three-fourths of the principal counties of Ohio report the promise of an average or a superior crop. In Pennsylvania, the outlook is favourable, the crop upon undrained clay lands only being injured. The same is true of New York. In Kentucky the indications are promising for an immense yield. In Maryland, 14 counties report a fair to extra condition, and in Delaware the crop will be above an average. From Illinois the reports are contradictory, probably on account of local differences. Thus in the Fall wheat districts in the southern part of the State we hear of an increased area and of a generally better condition than usual; with this the reports mainly agree that the harvest will be the earliest known for many years, while in the northern or Spring wheat counties reports are the reverse of favourable. In the Southern States, the crops of wheat, although of small account comparatively, are expected to be above an average. In Virginia the wheat is "in excellent condition," in Georgina "very promising," and in North Carolina "better than for ten years past." From Kansas and Mississippi an average condition is reported.

As to spring wheat, which is an important item in the prospective aggregate, it is too early to make any decided prognostications. It cannot be denied, however, that the season is unusually backward. Although a season of this character is generally a promising one, many early risks being avoided, yet a crop is never safe until it is gathered and the fate of the Spring wheat is held by the future. The bulk of the reports, however, are hopeful. In California "the largest crop on record" is confidently looked for. There the seeding is the critical time; this having been done under favourable conditions, it is probable that the estimate of 40,000,000 bushels will be reached, which will place California as the banner wheat State of the Union. From Iowa the reports are least favourable, nevertheless with fair weather an average crop may yet be gathered. In some counties in Wisconsin with frost in the ground on the 9th of May, and very dry weather in others the spring wheat seeding, as might be expected, is behind, and a less area than usual is sown. Among reports from 25 counties we find unfavourable statements in all but seven.

The corn crop is in even less condition to be estimated. A large portion, on account of the late season, is as yet unplanted, but generally that which has been planted is in good order. The cotton, sugar, and rice in the Southern States are backward, extensive floods and excessive rains having not only prevented planting, but seriously injured crops already started. An advance in the prices of these staples point unmistakably to an expected short supply. The grass is generally good throughout New England, and the recent rains and cool weather in that section, as well as in the Middle States, will go far towards making the hay crop safe and put the pastures in excellent order. The blue grass regions of Kentucky are said to be in fine condition, but in the North-Western States the variable winter and the unusually dry spring have greatly injured the meadows and pastures. As a consequence, coarse fodder in this region is now in request at such prices as greatly to interfere with the comfort of stock and the profits of their owners. As to fruit, the reports are in the main favourable. The backwardness of the season has restrained vegetation until danger from frosts has disappeared, and it is only from Southern Delaware and parts of Virginia that we hear of any material damage having been done.

From home fields we turn naturally to foreign ones, for it is greatly upon their yield that the value of our own products depend. From present appearances the crops generally in England promise well, a large area having been sown, and the winter having been mild. Throughout the continent of Europe the same hopeful condition is presented. But it is not so safe to calculate upon the results of a crop in the fickle climate of England as with us, and there are circumstances which may render it a matter of serious concern to Europeans that our crops be abundant. Besides the usual contingencies of the weather there are some serious possibilities that may affect both the harvest and the market values of grain. The "lock-out" of English labourers is still keeping many thousands from field work, and without hands there can be but little harvest. Again, the scarcity of last year still keeps the market bare of supplies, and the consumption of the population increases in greater ratio than the production. It is quite probable, therefore, that even with an excellent harvest in Europe there will be a demand for every bushel we may be able to spare, and if any disaster should be precipitated on either side of the ocean there may be a recurrence of the scarcity of last year. On the whole, then, the outlook for our farmers is one of promise, for if there should happily be a full average crop, there will be a fair market for all of it, and should there be a partial failure the value of the decreased harvest will doubtless be advanced in an equal ratio.—*New York Tribune*, May 20.

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THE COMPOSITION OF GREEN CROPS AND THE UNDESIRABILITY OF GROWING VERY LARGE ROOTS.

At a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland, Professor C. A. CAMERON, M.D., Chemist to the Society, read the following paper:

Last winter I received from Mr. William Young, J.P., of Brockley Park, Queen's County, Member of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland, ten specimens of roots for the purpose of being analysed. They consisted of five specimens of mangels, two of turnips, and three of carrots. They were numbered one, two, three, &c., but were not otherwise described. These roots were carefully examined, and the result of my analysis was communicated to Mr. Young, from whom I subsequently obtained the following information with respect to their cultivation: Weights per Irish acre of mangels, turnips, and carrots sown in medium loam, resting on limestone. (The previous crops were oats, grown after lea, followed by wheat, top-dressed with nitrate of soda and superphosphate—both heavy crops. The mangels were sown from 26th April till 1st May—raised early in November. They were manured with 35 tons of dung, 3 cwt. superphosphate of lime, 1 cwt. nitrate of soda, and ½ cwt. Peruvian guano per acre. The drills were 28 inches apart.)

MANGELS.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Average weight of each root.
1. Mammoth Long Red ...	46	15	6 to 7 lbs.
3. Ditto	46	6	
Sown in separate acres.			
1. Mammoth Long Red ...	39	11	6 to 7 lbs.
3. Ditto	42	8	
Sown in alternate drills.			
Sandringham Yellow Globe	35	15	6 lbs.
2. Yellow Intermediate ...	33	16	
4. Orange Globe	35	3	
10. Long Red, about	70	0	18 lbs.

Same as No. 1.—Grown on site of manure heap. Spaced irregularly, but very wide apart; in fact, show roots, averaging 18 to 20 lbs., but quite solid in the heart.

CARROTS.

7. White Belgian	83	11	2 to 2½ lbs.

Same land and same manure as for mangels. Drills 25 inches apart. Roots 4 inches apart. Many of them up to 3 lbs.

8. Select Swede-turnip ...	40	0	7 lbs.

Same soil as mangels and same manure, less 5 tons of dung.

TURNIPS.

9. Norfolk Red Globe ...	30	0	6 lbs.

Light sandy soil, 25 tons artificial manure; same artificial manure.

The weights of the carrot crops, Nos. 5 and 6 were not ascertained. With respect to the areas of the experimental plots, I am glad to learn that they were sufficiently large. Nos. 1 and 3 were each grown on two acres. One half of each crop was grown by itself; the other moieties were sown in alternate drills. Nos. 2 and 4 were sown each on one acre; Nos. 5 and 6 upon ½ acre; and Nos. 7 and 9 upon ½ acre each. Four acres were devoted to No. 8, and half a rood to No. 10.

The results of my analyses of the different roots are given in the following table:

COMPOSITION OF ROOTS FROM BROCKLEY PARK, GROWN IN 1873.
100 Parts of each contain—

Name of Root.	Mangels.						Carrots.			Turnips.	
	1 Mammoth Long Red Mangel.	3 Long Red Mangel.	2 Yellow Intermediate Mangel.	4 Orange Globe Mangel.	10 Mammoth, same as No. 1.	5 Red Altringham Carrot.	6 Intermediate Red Carrot.—Carter.	7 White Belgian Carrot—Hogg and Robertson.	8 Select Swede.	9 Norfolk Red Globe Turnips.
Weight of each root (average)	6 to 7 lbs.	6 to 7 lbs.	6 lbs.	6 lbs.	18 lbs.	2 lbs.	2 lbs.	2 to 2½ lbs.	7 lbs.	6 lbs.
Water	84.30	84.80	83.85	84.69	92.55	88.72	87.90	88.90	89.06	90.06
Albumenoids	0.80	0.73	0.90	0.81	0.40	1.20	1.06	1.05	0.70	0.63
Sugar	4.36	5.55	7.40	5.60	1.50	9.30	10.70	9.15	9.74	8.77
Pectose, Fibre, &c.	9.68	8.29	8.25	7.74	4.34					
Ash	0.86	0.64	0.60	1.16	1.21	0.68	1.04	0.90	0.59	0.50
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

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It was not considered necessary to determine the sugar in all the roots; but as the mangel is essentially a saccharine plant, I considered it an interesting point to ascertain the proportions of sugar existing in these roots. In the case of No. 2, yellow intermediate mangel, the percentage of sugar was very high, nearly 7·4. I think that some conclusions which might be turned to useful practical account are deducible from some of the results in the field and the laboratory, stated in the foregoing tables. We learn from them, for instance, that no useful results, but rather the contrary, can be obtained by growing monster mangels or turnips. Since the introduction of green crop husbandry into these countries, it appears to have ever been the farmer's ambition to exceed his neighbours in the production of gigantic mangels and swedes. It has always been the practice, too, of writers in agricultural journals to encourage the growth of roots of abnormal dimensions. I have not a shadow of a doubt upon my mind but that this practice has been carried out to an extreme and mischievous extent. Mr. Baldwin of Glasnevin, has forcibly pointed out the absurdity of awarding prizes to show roots merely because they are the largest. By "spoon-feeding" (as it has not inaptly been termed) a few roots it would be easy for a man with a few perches of a garden to produce more promising roots for show purposes than a farmer could who grew his 20 acres of roots in an ordinary, and I may add, a proper, manner. Let us see how far the results of Mr. Young's experiments and my own justify my statement that very large roots should not be grown. At Brockley Park Mr. Young sowed Mammoth long red mangel in two plots. The mangels sown in one plot were not thinned out widely, but were allowed to grow rather closely together. In the other plot the mangels were supplied with a very large amount of manure, because the plot was the site of a former manure heap. The mangels here were thinned out widely, so as to allow room for the rapid and extensive development of the roots. The acreable yield of the mangels which had been moderately manured and kept close together amounted to 46 tons 15 cwts., whilst the mangels which had been abundantly manured and widely thinned out produced a crop of about 70 tons per acre. Now, if the large roots and the small ones were equally nutritious, it would, of course, be desirable to grow the former, but when we compare the composition of the mangels of plot 1 (thickly sown) with those of plot 10 (thinly sown), we find an absolute and important difference in favour of the former. The thickly-sown roots contain 15·7 per cent. of solid, or nutritive matter, which, the acreable yield of the crop being 46 tons 15 cwts., would amount to 19,782 pounds weight of dry food per acre. The thinly sown roots contained only 7.47 per cent. of solid or dry matter: and as the acreable return from these large roots was 70 tons, that would yield only 11,681.6 pounds weight of dry food per acre. In producing the large roots, the farmer would incur more expense than if he cultivated the small ones; for instance, he would have to apply more manure, and his cartage would be far greater. If Mr. Young grew ten acres of mangels like No. 10, he would have to cart 700 tons from the field to the stores, and yet he would have in this crop only as much solid food as would be contained in about 450 tons of the smaller mangels, No. 1. This year I hope to be able to make in conjunction with Mr. Young, some additional experiments in reference to the influence of cultivation on the composition of the mangel.

IXWORTH FARMERS' CLUB.

LABOUR-SAVING MACHINERY.

At the last meeting, to hear a paper by Mr. Castledine, agent for Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Head, on Labour-saving Machinery, Mr. P. Huddlestone was in the chair.

Mr. Castledine read the following paper: The present agitation going on in the country has already resulted in such a vast amount of correspondence, on all sides, that it will be needless for me to dwell upon a subject, which at this period is occupying the attention of agriculturists throughout the country, as well as dignified heads from Manchester, and real home-grown Londoners, whose sole knowledge of agriculture consists in growing about two dozen scarlet runners round the back wall, two boxes of mignionette, three rusty looking geraniums, and occasionally supplemented with a window fernery. But we will leave the Londoners to enjoy their little bit of green, and strongly recommend the people from all large towns to come and get a peep at the country as often as possible. And in the meantime, we will try to do everything in our power to improve the appearance of the crops, and bring to bear as much as possible our knowledge for their benefit, as well as our own, by endeavouring with the help of an all wise Creator to improve the blessings bestowed upon us, so that good beef and mutton can be sent to their large towns; also good wheat for their bread, which will prove to them in the best manner that we are of some use to them. It is well known that to be behind with your work at the important time of harvest, is most disastrous to all, and in many instances would as much effect the consumer as the producer, and would also indirectly effect all kinds of trade. In years gone by, we frequently read of large crops of all kinds being completely spoiled by wet weather, and a variety of other causes. Now everyone can, by the uses of improved machinery and other appliances, which facilitate the ingathering of the crops, be to a great extent provided against either a wet season, or a very forward harvest. The ingathering of corn can now be effected in a way that our forefathers never dreamt of, and which, had they been told would one day be accomplished, would have made them think that all the rising generation, to use the present popular phrase, had really gone mad. Perhaps the best way to illustrate the present remarks would be to refer to a very wet season that was worked upon the old plan, before the harvester, or any other machines for that purpose had been introduced. I refer to the harvest of the year 1801, which though an extreme case, was aggravated by the war then going on against the First Napoleon. That year was not only a late one, but owing to the continued wet, there not one field of wheat gathered in good condition, and the greater part was so much sprouted that it was impossible to get any sound flour from it. But few farmers are now living who went through that awful period, and fewer still of the labourers who suffered much in health through eating the unwholesome food, as well as nearly all being thrown on the parish for supplemantary relief to support their families. The farmers were also very much reduced by a series of wet harvests, between 1795 and 1801, which was the climax, and were unable to pay the labourer enough to exist upon, so much so that an Act was passed that entitled the labourer to an allowance of 2s. 6d. per week for each child to aid him in supporting his family. Happily we are now in a position to be able to cope with most seasons, and instead of the harvests extending over such a lengthened period, in most cases it is got through in less than half the time formerly occupied. What with reapers and mowers for cutting corn, hay, and stover crops (which are all laid by them in light and convenient form both for drying and collecting), with haymakers for speedily drying the hay, and rakes for collecting and the elevators and stackers to do all the drudgery that was formerly done by the labourer, it makes the harvest time for him much easier, and places the farmer in a position to take every advantage of the season. I will now call your attention to a few of the special advantages and improvements in the various machines. Nothing, I think, is more conducive to preserving a good crop of hay than to cut it down quickly when ready, and to gather it in as speedily as possible, consistent with sufficient time for drying, so as to preserve as much as possible the green freshness and beautiful aroma that is retained if well gathered. The plan of mowing or cutting with a machine is infinitely superior to the old plan of cutting with a scythe, enabling you to cut down one acre per hour as against three-quarters-of-an acre in a day with a scythe, thus showing from ten to twelve times as much cut down; and not only does it cut more expeditionsly, but you are also able to cut closer to the ground and get that portion wherein lays all the weight, and which very much increase the tonnage per acre. It also dries quicker when cut with a machine from being left more evenly distributed

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over the ground than with the scythe, and left better for the haymaker. I will now notice the reaper. You will find it is not nearly so new an implement as a great many people imagine, as a machine was used in a very rough way for about 400 years, but after which was in a great measure lost sight of. After this we only find records of the sickle. I do not intend noticing the hundreds of patents that were taken out for reaper and mowers, but shall trace the principal ones, with the various improvements that were made from time to time. The first reaper we have notice of, a sketch of which is now before you, was made in the period of Roman greatness: they had a notion that grain should be cut down more expeditiously than with a sickle, but never assumed a very satisfactory form to induce the agriculturist to adopt them. Of the structure of such abortive attempts as a reaping machine, little has come down to us, and that little very vague and unsatisfactory. I find in looking over some old records, Pliny, an old Roman author, born A.D. 23, in his Natural History, writes as touching the matter of cutting down and reaping corn, there are divers and sundry devices. He goes on to say, "In France, where the fields are large, they use a jade into the tail of a mighty wheelbarrow or cart, made after the fashion of a van, and the same set with knives and trenchant teeth, sticking out on both sides—otherwise stakes or palisades, on wheels. Now the same is driven forward before two beasts, on two wheels, into the standing ripe corn, contrary to the manner of other carts that are drawn after them; the said teeth and sharp knives, fastened to the side of the wheelbarrow or car, catch hold of the corn ears and cut them off yet so that they fall presently into the body of the wheelbarrow." It appears that the straw was then not much valued; it was cut afterwards if any was wanted. Palladius, an Eastern prelate, who was born A.D. 391, gives a very similar account of this machine, and says its use was probably continued for centuries. Reapers of the foregoing description appear to have been in use for about 400 years, after this the cutting was principally done by the labourers, with a sickle, a sketch of which is now before you. The earliest proposal for a mechanical reaping machine in Britain, appears to be that described by the Annals of Agriculture, collected by Arthur Young, and published in the year 1785. Capel Lofft, Esq., Troston, on August 17th, 1785, called the attentian of the Society of Arts to the machine described by Pliny and Palladius, and sent translations of both authors to the Society, at the same time asking them whether a machine made in this way would not be eligible for the prize of £30, which the Society of Arts then offered. When sending these translations to the Society, this gentleman also describes the locality in which he lived. He says: "Troston consists of 28 houses, but we have resident here neither butcher, baker, nor barber, divine, surgeon, or apothecary, nor till I imported that evil, a lawyer." On the 4th July, 1799, the first patent for a reaping machine was obtained by Joseph Boyce, of Pine Apple Cottage, Mary-le-Bone, and in the following year another patent was granted to Robert Mears, Frome. In 1814 there is a notice of a reaper invented by Mr. Dobbs, dramatist at the Birmingham Theatre; and having got through with it too late for the season, he introduces it to the public in a very peculiar manner. He advertises on his play-bills that part of the stage will be planted with wheat, &c., that the machine has cut and gathered where it grew, and that the machine will be worked exactly as in the field. He goes on to say that "On Friday next, October 14th, will be presented the celebrated comedy of 'A Bold Stroke for a Husband,' and at the end of the play Mr. Dobbs will exhibit two machines, of different powers and purposes, for cutting down corn, sugar cane, &c.; to conclude with the celebrated farce of 'Fortune's Frolic,' the part of Robin Roughhead by Mr. Dobbs, in which he will work the machine in character, in an artificial field of wheat, planted as near as possible to the manner in which it grew." In 1822 Mr. Henry Ogle, of Rennington, near Alnwick, invented a machine for reaping corn, to which, in the same year, an apparatus for collecting the corn into sheaves was added by Messers. Thomas and Joseph Brown, of Alnwick. This appears to be the first reaper constructed to lay the corn in sheaves. Messrs. Brown then advertised they had machines ready for use for cutting and sheaving corn, but not one person could be found to purchase. After this some working people threatened to kill Mr. Brown if he persevered any further, so that he was obliged to give it up, although he proved to several of the farmers the machine would cut a large quantity in a day. The machine invented by the Rev. Patrick Bell was one that made a great stir, and in 1828 this machine was publicly worked and was admired by all who saw it. After this there was not much improvement in the machines till the Exhibition of 1851 from whence sprung our present modern machines. I will now pass on to notice the benefits arising from the use of these modern machines. It is not generally known that the self-raker will cut the stover crops, but this they will do well, if properly set. The average cost of a reaper made by any of the large houses is from £30 to £35, and it may be estimated to last at least seven years, which makes the cost, say £5 per year. The cost of knives, wear and tear, and repairs, may also be estimated at from £3 to £5 per annum, making the annual cost of the reapers from £8 to £10. The ordinary two-horse machine will cut about an acre per hour, and in the long harvest days, from five in the morning till seven to eight in the evening, making 14 to 15 hours per day, working the whole time without stoppages, will cut down fifteen acres. I have taken the result as working without any stoppages, as it is customary to have a change of horses, each pair working for two or three hours at a time, and changing the men during the meal times. In a harvest lasting a month there would be 24 such days, making 360 acres as the work of a machine during one harvest. These 360 acres done at a cost for the machine of from £8 to £10, or from 160 to 200 shillings, if worked out will average from 5½d. to 6½d., or, say, all round sixpence per acre. The price of cutting by hand varies considerably, but I should think would average about 9s. or 10s. per acre. By the use of the machine many farmers are able to let out their harvest at a reduction of, say 2s. 6d. per acre, still leaving it possible for the men to earn, during the time they are at work, as much money or more than when doing the whole of it by hand. This, however, is not the greatest advantage, for farmers have been willing to give their men the use of the machine in order to faciliate the harvest work and enable them to take advantage of the fine weather or the early markets, which, on an average crop of eight coomb per acre, would only cost about ¾d. to a 1d. per coomb, which would be more than compensated for by getting the corn up in good condition, and being able to take advantage of the markets. It is also a further advantage to get the harvest over as speedily as possible, as the land can then be ploughed up during the fine dry weather, and exposed to the action of the sun, and the weeds thereby be more effectually killed. It may be said that I have not taken into account the cost of the horses, but at this time of the year, when there is not much other work, there is generally a good supply of horses on the farm which would otherwise be standing idle if not employed on the reaping machine. It should also be born in mind that the men who would otherwise be employed in cutting the corn, can, when the reaper is used be employed in collecting and carting, or it would enable the farmer with a scarcity of hands to get through his work in the same time as another farmer who had plenty of labour. I shall not pretend at this time to say anything as to the respective merits of the various descriptions of reapers made by the well-known makers in this country. There are two classes of machines, viz., those which simply cut the corn, and the self-rakers, which cut and deliver the corn. As I have shown the cost of a reaper, also the average cost for repairs, and the probable quantity that can be cut down per day, it will be for you, who are better acquainted with the paying part of a farm, to discuss the utility and general saving effected by the use of a reaper. The first introduction of the drag rake dates far back for a very long period, and was as near like the present swathe rake as possible. It was afterwards improved by making the drag rake much longer, and putting on a wheel at each end. It was very light and convenient to handle, so that girls of from 14 to 16 years of age could readily use it. The next improvement was made by Wedlake, who made the rake to balance by two heavy balls projecting in front of it. This rake was highly commended at Cambridge R.A.S.E. After this another great improvement was made in rakes by J. C. Grant, of Stamford, who took the prize at the R.A.S.E., Liverpool. This was the first rake made so that the whole row of teeth could be lifted at once, and just as quickly resume their proper position. Since this time there have been various improvements in the construction and detail of horse rakes, some of which are constructed for the man to walk behind, others for him to sit on the rake and deliver the load by a lever, and others which are, so to speak, self-acting. If no very large quantity has to be raked, delivery by hand is perhaps sufficient; but for going over a large quantity of

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ground in a short time, it is important that the driver should ride, as he will then not hesitate to allow the horse to walk at its fair pace. If the leverage is sufficiently light, I prefer a rake of this description to the self-acting rakes, which must necessarily be more expensive and more liable to get out of order. A rake also should be so constructed that the teeth can be set just to skim the ground, so as not to gather any dirt with the load, and also that when required the teeth can be set hard on the ground, for the purposes of raking twitch or rubbish, or for collecting hay on a hard bottom. Supposing you have three full sets of waggons or carts, it takes nine men to clear and rake after them; whereas one good horse rake does equally well, or it will even save twelve hands if a good quick-walking nag horse is used, and a seat for the driver is fixed on the rake. Haymakers are so well known, and their uses so well appreciated, that it is almost needless to say much about them. The main feature is to secure one that will not knock out the seed from the hay and stover crops, and to have one that will leave the crops light and in a convenient form, so that the weather may have full effect. Some persons prefer those haymakers which have a forward action, for scattering the hay, and they are especially needed when the grass is cut by hand; but when the haymaker is used in conjunction with a mowing machine, the backward action is generally sufficient; and as the hay is less knocked about, the seeds and small particles are not so likely to be broken off and wasted. But, whether one kind of machine be used or the other, there can be no doubt that hay can be made in a very much shorter time with a haymaker than it can be by hand. It is much more regularly thrown about the field, and will consequently make in less time, and will therefore be of more uniform quality and of greater value. Also advantage can be taken of a few hours' sunshine, which in the old way of making hay by hand would be inevitably lost; and it can be quickly put into windrows by the American gatherer. A great point in the haymaker, as in all these season implements, is that it should be so constructed as not to be liable to break down in the middle of the haysell; and it would be the worst economy to buy a cheap machine of this character, when so much depends upon its thorough efficiency. Topplers, or American gatherers, are extremely good things where a quantity is wanted to be got in quickly; and too much cannot be said in their favour. As much as twenty acres can be got with them in a day. The old-pattern elevator, as used with the thrashing machine, is modernised and used in the harvest field for stacking hay, stover, corn, &c.; and it is only very recently that this machine has come into use; and at the Hall R.A.S.E. show, in 1873, the Judges report upon them, and say, "While speaking of the elevators, we should not omit to notice a very excellent one, brought out by Stephen Lewin, of Poole. This is a very simple implement, compact and light of draught, and works smoothly, closes up for travelling, and can be opened out and put to work by one man, in three or four minutes. It can be used for all kinds of crops, and can be worked by a pony, and deliver to a height of twenty-five feet or more." From my own experience, I have found that this machine does not swerve in the work like many others, and has also a very good arrangement for lengthening or shortening the chains. These same stackers or elevators are so arranged that they are as well adapted for the thrashing machine as far harvest work. I have made inquiries, and am told these elevators will take the corn away from the carts as fast as four men could pitch it on to the stack; and two men, who have understood the working of the machines, have tried to block it, and could not do so. The cost of a stacking machine or elevator is about £58, including the gear and all necessary fittings for working same, and the cost of repairs is comparatively trifling. The main thing would be to keep it well cleaned, well oiled in all parts, and from time to time a good coat of paint. In fact this applies to every machine, as well as elevators. How frequently you will find the machine standing for months, just on the same spot where it was used, without having been cleaned after use, or without any protection from the weather! It is also very essential that the best kind of oil should be used; a great mistake is made is buying cheap rubbish that is sold as machine oil—good oil with economic feeding cans is much cheaper to use than an unlimited supply of common oil. A little oil that in a machine kept clean can really get to the bearings, is much better than a deluge of oil poured on without reason on to a bearing covered with dust and dirt. I mention this as upon the proper management of oiling and cleaning in a great measure regulates the length of time a machine will last. I have now spoken of the machines, &c., used generally through the hay and corn harvest, and must leave the matter in your hands for discussion. I think I have said enough to show that the introduction and use of good machinery is of advantage to the agriculturist, in enabling him to deal with his work and his crops expeditiously, economically, and effectually. That it is of advantage to the manufacturer you will all readily believe; but not only to these two classes is it of service, but also to the labourer himself, in relieving him of the heaviest and severest of the work on the farm. In fact, in the present day where should we all be without it. The work could not be got through, and there would necessarily follow a scarcity of provisions, which would be disastrous to all.

Mr. Fison thought Mr. Castledine had rather miscalculated the duration of the reaping machines. He had had his in use for six or seven years, and had it not been for his determination to have it overhauled, a year since, it would have been no expense whatever. He had gone to the expense of having the bolts and small castings in duplicate. With the exception of that expense, he did not think his reaper had cost £1 a year. As he had said, he had had his for seven years, and he believed that it would last another seven years, and at the end of that time it would be as good as ever. He had repeatedly cut eighteen acres a day with his. He did not, however, agree with Mr. Castledine about working the horses in harvest. If they had nothing to do then, that was the very time that they were best resting, ready for the hard work of the autumn tillage. He thought one great evil of the reaping machines was that they kept the horses too much at hard work in harvest, so that they were mauled out, by the fourteen hours a day that Mr. Castledine spoke of.

Mr. Peto remarked that there was a time when he thought farmers were a little too hasty about the introduction of machinery, but at that time labour was plentiful, and strong able-bodied men were willing to do justice to their employers. Unfortunately, however, within the last few years, there had been a sort of retrograde movement in the matter of labour, and consequently it behoved farmers to see how far the introduction of machinery would enable them to tide over the present difficulties. He spoke of having worked one of Wood's mowers with great success. With one of these machines he cut a whole field, and he did not have a man on the field until he carted the hay. He expressed his belief the haymaker really improved the hay, and said if there was not a very heavy crop that there was no necessity for shaking it out; if it was left in that state, and horse-raked the contrary way, that would be sufficient. He was quite of opinion that with the assistance of machinery it would not be necessary to have many men in the field, and he began to think the same with regard to the harvest field. He believed they would be able to get in their crops with much less trouble and expense than they did at the present time. He had not been so successful with reapers as some of his friends; he, however, had worked one of Hornsby's with success, and he did not doubt but that other machines were equally as good.

Mr. Gayford, jun., said he agreed with Mr. Fison as to wear entailed by the reaping machine. In harvest the wheat carting itself was enough for the horses when the farmer was fortunate enough to get a crop. The reapers were costly to the farmers at first, and very expensive to repair. He did not think that the reaper left the wheat or the barley so well for tying as the scythe did. The elevator which he found best was easiest to move and least trouble to fix. He did not see the necessity for its doubling up, as it might generally be placed in the barn when done with. As to the question of cost, he hoped Mr. Castledine was right in his calculations, but he could not agree with him as to not charging for horse power; it was really an objection to the use of machines. If he could make sure of labour he would rather have his corn cut by hand, but in order to meet a scarcity of labour he was glad, and they all were glad, of machines. He did not think they would have any difficulty, for at the prices now paid they would attract labour from the towns. He had heard of an elevator to take the corn quite from the swathe. He only wished they might invent a machine to elevate a little more money into the farmers' pockets.

Mr. Manfield would strongly urge upon all farmers to use

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machines for cutting grass, but he thought the saving was not so great in cutting corn. He looked upon reaping machines as necessary evils, for he did not like them. Last year he went to the expense of putting two reaping machines into order, and then did not use them, but cut his corn by manual labour. There was no machine which took so much out of the horses as the reaping machine did; nor could he see the great saving of manual labour in cutting corn; but in cutting grass there was a great saving. In corn cutting he found that he wanted nearly as many men for tying as they did to cut the corn by hand. He did not anticipate a scarcity of labour. They never had more harvest men offered to them than last year, and he expected to see the same again this year. They would find people coming from Bury and Thetford offering their services. Mr. Castledine had spoken of hand-rakes being used by girls. Nothing must be said about that in the present day.

Mr. CASTLEDINE: That was in 1801.

Mr. MANFIELD said he did not see how reaping machines could be used so many days as Mr. Castledine spoke of, and he could not agree even with Mr. Peto as to the expense. As to the use of elevators, he could not see the saving as they delivered the corn at one side, and there must be men to remove the corn to any part of the stack they needed.

Mr. FISON said he found that there were less men employed. As to the use of the toppler for barley, he found that they toppled out too much corn. He thought the toppler a most dangerous machine. He had injured a valuable horse by one, and lost the use of it for six months. He thought the cost of reapers was much increased by neglect. He had his taken to pieces and cleaned every year as soon as the work was done. He usually cut 140 acres with his machine.

Mr. GAYFORD, in reference to the topplers, agreed with Mr. Fison, that he could not use them with such crops as his; there would be no where to topple it to. He believed the toppler had a very great advantage on their light lands. In some seasons, such as 1865 and 1870, he found it a great advantage in getting the barley together. He also thought he must defend the elevator against what Mr. Manfield had said.

Mr. FISON said that the great fault of the elevator was its unwieldly form. There was no building on a farm to receive it; it was like putting a six foot man into a four foot bed.

Mr. BOOTY said he had but little experience of the reaper, but he had found great benefit from it, especially in cutting his sanfoin and clover. He found great difficulty with his men, who put every obstacle in the way. If men could be found willing to work it, the reapers would be of the greatest advantage. He cut his wheat, 50 acres, and 30 acres of clover and sanfoin at an expense of 2s. 6d. an acre.

Mr. MALLOWS spoke in favour of the elevators, and said he was sure that anyone who used them would not try to do without them. He also said he had used the reaper with great advantage, and he should be sorry to be without either a reaper or an elevator.

Mr. T. GOLDSMITH said he was in the habit of allowing his men the use of his reaping machine without charging them. Where the corn was laid his men preferred the scythe, but taken as a whole, for expedition and for other reason, he thought the reapers were advantageous to farmers. He was an advocate for the introduction of machinery, though he had no fear that there would be any scarcity of labour.

Mr. PETO said the introduction of reapers were very expensive, and where farmers did introduce them at all, he did not see why they should not make them pay for themselves. Hitherto they had been a little too lenient with their men. If machinery was introduced, some charge had to be made for it.

Mr. GARRARD was much pleased with the reaper. He charged his men 3s. per acre, and deducted it from their wages, and not only did he make 3s. per acre by his machine, but he cut some for his neighbours, for which he charged them, thus earning something with his reaper.

Mr. BURT said he had a combined machine for mowing and reaping, which did its work admirably; it would cut grasses beautifully, and was of extremely light draught. It was rather an expensive machine, but it did its work remarkably well.

Mr. F. GAYFORD did not like cutting barley with a reaper; but in cutting wheat and stover, and especially stover, it did its work remarkably well. In the present day farmers would not be able to do without machinery; but it was very expensive to the farmer, taking it altogether, because at present they did not pay their men less on account of the introduction of machinery. He pointed out that the horses deteriorated greatly during the harvest from the severe character of the work on small farms, though it lasted but a short time.

Mr. MANFIELD said he did not use the reaper because he found the other plan cheaper, but he was greatly in favour of the use of that machine for hay, stover, and beans.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the machinery which had been used up to the present was, unfortunately, like law books, there was always a new edition coming out. That was a very good thing for the machinists, but it was uncommonly bad for the farmer. He did not, however, wish to be misunderstood. He thought that all the improvements in agriculture of late years had come from the power which the machines had given to them. As to the labour question, he thought the farmers were wrong in the first instance. The farmers ought to have fought the question some little time ago. They fought the question in his parish (Norton) last year. The labourers there demanded a rise and the farmers would not give it. He for one had made up his mind for years that if a man came to him and laid his case before him, as between man and man, he would listen to him, and he would do whatever was right; but if his men came to him and told him that they must have a certain sum, without any argument about it, then he for one would not submit to it. He would never be browbeaten by any set of men, and he did not care who they were. He respected the labourer as much as anybody, but he would not be set at defiance by any body of men. They had heard a great deal of Unions; they had been productive of much mischief, and he would urge upon all farmers to resist its introduction into their midst. He spoke of the object the Farmers' Defence Association had in view, and he urged farmers to join it and to stand shoulder to shoulder in their own defence. As to there being a deficiency of labour, he looked upon it as perfect nonsense. If farmers united, he believed they would be able to make the labourers disbelieve the nonsense which was written in certain papers; for instance, that the landlord and the farmer could be kicked over the hedge, and the labourer could have all the land.

Mr. CASTLEDINE: I saw it in the *Labourers' Union Chronicle*.

The CHAIRMAN urged that farmers should treat the labourer kindly in case he should return, for after all he was led away by other people.

Several other members warmly recommended a lock-out, and maintaining it amongst farmers.

Mr. CASTLEDINE, in reply, recommended the use of the reaper in the sale of which he was interested.

THE OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN CHESHIRE.—At the monthly meeting of the North Cheshire Chamber of Agriculture, held at Macclesfield—Mr. Carswell (Adlington) in the chair, the recent outbreak and prevalence of foot and-mouth-disease in the county was discussed. The Chairman gave it as his opinion that Cheshire had suffered more from foot and mouth disease in the past than from any other disease, not even excepting the cattle plague. The stock deteriorated in value by the disease, and altogether the loss was incalculable. Mr. Whitley (Birtles) moved, and Mr. Cooke (Adlington) seconded a motion that the Chamber memorialise the Lords of the Privy Council, praying them to re-enforce the restrictions recently rescinded as to the movement of cattle affected with disease, in order that no cattle suffering from the disease may be brought to fairs or markets, or carted any distance after death. The Chamber also considered the Valuation of Property Bill, now before Parliament, and resolved "That this Chamber is of opinion that the 6th clause of the bill is unworkable, and recommends that the game on each estate should be valued and assessed in one sum."

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LANCASHIRE FARMERS' CLUB.

At the annual meeting in Liverpool, Mr. G. C. Hale, Knowsley, in the chair.

Mr. H. Neild, of Worsley, in moving the adoption of the report, and referring to the union question, said that he did not at all fear the spread of what was called trades' unionism amongst their labourers. The farm labourers of Lancashire, he believed, were superior to any, and he should like very much to see them represented in the council.

Mr. Rigby, the Secretary, read a paper on "Lancashire Farming: Its Favourable and Adverse Aspects." He said: Allow me to premise that my own knowledge of Lancashire farming is almost wholly confined to the southern part of the county. Of that part of it which lies north of Preston I have only caught glimpses from the railway in travelling to Blackpool or towards Carlisle; but I had the advantage of being inspector of farms for the Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Society for three years in conjunction with the late Mr. Rothwell, who was well known to most of us, and highly respected for his extensive agricultural knowledge and sound judgment; and from him and other gentlemen of repute and intelligence I have gathered such facts as would lead me to say that while there is a great diversity of soil and climate and cultivation in Lancashire, and while a large portion of the county is practically unsuitable for farming in its natural character, yet there will be found as good and successful management as in any other county, and a larger proportion to its area capable of arable cultivation than in most other counties in the kingdom. The Lancashire farmer, as a rule, is a hard-working and industrious man, often working himself and his children as hard as his own labourers, and cherishing great pride in his crops and in his cattle and horses. He avails himself largely now of the use of machinary in cultivation, with the best results, and a farmer is considered a sluggard and almost a disgrace to his class whose crops are overrun with weeds and who has recourse to a bare summer fallow to keep his land clean. The farms of Lancashire vary much in extent, but as a rule the holdings are small. The average size, as given in the agricultural returns collected last year, is 32 acres, which I notice, is less than that of any other county in England or Wales. Of the 742,000 acres in the county from which returns were received, 103,000 in round numbers were in corn crops, and 510,000 in green crop and grass for pasture and hay. The live stock returned was 32,000 horses, 238,000 cattle, 348,000 sheep, and 39,000 pigs; and the total number of garden allotments detached from cottages or o'her houses were 992, averaging a tenth part of an acre each. Having made these general statements, I proceed to speak more particularly of the advantages and disadvantages that affect the farming of the county. One principal advantage of a Lancashire farmer is that he is near to good markets for the sale of his produce. Another fact favourable to Lancashire farming is its easy access to town-made manure as a fertiliser. Large breadths of what is now very profitable land would be poor and unproductive if it were not for liberal and constant applications of manure from cowhouses and stables in town, used in conjunction with that made upon the farm, and for which no better or even equal substitute is found. I have a high opinion of the value of ground bones as a top-dressing to pasture land, and of guano and nitrate of soda as a stimulant, particularly to plants in the early stages of their growth; but for staying power, for feeding crops to their maturity, and for developing them in perfection, as well as improving the soil, there is nothing to be compared to the manure I have referred to. For getting good crops and keeping land in good heart, applied plentifully and judiciously, it will almost work miracles upon land; and it has the negative advantage that, however applied, it never does harm. I am almost afraid to state the value of the crops I have seen growing on farms within a few miles of Liverpool, on land naturally poor and of a hungry character, for fear of losing credit for veracity; and this is accomplished principally through liberal application of manure, aided, no doubt, by good cultivation, and to some extent also by a fine climate. But I do not hesitate to say that in the farming within three or four miles of the Mersey, from Halewood to Crossley, and in adjacent parts, there is as much valuable produce raised from the land annually as in any part of England, and that it would be impossible to do so well if it were not for the manure made in Liverpool and carted out from that town, and the same advantage applies to the farming around all our large towns from the same conditions. Lancashire farming is also favoured, I think, by its proximity to the stimulative influences of extensive commercial pursuits. The life and growth of commerce is dependent upon enterprise, and it is always most successful where there is most competition, and when to the rules of prudence is added the push and energy of effort to excel, and to go further than has before been attained. And as example of this kind stimulates the same action in others similary engaged, it may be fairly assumed that the Lancashire farmer comes within its influence when disposing of his produce to the merchant princes of Manchester and Liverpool and other large towns. But I shall be reminded that it is presuming too much upon the good nature of farmers to expect this general progress in farming under the present system of land tenure. To produce such results there must be a large antecedent outlay in very many cases, and always a liberal expenditure in manures and in deep cultivation, the profitable return of which cannot be realised annually; and I grant the propriety of the qualification. Taken as a whole, the occupation of land generally is in an unsatisfactory state, and requires revision. The conditions under which it is held are not so liberal even as in feudal times, when it was given to the baron's retainers as their wages for suit and service, and a portion of its produce as an acknowledgment in the shape of rent, for then it descended from father to son for generations, and such a thing as disturbance or notice to quit was unknown, except in cases of treachery to the baron, or of criminal delinquency to the law. There is much of the same kind of feeling still existent on some large estates. Our noble president has many families among his tenants who have succeeded deceased relatives, and who can trace back their ancestry for several generations as tenants of the same farm, and the same things exists on other estates in the county, to the credit of owner and occupier alike. On those estates there exists mutual confidence between landlord and tenant, and confidence which has been rarely abused by either party; but it is far from being the rule. The law in respect of tenancies is more favourable to the landlord than the tenant generally. Let any unprejudiced man read nearly any old farm agreement, and say if he does not think the tenant is treated either as an ignoramus who does not know his business, or as a suspicious character who must be kept in honesty's path by rule and line. This state of things is, I think, adverse to farming generally and to Lancashire farming in particular. Another thing adverse to Lancashire farming is the heavy burden of taxation which the sanitary condition of adjacent towns renders necessary in order to make them healthy places of habitation. Where population clusters together there must be an adequate supply of water, an efficient system of sewerage, and certain other outlay to provide for the health and comfort of the inhabitants; and when to this is added the cost of highways, maintenance of poor, and all the other charges that are collected under the head of Poor-rate, the local taxation of large portions of Lancashire farming becomes a heavy burden. Almost every advantage in life has some drawback. Our population gives us a good and near market for our produce, but it also adds to our taxes. The most serious part of the case, however, is that we are assessed upon the annual value of our holdings, which is relatively much higher than any other kind of business premises in proportion to income made from them. The Income-tax Commissioners are contented to take our income at half our rentals, but the proportion of income to rental in most other occupations is double, treble, ten times, or even seventy times the amount of rental. What we complain of, therefore, is the unequal incidence of local taxation, and that we as farmers, confessedly least able, are made to contribute the greatest share; and we feel it the more deeply that the cost of these works is continually increasing, and because the means for carrying out other objects of national utility are being levied in the same way. The testimony of many farmers present will confirm me in the remark that rates have doubled and trebled during the last five years, and that they are now in many places a very serious addition to the rentals of farms. Labour is another serious item of increase to cost of raising

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produce in Lancashire. Our proximity to large manufactories and to busy towns is a disadvantage to us again here. Being able to make greater profits, the manufacturers can give higher wages, moreover he must do so to draw men away from the fresh air and healthy residence of the country, and to retain them farmers are compelled to give nearly equal wages. We have no delicacy in speaking of this matter, as we have no difficulty in Lancashire, or in any adjoining county, like that existing in the southern and eastern counties. We honestly believe our men deserve all they get, and that they will always get as much as they deserve, without combining in union to enforce it, from the action of the inevitable law of supply and demand. Labour must always command high value in Lancashire, and we accept the fact without further comment, except this, that landlords could materially assist their tenants by providing cottages on their estates and letting them with their farms for the residence of labourers employed thereon. Much is done in this way, although some of the cottages are poor and inconvenient, but the worst of them I would just say in passing are better than the cellar residences and thickly peopled houses in courts and alleys in large towns—a fact which some well-intentioned people overlook when moralising upon our cottage accommodation to its disadvantage; but there is more wanted doing, and the building of more cottages would be an inducement to men to remain in the country and do farmwork, instead of migrating to the towns. The erection and working of copper and alkali works, although confined to a part of the county, have become so injurious to vegetation around them as to be a perceptible disadvantage to a large part of the farming of Lancashire. This subject has been so lately brought before the Chamber that I shall not require to do more than enumerate its existence as one of its adverse aspects. The last adverse aspect of Lancashire farming that I shall name is one whose correction lies largely in the hands of Lancashire farmers themselves. I know not if I shall have their sympathy, however, in naming it, but I beg them to believe my remarks are made in no captious or censorious spirit, but from an honest desire to point out and to correct what I think is a serious disadvantage. I allude to the imperfect or unsuitable education which, as a rule, they give to their sons. It may be thought a matter of necessity to draw a boy from school at 14 years of age, and place him from that time among the workmen of the farm in order to keep down expenses, but as largely done it cannot be the best way to make a farmer of him. A boy rarely begins to feel any interest in study until he is 14 years of age, and to take him away just as he is beginning to work, and shut him up to menial duties alone, is the surest way to blunt his faculties and demoralise his intellectual nature. The discipline and education of the school should be continued for two years longer at least. Farming has advanced, and must advance, in character as a pursuit or profession, requiring ability of mind as well as strength of body.

At the conclusion of Mr. Rigby's paper, a slight discussion ensued upon it, the members all cordially agreeing with his arguments. A vote of thanks was passed to him, and the paper was ordered to be printed and circulated.

BALLARAT FARMERS' CLUB.

At the usual monthly meeting at Craig's Hotel, the president, Mr. Bacchus, in the chair, the secretary read a letter received from Mr. C. T. Sutherland, of The Grange, Tatyoon, stating that he preferred the months of July and August for the sowing of kohl-rabi, although he had sown up to the end of November with success, but he had generally found that period too late to allow the plant to come to full growth before the land was wanted for another crop. He felt sure it would become a great favourite with farmers when better known. In connection with this letter the Secretary likewise read a lengthy statement in reference to the growth and mode of culture of the plant referred to, and which has appeared in a former issue. Mr. Sutherland, in his explanation of the plant, states that his horses will eat it in preference to oats and chaff, and milch cows were extremely fond of it; it likewise did not affect the taste of milk and butter as turnips did. Its keeping properties were first-class; in fact, he had some of it on hand from last year firm and sound. In its cultivation the ground should be well prepared in drills 32 inches apart, and then lightly rolled, after which planting could be commenced from the seed-beds. This work, it is stated, could be easily effected by a man and two boys, the man as he walked along making a cut with a spade on top of the drill, the first boy dropping in a handful of bone-dust, and the second putting in the plant, only taking care not to bring it in immediate contact with the bones. The seed is of very rapid growth, and should be sown about eight days before the plants were required, the size of the plants to be not larger than ordinary cabbage plants, and to be planted two feet six inches apart in the drills, and in extra rich land three feet would not be too much. Mr. Sutherland stated that he had grown bulbs as much as 20 lbs. in weight, and some even larger, but the average weight would be from 8 to 12 lbs. each. He intended having ten acres planted next season for his stock.

The secretary submitted a sample of anti-rust wheat sown by Messrs. R. U. Nicholls and Co., of Armstrong-street, in a deep chocolate soil, in the parish of Bungaree, on the 28th July, 1873. The sowing was an experimental one of 14 lbs., and the yield was 189 lbs. The wheat was cut on the 20th January, the straw being then five feet high; it was perfectly free from rust, but difficult to thrash. The sample was that of a splendid heavy wheat, not unlike in appearance purple or red straw, and seemed to be very favourably regarded.

Mr. Martin then read a paper on the subject of local rates, as follows:

In the absence of Mr. Read I have been pressed into the service, but it is not easy to say something on the spur of the moment which would be useful, and likely to merit your attention. However, it has occurred to me that the English farmer presents to his club such matter as affects his interest. I shall therefore make no excuse for directing your attention to the subject of local rates. I do so with greater readiness as I know it very nearly affects every man in this room. The rates, as you are aware, are determined by the annual letting value of the property, or, in other words, in proportion to the amount of money invested therein. In reviewing the subject you will please to remember this is a new country, and it remains with us to make it prosperous and great, which can only be accomplished by the investment of capital and labour in the soil; by the cultivation of cattle and corn, orchards and vineyards; by the planting of timber; by the erection of houses; by the building of schools, workshops, and factories; and by the establishment of cities. Now, although every member of this community will acknowledge these improvements to be desirable, yet they suffer a system of taxation to exist which strikes at the very root of all improvement, and operates as the chief impediment to the profitable investment of capital in land. To illustrate this subject, I will present facts which are known to most of you. A gentleman, who has been frequently in this room, purchased, in the suburb of this city, about eighty acres of very poor land, so poor, indeed, that it would require several acres to feed one sheep. The rates demanded by the shire did not exceed one penny per acre per annum. The owner determined to improve this land by expending some hundreds of pounds in manure. He purchased the best implements, employed the best labour, and the result of these investments was a magnificent crop. However, before it was removed, the valuator came upon the scene again, and, with an exclamation of surprise, declared it to be the best farm in the district, as the crop was without an equal. The annual letting value made a bound of several hundred per cent., and the rates were increased from one penny to the sum of one shilling per acre. This imposition very speedily abated the enthusiasm of the investor, who discovered that the money he had expended upon the land was not only subject to the ordinary interest, but, in addition, it was subject to a very large percentage collected by the shire council under the name of rates. He, therefore, very wisely allowed his land to relapse into its original wild condition, and placed his capital into other investments. It would be impossible to imagine anything which could more effectually stop improvements, or which could be more injurious and unequal in its operation than the present system of taxation. The case I have mentioned is by no means a solitary one, as thousands of persons can testify.

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The most speedy and certain method a man could devise to draw down upon his capital the swoop of the rate-collector is to invest his money in building houses or improving land. Every improvement is but the prelude to an additional burden of rates. If a man invests his money in planting an orchard, it is subject to be rated at three shillings per acre per annum; if a vineyard, it is subject to five shillings per acre per annum. If he should have the pretension to build something like a comfortable house, plant his ground with ornamental trees, which in time would change the bleak, dreary solitude into a place of beauty, he is at once subject to an additional imposition—in fact, a fine, collected under the name of local rates. The evil becomes intensified when the farmer who has spent years of toil in fencing and clearing his land is compelled by the requirements of his family to replace the hut with a more comfortable and convenient dwelling. His wife, poor soul, having done her best, is now subject to many infirmities, and he is conscious that his own health is not so vigorous as it was a dozen years ago. He has but £600, however, which is not sufficient to complete the improvements; it would require twelve hundred. He borrows six upon the security of his land at eight per cent. The improvements give grace and beauty to the country, making it not only habitable but beautiful to live in. These improvements entwine the affections of his children around the place of their birth, and give to their aspirations the ring of true nationality. We may ask why should these investments, which have accomplished so much good, and which are still subject to the mortgage, be liable to the burden of additional rates? The question seems to acquire greater emphasis when the land contiguous to these improvements is being held in its wild state for speculative purposes. No labour is employed upon this land, no improvements are made, but the local councils, as if in admiration of the do-nothing policy of its owner, charge the land with the lowest modicum of rates. By this system of rating, the speculator is encouraged, and permitted by law to trade upon the enterprise and energy of those who invest their capital in building homesteads and cities, as well as upon the enterprise of those who cultivate the land. The speculator's land acquires yearly an additional value by the facilities afforded by means of roads, bridges, and such other conveniences as may be constructed at the public cost. It is no fault of the local bodies that the land has a low-letting value; that is the fault of the owner, and should not be accepted as a reason why a low rate should be charged. From these statements it will be apparent that just in proportion as the land is reclaimed from its original wild condition and made habitable, as capital is invested in fencing, supplying water, building houses, planting trees, manuring and cultivating, so with each additional improvement the investor is subject to an additional tax, which operates in direct antagonism to the profitable investment of money in the improvement of the country. In other investments capital is not trammelled by impositions. It can be invested to immensely more advantage in trade, bank stock, mortgage, or in land held for speculative purposes. If these statements are true, why should not country land be rated at per acre, irrespective of improvements? Why should not city land be rated at per foot frontage? Why should the Bank of Victoria and other buildings which ornament and beautify this city be encumbered with heavy rates, and shanties which offend the eye and taint the air allowed to go free? The present system operates alike in both town and country, but always as an impediment to progress. Every foot of city frontage should pay its share of rates irrespective of the improvements which may be upon it, and every acre of country land should pay its share of rates without taking into consideration the sum of money which has been invested in its improvement. Then some inducement would be offered to build and to cultivate, but none to hold land in its wild state for speculative purposes. Then the true workers would be unfettered, and free to raise the raw products of the soil in abundance, and the skill of the manufacturer would be free to expend its ingenuity in constructing machinery or in fabricating those delicate and durable articles of clothing which are in daily wear. If it is a self-evident truth that the source of all nations' wealth arises from the improvement of the land, then let each farmer and citizen endeavour to remove every impediment and clear away every obstacle which may act as a drag upon the enterprise and prosperity of the people. If the present system of valuation presses heavily upon the investment of capital in houses or land, or upon the industry of the people, let it by all means give place to a system more equitable and just. We may then hope to check the migration of men who have done so much to give permanent prosperity to this country, and who are our best and most useful colonists.

Mr. M'Clure moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The lecturer's views quite accorded with his own in everything he had stated, and more especially in regard to town property, with which he had had ample experience. He for one felt certain that the system of levying rates required re-modelling altogether, as at present it was most unfair to the industrious working-man, who was obliged to pay higher rates than his thriftless neighbour, who was either too lazy or too careless to improve his property.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. M'Dowall gave notice that he would at the meeting in a month hence move for the meetings of the club to be held at Learmouth. He stated that the efforts of the club at present were perhaps fully appreciated, but they were not, judging by the meagre attendance at all events, fully recognised. The club had done a great deal for the benefit of the farmers generally, and the press, he must state, had nobly stuck to it. In fact, but for the close and firm adherence which the press had accorded the club, it would have ceased to exist long ago, as it was merely a body in name and appearance, but not in reality, at least in the way of attendance, members generally preferring to read the newspaper reports to taking part in the discussion.

The secretary stated that the club's town and trade members numbered sixty, as against forty members in the country.

THE POWER OF THE FARMERS.

There can be very little doubt that whichever side ultimately gains the victory, the struggle between the farmer and the labourer will in many things result in evil. Without laying much stress on the oft-talked-of sympathy and good feeling between master and man, now broken up for ever, there still remained bonds which it is a mistake to have severed. The character of Englishmen is averse to much sympathy: it is a form of sentiment against which a straightforward and independent man revolts. The ideas and feelings which in the town are refined and softened, in the country come out in their blunt abruptness; and there is perhaps no section of the population which sets so low a value upon sympathy as the agricultural. The very rudeness of the life, the strife with the weather, the battle with the soil, tends to produce a sturdy and somewhat surly manliness which cannot understand the meanings conveyed under the fine phrases of mutual forbearance, and so on, which have been so largely used in this controversy. But there certainly was an appreciable amount of *esprit de corps*, extending throughout the ranks of farmer and labourer up to a recent period. There was a common dislike of the town, its ways and men—a *growling* kind of pride in the country, and masters and men growled in concert. They found fault with the same things; they grumbled together; they could always agree in abusing the weather; they talked freely and without distrust; and there was not that sharpness of definition between the two classes that exists in manufacturing districts. The farmer did not set himself up as superior to the labourer in a coarse and insulting manner. He conversed familiarly with his men; walked with them a mile upon the road, without feeling in the least degree that he was lowering his dignity as an employer, or showing condescension to them; asked after their wives and families, and how the potato-patch or allotment was looking, and generally showed an interest in their concerns. After the agitation first commenced, this species of intercourse was a long time in dying out. The indignation of the farmers was poured entirely upon the agents who were spreading disaffection. No one found any fault with the labourers them-

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selves. If they thought they were really worth more per week than they were receiving, they had a right to ask for an increase of pay; but when, after an increase of pay was granted, as the farmers maintain, to a reasonable amount, and the agitation still continued, there arose a gradual coolness, and the two classes slowly arrayed themselves into opposing forces. It was now that the employers began to blame the employed, and to set themselves firmly against any farther movement.

The lock-out in Suffolk was only what every one had seen must in the end take place, if the aspect of affairs continued unchanged. Throughout the county the agriculturists had come to a distinct though unexpressed determination that the matter could not go on without a firm resistance being offered. In the markets, at the market ordinaries, wherever the agricultural world met, the tone that universally prevailed was that some decided step must be taken. When it was at last taken, and the news spread of the lock-out, the tone of conversation in these places of assembly grew at once firmer and more defiant. The agriculturists are slow to combine, slower still to give utterance and shape to their resolves; but they possess a depth of feeling and a strength which is hardly acknowledged. The latent energy of resistance which exists among the agriculturists of the whole country is incalculably great. The Suffolk movement will be endorsed, if not followed in kind, in almost every county. The suppressed bitterness of two or three years of what they, rightly or wrongly, consider unjust treatment, will bear fruit in harsh and rigid measures which it would have been to the interest of all to avoid. The farmers have an immense power in their hands—a power little understood and much underrated. It extends into the smallest affairs, especially, of course, in rural districts. Take the Boards of Guardians, for instance: they are almost exclusively formed of farmers and landed gentry. We may regret the fact, but there is no doubt about it, that many such guardians will carry, perhaps have already carried, their resentment into the board-room. In these days of open meetings and free newspapers, absolute tyranny is out of the question as much as absolute justice, but there is still sufficient liberty of action to enable a man, and more particularly a body of men, to make their ruling ideas felt by those under them. Hitherto the agricultural poor certainly cannot complain of their treatment at the hands of the unions. They have been far more liberally dealt with than the poor inhabitants of towns. They have received, too, an amount of humanity over and above the strict administration of the Poor-law. Allowance has been made, r ten rather illegally, for circumstances. Now as the local ates come chiefly from the land, the guardians must be more than men if they did not feel, under provocation, a degree of inclination to administer strict law, and nothing more nor less, to the applicants. This same system of reprisal has already been carried into effect in districts hundreds of miles remote from the Suffolk lock-out. In most villages there are adherents of the Labourers' Union. Generally the first members are the disagreeable inhabitants—the two or three perpetual grumblers and ne'er-do-wells. They join the Union and become marked men. Perhaps they make themselves peculiarly obnoxious in parish matters, or did so at the late election. They very soon find that employment cannot be found in the parish; no one will give them a job; certain perquisites are cut off; harsh refusals to grant time-honoured privileges follow; finally they find it necessary to migrate, having first of all held themselves up as martyrs in a public cause. It may be said that all this is an argument in favour of agitation, but then it must be remembered that the farmers did not begin the conflict: they made no opposition till what they believed an unbearable pitch of overbearing insolence was reached.

So much for the power of the farmers in small things. The agitators argue that the farmers cannot possibly persist in the lock-out, because their work must be done or they will be ruined. Whether this particular lock-out continues or not, it is certain that this belief is a most mistaken one. The farmers are quite able to repeat or to continue the lock-out, as may suit them best. The reason is obvious: the landlords are at their back. If the tenant finds that he cannot cultivate his fields, and therefore cannot raise the money to pay his rent, the landlord seeing the condition of affairs, and feeling that his interest is identical, has only to remit the rent or part of it, and the struggle may go on indefinitely. The Union agitators are consequently quite in the wrong if they imagine they can coerce the agriculturists, provided that the latter are determined to fight. The funds of the Union are as nothing to the wealth at the back of the farmers; and in these days the cause with the longest purse invariably wins. The two-pence per week of the Unionist is of very little account when placed in the balance with the thousands of pounds accessible to the other side. Every hundred men locked out or on strike, while they in some measure embarrass the farmers, at the same time weaken the Union funds, and just at the very moment when the Union appears strongest, and can show an immense number of men doing nothing, it is really worst off, because of the incessant drain of money. The labourers never for a moment dreamt that the farmers could do without them for so long as they have. They thought that a fortnight, or three weeks at least, would reduce their employers to their own terms. At the first glance there is indeed no trade or occupation in the country which seems to depend so much upon the labouring man as farming. The tenant of a large farm appears perfectly helpless without them. If the strikes or lock-outs had happened some years ago, the labourers would have doubtless been right in their calculations. But it is a notorious fact that while the art of agriculture has been carried to a length never imagined possible formerly, and while the produce has been doubled, the number of men employed has steadily decreased. Without going into statistics, though such aids to inquiry are forthcoming if necessary, it may be fairly reckoned that each farmer on an average employs less men by one-fifth, taking all the year round, than he did ten years since. If the harvest and busy season alone be considered, the decrease is far larger, and may amount to one-third. Machinery has of course a good deal to do with this. The hay is mown by machines, made by machines, elevated on ricks by machines, and the fields cleaned with rakes drawn by horses. The arable farmer ploughs by machinery, sows by machinery, reaps and thrashes by iron and steel instead of thews and sinews. In the aggregate the difference is something serious. The very price of labour has taught the tenant to do his utmost to reduce the expenditure in that direction. Farmers who used to employ six men to mow, now only put on a couple. There is less too of the system of keeping men all the year in order to secure their services at a busy season. Something must be put down to the growing scarcity of labourers themselves, which also tends to teach the tenants to get on with less help. Very few farmers now have sufficient labourers employed on their farms to get through the thrashing. They have to borrow men from their neighbours. The Labourers' Union, therefore, has not taken the farmers so much at a disadvantage as they at first supposed. There were a vast number of old men, past hard work but still capable of small services, who would have been glad of a job, but who found it impossible to get one. Now they come in and assist. Then there are the regular men—the herd-men, carters, shepherds, with cottages and gardens. Many of these are too well paid to risk the loss of their wages. In this way the farmers may manage to get over the harvest without much loss. Another feature of the agriculture of late years has been the number of men and women who come out from the towns to work in the fields, particularly at harvest. In the neighbourhood of large towns, and especially where there are factories, they come out by hundreds. Many of them like a spell of work in the open air, and the women are glad of a chance of adding to their slender incomes. The immense numbers of women and girls who have absolutely nothing to do in great towns, eagerly grasp at a few weeks' employment and fair pay in the harvest fields. In addition there are the loads upon loads of Irish whom the steamers bring over, with their brogue and their sickles, to reap the English corn. A stream of them pours into Bristol and other western ports about June. Harvesting, in fact, becomes every year more and more similar to the Kentish hop-picking season. Instead of being done by the regular residents on the spot, it is got through by what may be called casual labour. The farmers have a certain amount of resources in this floating population.

But then it may be said, with all these aids, still the produce cannot be so large as it would be if the labourers were at work, and there must be loss. For the first year it is doubtful if the loss would be appreciable; there would be some but not much—not enough to lower the receipts of an individual farmer by a serious figure. But next year, if the lock-out and strike and agitation should continue, would of course show some con-

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siderab'e decrease. And upon whom would this fall chiefly? If the landlord and the tenant are agreed, and the former remits his rent, or subscribes heavily, it is clear that the farmer will not suffer. The first to suffer will be the labourers. If the produce is smaller and prices rise, while wages, or rather Union pay, continues at the present 9s. per week, it is obvious that the labourer must partially starve. It matters very little whether the lock-out in Suffolk fails or succeeds. The same thing is nearly sure to occur again and again elsewhere, and each time over a wider area of country. Conceive for an instant what is not at all beyond the regions of probability, the lock-out and strike extended to the greater part of England. The farmers say, "We can wait; we are not dependent upon a certain weekly income of a few shillings!" What would be the consequence? The men must either starve or emigrate. That this is the fact is already practically acknowledged by the Union, which does all in its power to induce the labourers to go to America, or elsewhere abroad. It recognises its own incapacity to keep thousands of men in idleness for any length of time. Again, the pressure of the population, and the demand for food, prove that anything like a general lock-out or strike would be attended with serious consequences; and these consequences must principally fall upon the lower classes who have no resources, no bankers' balance to fall back upon. There is no trade or manufacture the proprietors of which can afford to wait so long as the agriculturist. Farming is naturally a waiting business. Its professors possess the greatest of all powers, the capability of patience. They have no need to hurry. The tone and feeling of the agricultural world at present is in such a condition that a few energetic men in a county could easily form an association for resisting the demands of the Union. The only organisation which now exists in agricultural districts is the very weak and feeble one of the farmers' clubs or chambers, from which politics are excluded, and discussion is confined to the narrow limits of cultivation and subjects associated with it. The very exclusion of politics acts as a sedative, and keeps these chambers in a lukewarm state. There is no enthusiasm, no life about them. But once let an organization be set on foot having for its object the suppression of Union agitation, and the farmers will throw themselves into it with energy and determination. They feel deeply on the matter. Rightly or wrongly, they believe that they have been insolently ill-treated, and held up as monsters of iniquity. This personal feeling would at once give such organizations a cohesive power never before experienced in a society of agriculturists. They will not spare either money, time, or exertion to render their efforts successful. The farming world was probably never so united and unanimous before. It is even possible that the agitation may result in permanent good to them, since it will teach them the strength that lies in unity. Already in parts very distant from that where the lock-out occurred, the idea of sending money in aid of the movement has been mooted and warmly supported. Some think that it would be better to forward men to a lock-out district, who would be willing to work on the terms offered by the employer. The only objection to this is that it might result in a collision between the Union men and the imported labourers. The Union men would certainly have no right to complain. It has long been the policy of the Union to denude a district of men as much as possible in order to force up the rate of wages there. If it is fair to take men away, it is equally fair to the other side to bring bodies of labourers from a distance. As to a collision the police must take charge of that; and it must be remembered that either party commencing a disturbance will at once place itself in the wrong in the eyes of the impartial observers. There can be very little doubt if the movement continues, and is extended to other counties, that the system of sending labourers from one part to another will be put into execution by the farmers. It will be far more efficacious than money. As to the possibility, that is beyond question. There are men enough to be found ready to work for reasonable wages in those districts to which the Union has not thoroughly extended itself, and such districts are well known. There is such a thing possible, too, as importing Irish labour. A well-organised gang of men thoroughly conversant with their work and under proper leaders, could be sent into a disaffected district, and pass on from farm to farm, doing the work as they go. This would answer better than sending a mob of men to spread themselves about and get work as they could. It would be preferable to forward them in companies, officered as it were, with a given extent of country to work over. This concentration of labour would finish the operation in half the time, and would enable the imported men to present a bold front to the labourers on strike, who would scarcely care to attack a strong gang. But would such imported men work for less wages than the rest were out on strike for? The farmers would not stop at a few shillings a week extra to such men. They say that they do not object to the rise of wages; what they object to is the Union. Give up your Union card, and we will not refuse an extra shilling. It is, therefore, quite possible that a body of men from a distance may be found working in the midst of a strike or lock-out, for wages as high as those the locked-out men require, simply because they are non-Unionists. The Union tactics are very bad. They follow a course which must, if persevered in, ultimately bring them to ruin. They deport as many men as possible from a district in which the farmers are obdurate. They employ every agency to induce the men to emigrate. Nothing is left undone to thin the agricultural population. There are two pleas for this course. The first is, that the greater the scarcity of labour, the higher price it will command. The second is one of necessity. They cannot keep so numerous a body on the Union funds; but they should reflect that the larger the number of men who emigrate, by so much do the twopences a week diminish, and that force of any association consists in the numbers of its members. They should let the men on strike or locked-out go on the parish for relief. That would touch the farmers nearest. They all pa local rates, and many very heavily. A sudden increase o paupers would be a sore point indeed. It is true that the theory of the Poor-law is that relief cannot be given to an able-bodied man; but in practice, if an able-bodied man presents himself at the workhouse, and shows that he is utterly destitute and without a penny, the guardians must offer him the house. As a rule they will not relieve him in the house, and his wife and children out or *vice versâ*. Imagine, then, the effect of some thousands of labourers, and their wives and families, applying at the workhouse for relief. The poor-rates must immediately rise to a heavy figure. The Union however, does all in its power to lighten the rates by deporting the men who served to swell them. The Union agitators actually boast in the papers, that since the formation of the Union and the rise in wages, and flow of emigration, the expenditure at the workhouses has decreased one-third, and the poor-rates in equal proportion. Of course they have. The Union has taken the cause of poor-rates—has deported it elsewhere; but this does not injure or embarrass the farmers—it actually relieves them. The tactics of the Union, therefore, are extremely ill-calculated, and their plans for coercing the agriculturist very badly laid. If the Union has succeeded in raising the wages of labourers, and in making England such a paradise for them, how is it that the men emigrate in shoals, and do not stay at home to enjoy the high wages and other advantages the Union has obtained for them? Anyone who will carefully consider the arguments adduced will at once see that the power of the farmers is no imaginary theory; it is a real hard fact which cannot be got over. Every one must deeply regret that the exercise of such a power should ever be necessary; but it must also be admitted that the farmers have been slow to avail themselves of it. Granted that it was quite fair, quite open to the labourers to form an organization for their benefit as a class, then it must also be conceded that the farmers have an equal right to associate together to defend their interest. It must never be forgotten that the farmers did not begin. They did not form their association first, and by injudicious treatment and insolent language force the labourers into a union in their own defence. The labourers commenced the agitation, and the farmers did not retaliate for a long period of time. It is at least two years since the Union made itself notorious; it is only after two years that the farmers show any signs of combination and resistance. They did not refuse an increase of wages. They did not give way to their tempers, however much they may have been provoked. They remained quiet, waiting for the agitation to subside. What substantial point is there that the most passionate unionist can say that farmers denied their men up to this spring? They have shown an amount of patience and forbearance which no other business men in the kingdom would have shown. Neither the colliery owners, nor the ironmasters, nor the cotton-mill men—none of the great trades would have waited so long. The extreme agitators are to blame for forcing matters to such a crisis. They would

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be wise if they counselled moderation; but at what stage of the whole affair have they ever counselled that? Who began the affray? No one can say it was the farmers. The labourers at this period of the movement cannot complain if their own measures are returned upon them. The worst feature of the case is that the labourers seem completely in the hands of the agitators, to do as they are bid, and go as sheep to the slaughter. Ill-educated, ignorant, and prejudiced, they take every statement made to them by their so-called friends as literally true. They have no power of criticism—no penetration to distinguish the facts from the fictions. They take it all on trust; just as they start from Liverpool on the ocean-going steamers with the most dim and visionary ideas of the land they are about to visit. Whether it be honourable of educated and well-informed men such as certain leaders of the agitation are, to take advantage of their simplicity, the world can decide for itself. What may occur in time is, of course, not to be foreseen; but it must be admitted on all hands that hitherto the conduct of the labourers has been wonderfully good. Whether congregated in immense numbers, listening to the inflammatory harangues of the Union orators, or slowly spelling out in solitude the broad hints of the Union paper of rick burning and "beacon fires," they have ever remained quiet, peaceable, and orderly. It is doubtful if any other section of the population under the same circumstances would so long have continued well behaved. They are a rude lot, primitive in their ideas, prejudiced in the extreme, blunt and coarse in their expressions; but they are not "roughs." That expressive word must be confined to the produce of the back streets of great cities. The agricultural labourer, rude as he may be, is no "rough." There is nothing of the rowdy about him. He has not been induced to commit any excesses which present the faintest resemblance to a civil war. The question remains, Is there no hope of real good from arbitration? Arbitration certainly seems the natural outcome from such a state of things. The doubt is whether the Unionists, as represented by the agents, will ever cordially accept any decision which does not endorse all their demands. In that case, of course, the attempt must fail. Putting the agents aside, if that were possible, then without hesitation it may be affirmed that the labourers would soon come to terms of their own accord. If it were possible to get at the men apart from their organization, it may be asserted that arbitration would be successful. The farmers, as men of education, and many of them men of position, would not hold out in the face of public opinion, provided that no ultra demands were made upon them. But, on the whole, there is little reliance to be put on arbitration. It may decide a lock-out here and a strike there, but it does not, and cannot, settle the question. There will still remain a feeling on both sides ready to break out. It may even be asked whether or no the best way, after all, is to let the affair come to an issue and decide itself. With that, however, the subject of the present article has little to do. The aim of the moment was to show that the farmers are possessed of immense, if unrecognised, power. In the face of such facts, which on consideration no one can doubt, it may reasonably enough be questioned whether those are the true friends of the labourer who urge him to persist in courses which embitter the two classes more and more. At the same time, conscious of this power, the farmers need not continue their measures till they force a victory. They can afford to accept fair terms without loss of dignity or prestige.—MR. RICHARD JEFFERIES in *The Fortnightly Review*.

CLUBS FOR WORKING MEN.

At the last meeting of the Newbury Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. F. E. Frampton in the chair,

The Rev. JOHN ADAMS read the following paper: The subject which I have now the pleasure of introducing to your notice may, I fear, be thought somewhat inopportune, on the ground that current events do not encourage employers to discuss schemes for the promotion of working men's social welfare. But however strongly such a feeling might naturally prevail in many districts, it can have no force in this neighbourhood, for the old cordial relations between masters and men have been but little interrupted amongst us, and there is not, I am sure, a member of this Chamber who does not heartily wish to promote the happiness and prosperity of the farm labourer, in every way that he can reasonably be expected to do. I need hardly say to such an audience as I now address, that there is great room for improvement in the social condition of the working classes generally, and that low wages are not the only, and, in many cases not the chief hindrance to their happiness and prosperity. Anyone who has lived and laboured amongst the poor must have seen that their earnings however scanty they may be, are sometimes sadly wasted, and that frequently every farthing which is not imperatively demanded for the necessity of bare existence, finds its way to the nearest beershop. The causes of this improvidence are no doubt numerous and complicated; but amongst them one of the most prominent is, I believe, the scarcity of wholesome places of recreation for the working man. In many country villages the beershop is the only place of refuge open for him outside the walls of his own cottage. If he wants to make himself acquainted with the current news of the day, or to smoke his pipe with a friend, or to escape from the discomfort which must sometimes be inevitable in a small apartment scantily furnished, badly ventilated, and not unfrequently crowded with children, where is he to go but to the beershop? and once there he must drink as a matter of course. In no other way can he pay for the accommodation of the place. To provide that accommodation the landlord has to incur considerable expense. He is obliged to occupy a larger house than his family requires, to pay a licence as well as rent, to keep up a cheerful fire all through the long winter evenings, to purchase furniture specially required for the business, and to get up a variety of amusements to suit the tastes of his customers. Every man therefore who crosses the threshold is clearly under an obligation to contribute towards the support of the establishment. But the mischief is that instead of merely paying an equitable charge for the accommodation, custom requires him to swallow some stimulant, whether he needs it or not, at double the price for which it might be purchased elsewhere. Now, if this system could go on without injury to the condition of the working man, no one would have any right to interfere with it on his account. But it is notorious that such is not the case. The harmless attractions that lure him to the taproom pave the way to a vicious waste of money in drink, and many a man who at first innocently seeks them to escape from the misery of his own home, or because, like every other human being, he has at times a craving for social intercourse and amusement, gradually adopts the tone and custom of the place, and, almost before he is aware of it, acquires the habit of drinking, and becomes a confirmed tippler. Such, I am perfectly certain, is the process by which working men all over the country are brought under the bondage of the beershops, and dragged down to the lowest depths of poverty and degradation. Remedies in abundance have been tried to counteract this mischief, and they have all, no doubt, worked a certain amount of good; but still the drinking goes on, and in most of our villages where there is a keen struggle for custom between rival beer-shops of a low character, the agencies which are commonly employed to check intemperance, have but little influence, and seldom touch inveterate drunkards. A few of the most intelligent frequenters of the taproom may, for a time, be attracted, and kept in sobriety by night schools, penny readings, lectures, and such like institutions. A drunkard, too, may here and there be reclaimed by teetotal vows or Good Templar Clubs, but experience proves that none of these useful agencies can lay hold of the masses of the poor, and save them on any large scale, from the bane of the beer and liquor traffic. The reason of this comparative failure lies, I believe, in the fact that sellers of intoxicating drink have been allowed to monopolise two things which the working man thinks essential to his happiness, namely, rooms where he may meet his fellow men for talk and recreation, and the supply of beer by retail. No institution which philanthropists may set up for the improvement of the working classes is likely to take firm hold of them, and maintain its ground against the temptations of tippling shops, unless it offers those two advantages—beer and amusement. Whether they are intrinsically the greatest boons we can bestow or not, is a ques-

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tion upon which there may be great divergence of opinion, but with regard to their universal attractiveness and popularity, there can be no doubt. Say what we will against drinking intoxicating beverages, the working man will not abandon his beer; and provide educational agencies for him ever so cheap and advantageous, he will still, generally speaking, prefer a game at bagatelle, or a gossip about the last sensational police news. After a long and monotonous day's work, it is not much to be wondered at that such should be the case. Perhaps some who lament his bad taste would have the same proclivities, if they were obliged to toil all day long in a field, oftentimes alone, and come home in the evening dull and jaded, to a scanty and somewhat uninvigorating supper. When a man seeks to hook a shy or sluggish fish, he takes care to offer him a tempting bait. On the same principle, in trying to elevate the poor, we must adapt our schemes—so far as we can do so honestly and safely—to their tastes and habits, otherwise our efforts, however zealous they may be, will be only like casting pearls before swine. What the labourers really want, especially in our villages, is a social club, possessing all the innocent charms of the beerhouse, apart from its contaminations. Such an institution would give them opportunities of spending their leisure hours together without being subject to the necessity of drinking, and of procuring wholesome beer at a cheap rate when they require it, under such restrictions as would prevent excess. Clubs of this character, although as yet but little known in this county, have been rapidly springing up in our large towns, and in some country districts for many years past. At the present time there are at least 700 in England, and the aggregate number of their members is not less than 100,000. The aim of all those institutions is to provide for the poor advantages similar to those which London West End Clubs provide for the wealthy. They have their reading rooms well supplied with newspapers, their rooms for conversation, games, and smoking; their refreshment bars, some under total abstinence restrictions, and others furnished with the ordinary excisable beverages sold in a public-house. In addition to those attractions, some of them have classes for teaching singing, drawing, and modern languages, whilst most of them comprise such institutions as coal clubs and penny banks. As no licence is required for retailing beer or any other articles to the members, and as everything is supplied at prime cost, the economical benefit of those clubs is considerable. On beer, *e.g.*, the saving is equal to the expenditure, a pint costing just half the price charged for it by the publican. To facilitate their formation and maintenance, a central institution has been established in London, called "The Workmen's Club and Institute Union," which forms a medium of communication between men of all ranks who are interested in the well-being of the lower classes, sends out lecturers, disseminates pamphlets, supplies information and rules, and makes loans of suitable books. Any Workman's Club may be affiliated to this Central Union on payment of 5s., and thereupon become entitled to the use of the Society's Circulating Library, and other advantages. To the value of this agency in the infancy of a Club, I can myself bear personal testimony. Its publications, and still more the counsel of its energetic vice-chairman (Mr. Hodgson Pratt) were of much help to me in starting a club at Stockcross, and I am sure that anyone who purposes setting up a similar institution will do well to have recourse at the outset to the guidance of the Central Union. Difficulties as a matter of course cannot fail to arise in attempting to establish such an agency; and as I have spoken of its benefits it is but fair that I should allude to the obstacles which it has to encounter. First and foremost is the apathy of the poor to all schemes for the improvement of their habits. Everyone who has laboured in their behalf must have often been discouraged by the indifference, and not unfrequently by the distrust, with which they regard efforts made by others for enlightening and elevating their minds. Perhaps this disposition has in a great degree been engendered by ignorance, and sometimes by the degredation into which they have been suffered to live, and if so, it should rather be regarded as a misfortune than a fault. But worse than the apathy of the poor is the active opposition which those clubs at their commencement receive from beersellers. Every conceivable weapon that can be used to prevent their success is sure to be employed against them, by those whose prosperity depends upon the drinking habits of the people. Exceptions no doubt there are to such antagonism, and one or two have come under my own notice; but generally speaking, I regret to say, brewers and publicans too often meet our efforts to restrain the tippling propensities of the poor in the spirit of Demetrius, the silversmith of Ephesus, who, seeing that his craft was in danger, maligned the Apostle, and stirred up the people to shout "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." The brewing interest, as it is called, is unquestionably a great power in the country, and it takes care from time to time to let us know that no individual can with impunity interfere with its traffic; but the time has come when every Christian man who cares for the well-being of his country should fearlessly lift up his voice against the demon of drink. Its ravages are literally appalling. Our gaols, workhouses, and asylums are filled with its victims. It counteracts all our efforts for the elevation and refinement of the masses. It weakens the moral and physical energies of the nation. It frustrates to a great extent the work of Christ's church. But, argues the beerseller, we have no wish that men should ruin themselves with drink; why should we be blamed? If they tipple too much the fault is their own, and not ours. Now admitting, for the sake of argument, that the fault is entirely in the customer, and not at all in the seller, we should still be warranted in restricting this traffic in a way that we restrict no other; for its abuses bring heavy burdens upon us. When illness befalls the poor man who wastes his evenings in drink, he throws himself upon the rates. When he commits some crime in a drunken brawl, he must be clothed and fed at our expense in prison, and when he dies we have to bury him, and to provide for his destitute family; so that as ratepayers and taxpayers, we may fairly insist upon the proper regulation of a business which brings such loss upon us, and endeavour to shut up every beershop that is not imperatively needed. In so doing, cases of hardship to individuals engaged in the trade, must, no doubt, sometimes occur; but their justification, if they need any, is that no private interests whatever can be allowed to override the welfare of the public. Where facilities for drinking have been forced upon the poor in excess of their requirements, as in the case in my own parish, which has nine beershops and licensed victuallers for a population of less than nine hundred inhabitants, the reduction of the number is the most efficient way to promote temperance; for it is notorious that drink-shops develop habits of drinking, just as gaming tables encourage gambling; and it is equally certain that the speediest method of drying up those sources of intemperence is to cut off their supplies, by drawing their customers into an association such as I have described. The attractions which a club of this character presents are so manifest that they outweigh any amount of opposition on the part of the publicans. As an illustration of this I may say, that in the teeth of the nine public-houses just mentioned, and with the disadvantage of a very inadequate room, a social club was started six months ago at Stockcross, which now comprises no less than 94 working men, and that the leisure hours of those men during the long winter evenings were spent in innocent recreation, in place of tipping at the beershops. Abstinence from beer has not, it is true, been required of them. On the contrary, they have been allowed to procure it direct from the brewer for their own consumption in the club-room, but it has been under such conditions as to render drunkenness and intemperance impossible; and to show how conducive to moderation such a society is, and how little the working man is disposed to waste his money in beer, if he can be kept from the beershop, I may state this striking fact, that although the quantity of beer allowed to be drunk by each member of the club has been two pints every evening, it is found that the quantity consumed has not averaged one pint, and that the expenditure has been less than five farthings a day for each customer. Let me add, also another fact not less noteworthy. Since the establishment of the club, the village policeman has not heard of a single row in the village, nor apprehended one drunken man, although hardly a week previously elapsed without cases of drunkenness and disorder coming under his notice. To use his own words, "The club seems to have taken away his occupation in the village." One difficulty more in establishing these clubs I will touch upon, if I may do so without occupying too much of your time. At the outset there must be a greater expenditure than working men can afford. Two rooms are required—one for smoking and amusement, and another for reading; a bagatelle board, too, with plenty of other games, is essential. There should also be suitable furniture, and a small stock of books. With such apparatus, a club in almost any country village might be made wellnigh, if not altogether, self-supporting. But how are the preliminary expenses to be met? In my own case the resident squire, Sir R. Sutton, has, unsolicited, under-

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taken to build, not merely a couple of rooms, but a clubhouse, comprising apartments for a superintendent and all requisite accommodation for the members. Is it too much to hope that wealthy landowners generally will exerise similar munificence, or, at all events, that they will take the lead in providing and furnishing club-rooms for their peasantry wherever they are needed? By so doing they would not only cheer and brighten the leisure moments of the labourer's life, but would save him from temptations, which now commonly lead him to ruin. And it is not the men alone that are benefited by these institutions. They are a blessing also to their wives and children. Many a poor woman in my own parish, who has been accustomed to see her husband come home drunk and penniless from the beer-shop—an object almost of dread and loathing to his family—can now welcome his returning footstep with joy, and speak of the blessed change that has come over him since he joined the club. Nothing that I have ever done for the poor has called forth warmer thanks than the labourers' wives have given me for setting up this institution. Many a time have they made this remark, "The club, sir, is the best thing that ever was done for Stockcross." In conclusion, allow me to say that the growing prosperity of the working classes does not in the least degree exonerate us from taking an active interest in their moral and social welfare; on the contrary, it should increase our anxiety and concern on their behalf, for the improvement which is going on in their wages will be a bane rather than a blessing to themselves, and to the country at large, unless it is accompanied by habits of providence and sobriety. The feature which is to my mind by far the most alarming in the Labourers' Union movement is not the strike nor the look-out, but the disruption of sympathy, and the class antagonism which are springing out of the agitation. Disputes about wages soon right themselves, and are often adjusted to the mutual benefit of both parties; but if a chasm is made in their old friendly relations, it will not be so easily bridged over, and cannot fail to become a mutual calamity. Money is not the only element essential to the labourer's well being. He needs also our personal help and guidance, to raise him from the low habits and social degradation in which he too frequently lives. After long years of indifference the country is beginning to see the expediency, as well as the duty, of insisting that no child shall be allowed to grow up in ignorance; but experience proves that social and moral safeguards are required for men as well as for their children; and I know of none more likely to save the poor from the snares which encompass them, than such institutions as I have ventured to commend to your notice.

The Rev. Geo. R. Portal, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Adams, said that in starting clubs of this kind it was desirable that the men themselves should have the control and management of the institutions, believing that working people disliked being petted, and did not care to be patronised by other classes. He felt that there was no question as to the advantage of such clubs, and the only difficulty which appeared to present itself was as to the way in which they were to be started? The Church of England Temperance Society had considerable funds in hand, and if the committee could be induced to grant loans for a time, to enable clubs to be started where that could not be done entirely by local efforts, much good would no doubt result.

The vote of thanks was passed unanimously, and Mr. Adams, in replying, said he very much doubted whether the Church of England Temperance Society could be induced to grant loans as Mr. Portal has suggested, seeing that the consumption of beer was permitted at these clubs, but the Central Club in London might possibly afford pecuniary help for such a purpose.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual dinner took place on Wednesday, June 10, at the London Tavern, when close upon 100 were present; Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., in the chair.

After the usual loyal toasts,

The Chairman: I have now the honour of proposing the t oast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution." Of all the agricultural societies and institutions in this great country I am confident that this Society, if it does not do the most good, certainly relieves the greatest amount of distress. It was always a matter of wonder to me in times gone by that, considering how precarious the occupation of the agriculturist is, how it depends on the fluctuations of the seasons, and how many accidents and misfortunes are almost sure to fall to the lot of those who cultivate the soil, there had not been some benevolent institution to provide for the wants of those who in old age or misfortune might stand in need of the help it could afford. It was only, I believe, fourteen years ago that this Society was started, and who could then have believed that in that brief interval it would have grown to the magnificent proportions it has now assumed? I do not mean to say that we have done all we might or should have done, but I do say, having regard to the statement put into my hands, that we ought to be thankful for the good we have accomplished, and that we must hope to do a great deal more. I find that we have upon the list of those who are recipients of the aid afforded by this Society at the present moment no fewer than 297 annuitants, who are in receipt of a total sum of £6,386 per annum. On the 24th of this month we shall proceed to the election of 66 more annuitants, who will receive annually a gross sum of £1,380, making a total of 363 annuitants receiving yearly £7,776. I say, therefore that we have reason to be proud of having accomplished this result in so short a space of time. But when I look down the list of counties from which we derive our subscriptions, I am surprised at the indifference—I might say the neglect—with which this Society is treated in some parts of the kingdom. I cannot believe that Cornwall is so far distant but that that great mining and agricultural county might, if it pleased, contribute something towards the funds of the society and receive something from its beneficence. I cannot believe, also that, although agriculture is so advanced in the northern counties, and especially in Northumberland, there are no cases in that part of the country that require relief, and that there are no kind and honest hearts that would contribute to the funds of this institution if asked to do so. I see that in the home counties and in the eastern counties the society is, as a rule, well supported, and I know that the suggestion has been made that instead of our anniversary meeting being always held in London, it would be as well to try whether we could not do something more by going into remote districts and endeavouring to stir up the latent feelings of humanity and benevolence which have been so slow to develope themselves in those out-of-the-way parts of the country. I was, only a few minutes ago in the House of Commons, and an hon. member there said to me as I was about to leave—"I understand that you are going to preside at the Agricultural Benevolent Institution. I really cannot believe that there will be much call for the funds of that institution in future, in consequence of the very high rate of agricultural produce" (laughter). I may here say that a friend on my left has just told me an anecdote that is worth repeating. When he helped to rock the cradle of this institution a noble lord said to him, he did not think there was in this country such a thing as a farmer who would be glad to receive in his declining years a pension of £25 a-year; and, strange to say, the very first person who applied to him for his vote for one of our pensions, was the sister of that noble lord—not, of course, for herself, but for some unfortunate tenant in whom she was deeply interested. It seems to me that a great number of people who live outside the agricultural world as well as a great number of those who are supposed to belong to it really do not know the trials, vicissitudes, and misfortunes to which the farmers are subject. In the first place I would say that I think we, as agriculturists, must acknowledge that however great and paramount our interest was in times gone by in this country, it is certainly declining when you come to compare it with the prosperity and activity of other industries. Twenty-five or thirty years ago no interest was so successful, no interest so powerful, no interest so generally acknowledged as the leading interest of the country as was the agricultural interest; but if at the present moment you happen to cast your eyes over the country at large

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you cannot fail to see—and you know that what I am stating is correct—that the manufacturing, the commercial, and trading communities of this great country have risen and progressed on a scale altogether superior to that which has characterised the agricultural interest. Although our prices may be high, our expenses have so increased that in the long run we find that our profits are much smaller than they were. I will say this—that during the last ten years we have passed through, notwithstanding the favourable balance-sheet from Tiptree, and the remarkable reports of great produce that have been written to the newspapers, and indicted from railway-carriages—(laughter)—notwithstanding all that has been said about the advancement of agriculture, we have not had throughout the United Kingdom an average crop of corn in any one of those years. You may take the years 1868 and 1870—and you know that in those years we grew great crops of wheat—but it is well known that in those years the spring corn was peculiarly deficient, and we had also during those years long and terrible droughts, such as have been the ruin of many of our farmers. It should also be remembered that in those ten years we have had the cattle plague, we have had all sorts of contagious and infectious diseases ravaging our flocks and herds, and, what is worse, we do not seem as if we were going to get rid of them. If I were to take a brief retrospect of the history of agriculture in Parliament during the same period, I do not think I should find very much that we need congratulate ourselves upon. When I first entered Parliament we were a certain privileged class, who were in the enjoyment of certain exemptions; but since then all those privileges have been abolished and all those exemptions from taxation have been done away with. I for one do not complain for a moment of this; the only thing I say is that I fancy the time has arrived when the British farmer ought to claim at the hands of the British Legislature something like fairness and justice. Some of our exemptions have been done away with by the duties from which we were exempt being abolished altogether. Take the two cases of horses and fire insurance—both of them admirable things. Those duties have been got rid of, and at the same time they were both taxes to which the farmer contributed next to nothing. Then we have had the small dog-tax, from which we were previously free, imposed upon us, and as if it was necessary to add something by which the farmer could be victimised for searing away birds from his crops, we have all to pay the gun-tax. The one shilling duty on foreign corn has been repealed. Sir Robert Peel described it simply as a registration fee, but it had amounted to nearly a million of money before it was abolished, and I do not know who is the better for the abolition—certainly the farmers are not (Hear, hear). Again, if you take the way in which the farming interest has been dealt with in regard to free trade in corn, what were we promised when the Corn-laws were abolished? We were told that we should have less foreign trade, not only in wheat but also in barley, and that the Malt-tax should be abolished. But now we find that not only the Government, whichever party may be in power, not only the predominant party in Parliament, but the whole country, appears to be set against the farmer on this point, and that our chance of getting what we were promised in the shape of the abolition of the Malt Duty is more remote than ever. If there is one kind of grain we can produce better than another it is barley. We can compete with all the world in that, and yet we are told that the imposition of a tax of 50 or 60 per cent. on that commodity in the first stage of its manufacture is no great impediment to its growth and cultivation. I do not wish to dilate on this any further than to say that when people come and tell us that the abolition of the Horse-tax, which was something like 1 per cent. on the value of the horse, would stimulate the breed of horses, surely we may say on the other hand, that a reduction of the Malt-tax would be a sensible gratuity to the farmer. Now, when we come to free-trade in cattle, what do we find? One would have fancied that if we had free-trade in cattle we should at least be protected from foreign disease; but that is not the case, and whereas the high prices that have prevailed are doubtless due in a great degree to the increased consumption of meat, I contend that a very great portion of this is due in the first instance to the untoward seasons we have lately passed through, especially in the great droughts of 1868 and 1870, and in the next, and in a still larger degree, to the way in which our flocks and herds have been ravaged by contagious and infectious diseases. With regard to prospective legislation, I want to know what help the tenant-farmer is likely to receive in his struggles? First of all we have the question of Tenant-Right, and when the tenant-farmers of England simply say that they desire to have their capital which they have embarked in the cultivation of the soil protected by law, we are asked this question, even in chambers of agriculture, "Are you, the independent and patriotic farmers of England, going to class yourselves with women and Irish cotters and lunatics?" One would naturally suppose that it was the duty of the State to protect the capital of the tenant-farmer as well as the property of any other class of people, and here I would draw a comparison between the statement that was made some twelve months ago by a noble lord who occupied this chair, and who said that in his great agricultural county there are only two recipients of the benefits of this institution. I believe that Tenant-Right extensively prevails in Lincolnshire, and it seems to me that as far as decayed farmers are concerned, Tenant-Right does not manufacture them to any great extent, at least, there. But I turn to my own county, where, unfortunately, Tenant-Right does not exist, and there I find that we have no fewer than 70 recipients of the bounty of this institution, and I say that some of this is due to the insecurity of the tenant's capital. I will touch lightly on the question of game. It is a ticklish subject, and I do not wish to enter into it further than to say that it is the opinion of one of the highest judicial authorities in the land that it is so remarkable a thing for the landlords to give their tenants the right to kill rabbits, that when in one instance this right was given on the eve of a general election, the landlord who gave it had to suffer the loss of his seat. With regard to a question which agitates the mind of the Scottish farmers so much, and on which they appear to be so unanimous—I refer to the question of hypothec, or, as it is called in England, the law of distress—that seems to me to be a matter that is likely to be solved by Parliament sooner than the other questions to which I have referred. And here I would say that, however much the abolition of the Law of Hypothec may benefit the large farmers and the great capitalists, I fear it will not be very much in favour of those poor farmers, those small men who are on the verge of ruin, and that if we do repeal the law, whatever else may happen, I am quite sure of this—the funds of this institution will be called upon just as much as ever. I have put these things before you just to show those who happen to be outside the agricultural world, and who do not understand it, that there is not only great, but increasing need for institutions like this. It has been said over and over again of the farmers of England that although we live well we die poor, and in the future as well as in the past I believe we shall still prove the truth of this old agricultural maxim. I say that as far as regards the farming interest there is greater need than ever of the increased exertions of our Agricultural Benevolent Institution for the augmentation of its funds. I know of nothing more harassing than to read over the list of the unfortunate applicants for the annuities of this Society. It has been said, with great truth, that every farmer who at the close of the day cannot bring to his mind this fact that he has done something to make those about him happier and better than they were in the morning has not fulfilled his duty to his neighbour. I say that those who neglect to subscribe to the funds of this institution do not do their duty to their neighbour. It is some consolation to those who have supported this institution to feel that they have been a comfort and a solace to the declining years of many a deserving individual. I am sure that the founder of this institution must feel this comfort and solace in his declining years—although I am happy to say that he does not seem to be declining at present, as he is still in possession of that health and vigour we have all been accustomed to see him enjoy for so many years, and it will be a source of gratification to all the subscribers to know that they have been doing good to their unfortunate brethren while this Society has gone on increasing and relieving an amount of affliction which perhaps few similar societies have been enabled to alleviate (cheers).

A list of donations and subscriptions was here read. These included £25 (annual) from the Queen, 10 gs. (annual) from the Prince of Wales, 10 gs. from Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., 20 gs. from the Drapers' Company, 20 gs. from the Vintner's

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Company, and 10 gs. from Mr. J. E. Curtis—the total amounting to £6,700.

Mr. C. WREN HOSKYNS, in proposing the Chairman said he felt great pleasure in having to speak of an old friend whose life had been closely connected with agriculture, and who had rendered great service to it. He first had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Read at a country meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society. He could not remember what show it was, but he recollected that Mr. Read was engaged in the implement department, and he might add that in consequence of that his own labours as a steward were very light. On the next occasion that he met him he was again in the implement department of the same society, and he could not help saying that they were deeply indebted to Mr. Read for the rapid progress of improvements in the implements used in agriculture in England. There was hardly any other department of English enterprise which had done so much to benefit not merely this country, but almost every country in Europe, or in which such large fortunes had been amassed—he would say deservedly amassed—in the wonderful development of skill in mechanism. He next came in contact with the Chairman while he (Mr. Wren Hoskyns) was acting as one of the editors of the *Journal* of the Royal Agricultural Society, in which capacity he found that while Mr. Read had done, and was doing, so much out of doors, he was also rendering great service to agriculture indoors with his pen (cheers). He then had the pleasure of reading in manuscript some of the most interesting articles from the pen of the Chairman ever written on agricultural subjects, and he might say of Mr. Read that he had shown that it was possible to be eloquent on such topics. He next had the pleasure of meeting him at a gathering of the civil engineers of the country, the deep interest which he had taken in agricultural engineering having led to his presence on that occasion. It was then that he first had the pleasure of seeing him with the addition of M.P. to his name, and he could truly say of him that no man ever bore honours which had come thick upon him in a more easy or modest manner (cheers). They had had the misfortune to sit on opposite sides in the House of Commons, but though their politics differed he had seldom heard Mr. Read say anything with regard to agriculture in which he did not concur. He next saw him as the President of the Chamber of Agriculture—an office which he showed thorough capacity to fill, and he believed the Chamber had never been more successful than it was during the year that he presided over it. Mr. Read had lately been entrusted with the highest point ever attained by a tenant-farmer in this country—an important office in the Government (cheers). That elevation seemed not to have changed his character in the least, or to have engendered anything like conceit; and it was pleasant to be able to say of him that never in his life had he been known to turn his back on a friend, whether he was an old or a new one. It was one of the misfortunes of those who rose to such positions as that now occupied by the Chairman, that they were liable to hear a great deal said about their merits by others, including old friends. That was the first time in his life that he had ever had the pleasure of proposing Mr. Read's health, and he could truly say that there was not one word of exaggeration in what he had uttered with regard to him (cheers). When a man had been raised in consequence of the abilities which he had displayed in a high official position, he must discharge his duties with the most absolute impartiality, every Englishman and every class of Englishmen being alike to him officially. That was a necessary condition of official life in connection with the Government. It had placed Mr. Read in a rather trying position, and he (Mr. Wren Hoskyns) would ask that gentleman's old friends, his farming friends, his political friends, and particularly those who thought they had special claims upon him on account of the past, not to expect him to do more than he had a right to do in his capacity as a member of the Government, and to remember that special interests must be subordinated, as it were, to the general interests of the whole country. They ought not to feel surprised if he were not able to pay to as much attention as some had expected him to pay to the interests of agriculture, seeing that he was responsible for the proper discharge of the duties of his office in relation to the whole kingdom (cheers).

The toast having been drunk very cordially,

The CHAIRMAN, in returning thanks, said he felt deeply indebted to all present for the kind manner in which the toast had been received. His friend, Mr. Wren Hoskyns, had in proposing it revived pleasant memories, which were almost obliterated. It was most gratifying to him that that toast had been proposed by the author of *Talpa*, the most classical book on agriculture ever written, and one which had clothed even the dull life of the tenant-farmer with features of pleasurable excitement. He heartily thanked his friend for the closing words of his speech. Among the pleasant associations connected with the responsibilities of his new official position there was this drawback—that some of his friends, his agricultural friends particularly, fancied that he was shirking his duty, and neglecting their interests. He hoped that what had fallen from his friend Mr. Hoskyns would teach them to be a little charitable, and to make all due allowances for one who, having accepted a responsible post, was bound, as a good soldier, to know and carry out the requirements of discipline and duty. Certain duties which devolved upon him in his present position were extremely pleasant. He liked his work; he was well "contented with his wages" (laughter); he esteemed his colleagues; he found the officials of his office to be hardworking, zealous, and able public servants; but he must confess that when he went into the House of Commons a certain reticence that was imposed upon him was a serious drawback to his satisfaction. Let him inform his friends, however, and particularly his agricultural friends, that whatever he could do for the cause of the farmer he would do (cheers). Although he had the honour to hold a position which he believed no other tenant-farmer ever had held, though he held an important, if subordinate, office in the Government of the country, he could never forget the claims of those to whom he belonged, and to whom he owed indirectly his present position (cheers). In conclusion he must express his satisfaction at finding in the list of donations just read that a great many persons whom he termed "outsiders" were liberal contributors to an institution founded for the benefit of unfortunate persons connected with farming in England.

The Marquis of HUNTLEY, in proposing "The Agricultural Societies of England, Ireland, and Scotland," alluded to the great services which those institutions had rendered to agriculture. He did not agree with the Chairman that agriculture had decreased in importance relatively to manufactures; on the contrary, he felt certain it was as great and as powerful as ever. As regarded the Chairman's own career, he saw no reason why he should not yet be a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, and he thought agriculturists had great reason to rejoice that they had such an able representative of their views in the Government (cheers). The noble Marquis concluded by associating with the toast the name of Mr. Mechi, whom he eulogised for his enterprise as an agriculturist and as the chief founder of that institution.

Mr. MECHI, in responding, said he felt very much gratified at the growth and success of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution—an institution which had done much to mitigate the distress of a class who, generally speaking, could hardly be considered responsible for the position to which they were reduced. Manufacturers were not, like farmers, subject to the sad effects of blight and drought and the vicissitudes of seasons. In that respect agriculture was at a disadvantage as compared with the general industries of the country. In other respects, however, the position of agriculture was much better than it was a hundred years ago. Steam had changed everything, and if agriculturists availed themselves of it as much as manufacturers had done they would, he believed, be more prosperous and have more money for that institution (cheers). There was not less than 1,800 millions of capital represented in the land and agriculture of this country, and he believed agriculture might still be regarded as the most important interest in the country (cheers).

Sir JOHN MORRIS proposed "The Executive Council," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. Charles S. Cantrell.

Mr. CANTRELL said in that institution they knew nothing of politics. At one anniversary the chair was taken by Earl Spencer; at another the foremost man of the day, Mr. Disraeli, occupied that position (cheers). The Council resolved many years ago that they would not dabble in bricks and mortar, and to that principle they had firmly adhered. Three or four years ago Lord Sondes suggested that they should if possible increase the amount of the pensions; but the Council, after giving that suggestion the most careful consideration, thought it better to increase the number of

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pensions. They had been told by the Chairman how many pensioners were on the funds of the benevolent institution, but he had not told them this further important fact—that during the last fourteen years they had given 400 pensions, and that there were now no less than 246 candidates for the 66 additional pensions that were shortly to be granted. They would never have been able to do what they had done had it not been for the valuable aid of the honorary local secretaries.

Mr. J. K. Fowler suggested that with the view of increasing the income of the Society there should be a special appeal made at all the market tables in the country at the beginning of October in every year, and spoke of the great benefit derived from the Commercial Travellers' Schools through an annual appeal to travellers in all parts of the country.

The Chairman said he had in his previous remarks purposely avoided the labour question, but he could not help observing that in the county which he had the honour to represent—Norfolk, since the formation of that Society the wages of the labourers had advanced fully 50 per cent., and that if that rate of increase were to continue the funds of the association would not suffice to meet the cases which would arise.

Mr. Mechi: You must use more steam.

The Chairman: Even the steam would not protect farmers against everything.

The remaining toasts included the Secretary and the Honorary Local Secretaries, for whom Mr. Frank Sherbon answered.

THE ULSTER TENANT-RIGHT BILL.

BY AN EAST ESSEX FARMER.

Of the four bills for the amendment and extension of the Irish Land Act that were on the list of orders of the day for second reading on Friday week, but none of which were discussed owing to the time taken up by the debate on the Intoxicating Liquor Bill, Mr. Butt's Ulster Tenant-Right Bill is by far the most comprehensive. Indeed the present title of the bill is too narrow to give an adequate idea of its contents; but in the first clause it is stated that if the bill passes it may be cited as the "Land Act (Ireland) 1874." It not only defines the principles of the Ulster Custom, which was only imperfectly legalized by the Act of 1870, and proposes to extend those principles to the rest of Ireland, but also in some important respects amends other portions of that Act. Although, as appears from discussions upon the bill that have recently taken place in Ireland, it fails to give complete satisfaction to the more advanced of the Irish tenants, it will probably be considered by our Conservative House of Commons as a somewhat "revolutionary" measure, and it is undoubtedly a bold and uncompromising attempt to deal with a difficult problem.

Mr. Butt has divided his bill into four parts, which we propose to describe in their order, without, however, entering into the particulars of every clause, but only giving the gist of the principal provisions.

Part I. is headed, "Provisions for better securing the Ulster Custom of Tenant-Right," and aims at legalizing and more strictly defining what Irish tenants term the Ulster Custom in its integrity. This part of the bill, then, proposes: 1. To extend the operation of the Ulster Custom to every holding proved to be subject to it, whether that holding be agricultural or not. 2. To declare illegal all newly made (less than 40 years old) estate rules in limitation of the tenant's power to dispose of the goodwill of his holding for the highest price which he can obtain for it either by private contract or in the open market. 3. To decide in the negative the disputed point whether leases can abrogate the custom. 4. To define the limits of the landlord's power of objecting to accept a purchaser of the Tenant-Right of a farm as his tenant. 5. To define the Ulster Custom to be the custom as it existed 40 years ago, except in cases in which it came into practice within that period. 6. To declare that in every district in which the custom is proved to prevail generally, the *presumption* shall be that every individual holding is subject to it.

Part II. is entitled, "Provisions for better securing the compensations provided by the Land Act," and proposes: 1. That a new lease or agreement, a change of tenancy, or an addition to or diminution of the area of the holding shall not be deemed an interruption of the continuity of the tenant's title to compensation under the Land Act. 2. That in any agreement for a shorter term than a lease of 31 years, consent on the part of the tenant to contract out of the Act shall not be valid, unless it can be shown to have been made for valuable considerations. 3. That the 12th section of the Land Act (1870), which sanctions any tenant of a holding valued at £250 and upwards in contracting out of the Act, be repealed. 4. That where an under-tenancy was created before the passing of the Act, the under-tenant shall be entitled to compensation under the 3rd section. 4. That in cases of eviction by title paramount, the tenants shall be entitled to compensation under the 4th section of the Land Act. 5. That a tenant's violation of an agreement with his landlord shall not debar him from compensation under the third section of the Land Act, though the chairman may take such violation into account in awarding compensation.

Part III. consists of "Provisions for extending the benefits of the Ulster Custom to other parts of Ireland." Of this part of the bill it is enough to say that if it passes in its present form it will place the tenant of every holding in Ireland in precisely the same position under the law as an Ulster tenant will occupy if the first part of the bill also passes without alteration, and that it also enters into particulars as to the method which a chairman shall adopt in settling the amount due to a tenant when the landlord is the purchaser of the Tenant-Right.

Part IV. consists of "General Amendments of the Land Act," and recommends: "1. That a chairman should be at liberty to call in two referees, one appointed by the landlord and the other by the tenant, to assist him in settling any disputed question. 2. That a chairman or judge should have power to empanel a jury. 3. That a landlord and tenant may agree for a fee-farm grant of a holding, and that such grant shall be equivalent to a sale as far as the provisions of the Land Act are concerned. 4. That yearly tenancies shall terminate on the last gale-day of the year. 5. That an assignee of the estate of a limited owner shall have the powers of a limited owner. 6. That schedules of improvements, instead of being filed in the Landed Estates Court, shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Peace for the county, and shall be entered in a book, to be called the Land Registry of such county.

Such are the outlines of Mr. Butt's bill, and they will be sufficient to enable our readers to form a fair estimate of its scope and intentions. There is no doubt that it will meet with very strong opposition, and we do not suppose there is any likelihood of its being passed in its present form by the existing House of Commons. The proposal to extend the principle of the Ulster Custom to the whole of Ireland will be especially objected to, and we can in imagination already hear the cry of confiscation raised in

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opposition to it. But, after all, without pronouncing a decided opinion as to the expediency of the plan, it is not easy to see *what* it would confiscate, unless it be certain powers and privileges. That it would tend to the confiscation of any property is more than doubtful, since it is generally admitted that in Ulster land of a given quality is worth more rent than it would be worth in any other province of Ireland. That there are other and very strong objections to the Ulster Custom we are perfectly aware; but these chiefly concern tenants, who in Ireland are generally in favour of the custom, and who ought to know their own business better than an outsider. There is no doubt that the sale of Tenant-Right in the open market is the simplest way of settling compensation of unexhausted improvements: whether it is the best way is another question. Irish tenants say that it is the best way, and that it would benefit landlords, tenants, and consumers alike. To our English ideas it is certainly less objectionable in principle than the allowance of compensation for "disturbance" which the Land Act provides for.

But apart from this debatable third part of Mr. Butt's bill, it contains some amendments of the Act of 1870 which would greatly simplify and improve its working. That the Act needs amendment no one who has watched its working will deny. It could scarcely be expected that so great a measure would not contain many defects, especially as there were so many adverse opinions amongst those who had a hand in framing and in altering it before it became law. It has long been obvious that it was drawn so defectively as to render it easy of anyone so disposed to evade the intention of its authors and to outrage the spirit of the Act. Mr. Butt has done his best from his point of view to remedy these defects, and his bill at any rate deserves the careful attention of Parliament.

THE BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY, AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRISTOL.

In point of fact, the show of the old West of England Society was *not* held this year at Bristol, but at Clifton —that is to say, from the nearest railway station to the ground there had to be encountered a three-miles ride or walk, all very much up-hill, over a bad dusty road, and under a hot blazing sun. Having all things in consideration, your Bristol fly-man or 'buss-man did not take that advantage of the occasion which might have been expected, although long before the shilling days conveyances ran short, and visitors waited and wandered about Bristol for hours together; as, had the rain only set in the result must have been a miserable failure, instead of an immense success. As it was, later on in the week the cruelty to animals, which must have been practised in whipping over-worked machines up to the show, might have justified the interference of the Prevention Society, not so much against the mere drivers or proprietors, as the members of the Council in again selecting a site at so an unwarrantable distance from everywhere. Of course, it is all very well for these officials who took good care to secure to themselves the best accommodation in Clifton: but looking a little further into the interests of the general public, there can be no possible doubt but that in the absence of a junction line to the Downs the choice of such a meeting-place was an egregious mistake; as if Bristol had nothing better to offer closer home, the Society should have gone elsewhere. However, breasting the hill afforded a fine trial for condition in the stock, and Mr. Walter's Shorthorn cow died of the way up.

In the opening report, which we gave on the opening day, we were enabled thus early to sum-up the show as "only a fair average one" and nothing more. In truth, in some of the classes, like the old Shorthorn bulls and bull-calves, and a class or so of Shorthorn heifers, there is nothing which we can expect to see stand as well at Bedford as it did at Bristol. The marked moderation, indeed, of the Shorthorns was emphasized by the award of the champion prizes, both of which went to the Devons, with the Shorthorns showing nothing very formidable, for either the best bull or best cow. And yet we have seen stronger entries of Devons, although these are very sure to repeat themselves at the Royal meeting in the Midlands, there being so few of the sort now about, with the prize stock mainly in the hands of three or four exhibitors. Again, there should be better Herefords, as at any rate some of the "plums" of last season were not to be found here; and the Sussex, if numerically great, are often common in character, the old story of stealing the Devon cross being not now so noticeable. The Channel Islands cattle, with another judge on, were put about a bit; but there was plenty of merit here, not that we think there will be any material revision of the list on a second reading at Bedford. As we said in our last number, "the show of horses of all sorts is one of the largest ever seen at these meetings;" but even thus early we questioned its quality, and the "nag" classes are pretty generally inferior to Plymouth; while the cart stallions and mares are better than those shown in the companion classes of riding stock. The sheep section, either in the way of general competition, or individual merit, is mostly but of second-rate order, and, with the exception of Mr. Treadwell's famous old Oxford, the winning Leicester rams and a Cotswold or two, there is scarcely a sheep amongst any of the leading breeds which threatens to make much mark hereafter. Of Southdowns, to quote ourselves again, "there is only a moderate display," and Lord Chesham's best Shropshires were clearly not at Bristol. It may be stated further in the way of proof, or want of proof, how there was a deal of discussion over the Shorthorn awards, with only really one recognised Shorthorn man on the bench; while the presence of two such energetic supporters of the red cattle as Mr. Edward Cane and Mr. Quartly must have had all its weight when it came to the deciding courses, backed as they would be by Mr. Pope. There is always a difficulty in comparing different breeds; but with no such difficulty before them, the riding-horse judges went as wrong as they well could go in their choice of the champion weight-carrier.

The Shorthorns, as the gentleman said of his wife's relations, were a "very miscellaneous lot," with some well-known animals amongst them, but with others never heard of before and not very likely to be heard of again; the Somerset and Dorset breeders, with the signal exception of Mr. Bruce Kennard, being quite overshadowed by entries from further a field. The business here opened indifferently enough with such a bull as Mr. Richard Stratton's Protector placed first, whereas in the two-year-

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old class at Hull he was never noticed, nor has he ever made much mark, save at some merely local meetings. Either in or out, we seldom saw a bull show himself worse than Protector: he has a dreary hang-dog look when on parade, and stands as ungainly as can be in his stall. In fact, he lacks not only style but masculine bearing, and is just a good bit of beef with a broad back and fairish quarters, but mean and drooping forward. The second prize, Leeman, the best yearling in 1872 and the reserve number at Hull in the same class with Protector, is wearing well and shows a deal more fine bull character than the other, although his flashy red-and-white markings will always tell against him—not that we ever expect to see the Stratton's bull beat him again. The reserve number here was the Cornwall Duke of Oxford, second at Barnstaple and first at St. Austell, as our special reports have told; while he also beat Protector when they met at Plymouth in 1873. The best Royal yearling, Sir Arthur Ingram, is only now commended; but he has grown even plainer and meaner in the interim, having never been much of a show animal, and now with little beyond his touch in his favour. The remainder of the class was very miscellaneous, and the lump of flesh put first but a butcher's verdict.

Writing of Hull we said "Mr. Outhwaite's winning calf, a son of Royal Windsor, is straight and shallow with a plain head, but very showy out," and Lord Godolphin since then has gone on famously. He still stands rather high; but to see him move in the ring, what with his great liberty and grand carriage, was a pleasure indeed—the more especially after having been treated to a view of such a goer as the best old bull. Godolphin, still preserving his fine straight outline and growing kinder about his head and horn, fairly placed himself, as if he but furnishes and drops a little to his leg, he has all the makings of quite a first-class, full-grown bull—a very different thing from a first-prize calf. Rapid Rhone, on the contrary, has gone off, standing very badly on his hocks and running altogether wrong in his quarters; as it is a question whether at all points Colonel Loyd Lindsay's lengthy, useful bull should not have had the second place. And these three were all the judges had any call to dwell over, the contingent being still quite "miscellaneous."

So far the decisions had been tolerably well received for critics with so many different fancies as Shorthorn men indulge in; but over the cow class there was quite a sensation when the renowned Vivandiere, the best cow at Hull, Harrowgate, and Gainsborough in 1873, and a winner all over Yorkshire and Lancashire from her youth upwards, was now placed only second in her class. Of course upon precedent there were plenty of people ready to run down the award; but although at six years old Vivandiere is still wearing well, and showing the better for not being quite so full of flesh, we go altogether with the judges in their preference for Victoria Victrix, a really sweet heifer, full of fine cow character, and at the same time broad enough and wealthy enough for any useful purpose; while she begins with a pretty, kindly head, and barring her quarters, which are growing gaudy, she is at most points a very handsome specimen of her kind—in fact more of a cow than the Yorkshire one, whose chief merit is mere beef. In the heifer class, on the other hand, Lady Pigot's red heifer, the famous Rose of Wytham, has been overdone, and, as she threatened last season, is now showing coarse, steery, and lumpy; so that she was well beaten by Messrs. Hosken's white, a straight symmetrical Oxford, showing rather light and lathy from having been a deal about of late, first at Barnstaple in one week, and not only first again but the champion cow or heifer at St. Austell in the week following, and that immediately preceding Bristol. At Barnstaple our report, written by an accomplished Shorthorn breeder, declared that "in the heifers not exceeding three years old Messrs. Hosken exhibited a perfect gem—thick, mellow, tubular, and worthy of competition anywhere;" as again, our special correspondent at St. Austell, another Shorthorn breeder, said "Moss Rose takes the cup as the best female in any class of cattle, and a charming heifer she is." So that she goes on to Bedford with a character, not merely from about home, as she also beat here Baroness Conyers, the third prize to the Rose of Wytham at Hull, and now growing into quite a grand heifer, with a fine straight top, as considered by many the best of the class, which included two or three more smart things. Another Wytham of fine quality was beaten amongst the yearlings by that wonderfully good roan from Blandford; straight and square, with a beautiful coat and of good quality, Queen Mary is yet more promising than when she came out at Plymouth last summer, when we thus wrote of her: "Mr. Kennard's calf was quite in keeping for good points with the other winners amongst the Shorthorn females, having touch, hair, and style, but she was a long way in advance of the rest of the class." Here also there were a few more to look at; but the heifer-calf class now contained scarcely anything of much account. On the whole, beyond animals like Lord Godolphin, the Hoskens' heifer, and Mr. Kennard's yearling, who placed themselves, we cannot give much weight to the Shorthorn decisions at Bristol. Mr Randell is more of an "all-round" judge than one with any especial Shorthorn proclivities, and Mr. Aylmer is chiefly known westward for the inconsequential impartiality with which he helped to upset awards at Cardiff, which he had helped to make at Dorchester.

There was said to have been a suspicion of foot-and-mouth disease hanging about the county shows just previously held further westward; as for this reason or some other a considerable number of the Devon entries were not sent on. In fact, numerically the Devon was the weakest breed on the ground, although the classes actually came to include the two champion animals—the best bull and the best cow. And with neither of these selections do we agree, as had the Herefords been anything like as strongly represented in the ring we really believe that they must have won both these extra premiums. As it was, two Devon judges and a third, who only loves the Devons less because he loves the Sussex more, looked to thoroughly talk down the one Hereford judge and the two Shorthorn men. In truth, the show of Devons was hardly anywhere a great one, as it is curious to see how the Flitton herd has fallen away since the death of Mr. Davey, and this has naturally let in the Somerset Devons. The champion here, Mr. Farthing's Master Robin, a winner of many first prizes, has improved considerably since last season, and is now a straight weighty useful animal, but he lacks much of the style and high-breeding of the North Devon, material points, for which the best bull-calf is far away his superior. Whereas the best bull-calf at Hull, the Flitton Duke of Plymouth, is getting mean and plain, although he now reversed positions with the yearling put before him at Barnstaple. Picture, again, is not so handsome a cow as she was a heifer, and when one compares so noble, massive, and thorough a specimen of his breed as Winter-de-Cote with Master Robin, or such a cow in such a class of cows as the great grand Sunflower, with Picture, one comes to see how these champion prizes must result in simply a majority of votes. The Hereford cows, as at Cardiff, ran up unmistakably to the best class of any kind of animal on the ground, with four high commendations and another commendation attached to the actual awards; and with all

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these honestly earned, it is only charitable to conclude that the "other" judges knew nothing of "other" breeds when they gave way as they did. In the Devon heifers in-calf a Temptress was beaten again, as she was was at Barnstaple, further evidence of a decline; and in the two younger classes Mr. Senior from Buckinghamshire won with a couple of smart Moss Roses, the calf being especially clever and promising. It would so seem from this that the Broughton herd has not yet been quite broken up.

As we said when we last saw him, Von Moltke has grown out of show form, or, as the return will tell, is no longer a prize Hereford; and Winter-de-Cote had a long lead, as we spoke to him both at Plymouth and Hull as the best bull of his breed out. Few of the younger animals here, however, threaten ever to compare with such a bull or the entry of cows, as one missed sadly from the class of heifers in-calf—running only to a couple of moderate things—the Leen beauties, Exquisite and Satellite, as we hope in reserve for Bedford; while the yearling heifer class was far better filled; if few of the calves, male or female, looked to have much merit, the cow-calves being "a very miscellaneous lot."

The Sussex bulls seldom show to much advantage, as probably from the ready comparison with the Devon they look coarse and common, and handle harshly—some proof at any rate of their not being "contaminated." The best young bull at Plymouth, short in his coat and bad in his touch, now succeeded to the first place in the older class, with another first prize or two, like Mr. Turrill's and Messrs. Stanford's Dorchester calf in the entry. The younger bulls were generally plain, especially about their heads, and the judges took for their best cow an animal of size and weight, but of not the nice character of the second best from Crawley; as even the other cow from Mr. Duke's herd, the highly commended from Slinfold or the brothers Stanford's entry were more comely and suggestive of the milk-pail. A beef cow at a breeding show is, or should be an abomination. The champion, however, of the Sussex was Mr. Agate's level, bloodlike, and really handsome two-year-old, the first yearling at Plymouth, and surely something of a model to improve by. The three best yearlings were also good, it being a very near thing between the second and third, the displaced Hartley Honey showing more breeding, but with the worst of it in the way of age and size. Amongst the calves the Stanfords distinguished themselves with a good straight heifer of far better touch than many of the breed; as the merits of the Sussex centred over the heifer classes, the general strength of this sort certainly depending more on quantity than quality.

In good proof of how these agricultural meetings still continue to develop, and spread the best types of their breed, we may cite the show of Channel Islands cattle at Bristol—one of the largest and certainly one of the best exhibitions of Jerseys *and* Guernseys ever got together. The Jersey, no doubt, has long been in favour, if until lately people did not know much about its actual merits; whereas but a few seasons back it was a matter of some difficulty to find a sufficient number of creditable Guernseys over which to award the prizes of the several classes. But at Bristol the advance was really extraordinary, with eight cows and nineteen heifers, many of which were very superior animals, and, even further, most of the entries fairly good. In fact, the heifers, so much general merit was there, took a deal of judging, if the best cow, a magnificent and about perfect specimen of her breed, readily placed herself. This is Mr. Rendle's Duchess, who in or out of the Island has equally distinguished herself, having been first at Truro, Jersey, and Guernsey in 1871, first at Cardiff Royal and Guernsey in 1872, first at Guernsey in 1873, and once more first at the Island show a few weeks back. The best bull was also very good, as Mr. Rundle Watson, another home breeder, is carefully cultivating the native cattle, while Mr. Compton is establishing them in the New Forest; so that the Guernseys are in every way advancing, alike for looks, use, and money value.

There was only a short show of all-aged Jersey bulls, and only one good, the Forest-bred Blue Bonnet, as the Surrey Crocus is growing coarse and common; but both the prize yearlings were worthy of their places, and Mr. Simpson highly and honestly commended for one over which a big figure was refused last season from America. But the Wray Park herd was rather over-paced here, and in a wonderfully good class of cows, where almost everything was commended, it was something even to get as near as second. In another admirable class of heifers, another of Mr. Simpson's breed took the same place, although easily beaten for first by Mr. Gilbey's beautiful fawn, at all points perhaps the best Jersey now about. And yet, multiplying as these beauties are, it is noticeable how little some folks know of their points: here a Hereford man will take you up to one unnoticed, and will ask indignantly "if it ain't the best? Look how level and well covered she is!" Just as if he were appraising a Christmas steer. Others, again, will go all for the bag; but the "stocking" of milch cows' udders, that is the trick of not milking them for some time before they are led into the ring, will never deceive a judge who really knows his business. Many of the animals cannot retain their milk in such a case; and if a bag be the least misshapen, the faulty part becomes only the more conspicuous when over-loaded. One Guernsey exhibitor in his zeal even went a little further, and dyed his cow's bag and the inside of her ears with annatto! for which in due course he received a rebuke from the judges, stern but dignified, that would have done credit to the Lord Chief Justice or the Speaker of the House of Commons. Go, and observe the eleventh commandment, "Thou shalt not be found out."

There were, by way of a "spurt" three champion premiums offered this year—£30 for the best cow or heifer in milk or in calf; £40 for the best bull, and £50 for the best hunting horse; and not one of these, as we are inclined to think, was rightly awarded. The light horse show, though larger, was nothing like so good as that at Plymouth, as was pretty clearly demonstrated by the fact that an animal then merely commended was now pronounced to be the best of all. This was Mr. Battams' Hector, certainly the best of a very moderate lot of all-aged hunters, Mr. Battams taking both first and second in the next class of four-year-olds, where the competition was yet more indifferent, so that so far it was pretty plain sailing for Kilworthy. The three-year-olds, however, included a brown or black by old Hunting Horn, called Black Prince, and a colt of great power, fine symmetry, and plenty of breeding, set off by a somewhat plain head. He thus proved well enough to stand alongside of, but when the winners came in together it was a horse to a hen on the young one. In fact the Black Prince's action at three-parts speed was everything which a man could wish for in a hunter—bending beautifully to his bridle, and going strong and oily, with his knee nicely bent, but not too round or high, it was all the over-weighted Hector could do by nicking and cutting off corners to keep within hail. And so the judges, utterly ignoring the far greater promise in every way of the three-year-old ripening into the better 14st. hunter, duly awarded the championship to Hector, as false a decision at the time and place as ever was recorded. Mr. Legg was out of luck again with his two-year-old, which we fancied a deal more than the chesnut put before him; while there was some hunting character about Mr.

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Quartley's old grey mare, and something else was preferred to her. The hacks and ponies were mostly common in appearance and slovenly in action; though The Hart is a showy gentleman who takes a deal of riding, and Major Ballard handled him as gingerly as if he were taking his ship through the chops of a dangerous channel. But this was nothing to the "exhibition" kindly afforded by Mr. Bolton on a miserable grey, with which he pirouetted in front of the stand, after the manner of Signor Smytho at a circus. As this riding performance promised to occupy some time—and the judging was as slow as a Bristol waggon—we wandered away elsewhere, only to find on our return that the grey had taken the second prize, as for looks or action she was one of the very worst in the class. It is really fortunate the Major was steering the Hart, or they might have put the "grey hack filly, aged 6 years"—so runs the description—first! The veteran Hunting Horn had little to beat in the special class, as Jocko looked to be the best stamp of horse for getting hunters in the class proper, but they put Reinfrid, a very bad third at Cardiff, first, and something else second. We are fain to admit that we never fancied the riding test less than at Bristol, although the other judge, Mr. Harvey Bayley looked to be putting his trust in it.

The best cart stallion is a very handsome, showy horse, who can move, but the judges would not have the Clydes or Suffolks, though there was not much merit in their second prize. The mares and foals ran up to a fairly good class, with the winner worthy of her name, and quite a *smart* mare, and there were some useful two-year-olds; but taken through, the show of draught horses was short and not very imposing, and we do not believe in mules, if some of those paraded at Bristol were big enough and ugly enough for anything.

The Leicester judge thought very highly of young Mr. George Turner's sheep, and not much of anything else, and so Mr. Turner's high-bred looking entries took everything they tried for, that is, all the prizes for rams, and the first with his one pen of ewes. The Cotswolds were better represented than for some time past, and here and there reminded one of the days when the Garnes and the Lanes and the Hewers would make so grand a display. The worst class was that of old rams, while the Messrs. Gillett's two prize pens of ewes were handsome, sorty, and altogether superior specimens of their breed—and a flock is thought to be highly tried with two "topping" lots of ewes. Amongst the Southdowns Mr. Rigden has so far had his hold on the place once occupied by Lord Walsingham; but we expect to see better sheep of the breed at Bedford, although the Heasmans, Sir William Throckmorton, Mr. Penfold, Lord Portsmouth, and Mr. Sydney Waller were in competition. Mr. Rigden's best old sheep, now four years old, was second at Dorchester, Cardiff, Plymouth, and Hull, as he always struck us as a particularly neat sheep, beginning with a very true type of head. Sir William Throckmorton's two pens of ewes are also of a very pretty stamp, but running it through the Southdown show was not of remarkable merit. According to the judges they gave the prizes in the Shropshire classes to the sheep which "looked most like Southdowns," and so Lord Chesham was first; and when Mr. Pulley was second it was with a ram bred straight from Latimer. The best old sheep was never previously exhibited, but served his time as a shearling in Ireland. As we intimated last week, Mr. Treadwell's old Oxford Down ram is here, and still about the best sheep on the ground; he has spread into great size and weight, but he did good service on Mr. Street's flock last season in Bedfordshire. The Duke of Marlborough, who made his first appearance here, was first in the companion class of rams, and Mr. Milton Druce, the only other exhibitor of Oxfordshire Downs, was second best throughout. The absence of Mr. Rawlence, whose flock is about to be sold off, told sensibly on the quality of the Hampshire Down entry, although Mr. Morrison's two prize shearlings are bred entirely from Bulbridge sheep. The Russells had also omitted to enter, and as they sent nothing from Fonthill into the old class of rams or amongst the ewes, a new name or two will be found in the return; the Bulbridge beauties being terribly missed amongst the ladies. By the way, some "*Long*-wool Dorsetshire Downs" were exhibited in the special classes. How is this cross arrived at or the description maintained? Horns from Exmoor, Somerset, and Dorset, and Devon Long-wools completed the sheep show, with the prizes still mainly in the hands of the same exhibitors: Lord Poltimore for Exmoors, Mr. Herbert Farthing and Lord Bridport for Somersets, and Mr. Corner for Devons, although the supremacy of the Williton sheep was occasionally disputed by Sir John Heathcoat-Amory, who won with ewes, and Mr. Radmore, who showed the best old sheep; Mr. Corner, however, contriving to keep some place in the prize-list in every class. But, no question, there is a deal of "practice with science" required in preparing a show-sheep, and we heard at Bristol how an intending exhibitor has sent out a couple of Shropshire rams to be trained by another flock-master for the Bedford meeting! And as the trainer has a number of winners amongst his own lot the, others will probably have the benefit of a very high trial.

The Berkshires are maintaining or rather extending their lead, and again the Berkshire sows made up the best class of pigs on the ground; while Mr. Hewer's best all-aged boar was probably, taken singly, the best of all the pigs; and the younger boars very generally an excellent class, with commendations scattered throughout. There has been a deal of dabbling between large and middle amongst the white pigs, and neither of the two classes of large boars contained anything more than moderate; but the sows were much better, both classes in fact being good, and Mr. Beswicke Royds winning in both with five capital pigs. The small blacks were nowhere so good, and the younger class of small white boars generally indifferent; nor were the single sows so much in fashion as they have been. Indeed, neither the small whites nor small blacks were quite up to the average, while the large whites were not liked, and the Berkshires unmistakably the favourites. But then they are quite "at home" in these parts.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—DEVONS AND SUSSEX: E. Cane, Berwick, Lewes; J. Pope, Horningham, Warminster; J. Quartly, Molland, South Molton. SHORTHORNS AND HEREFORDS: H. Aylmer, West Dereham, Stone Ferry, Norfolk; C. N. Hinksman, The Poles, Ludlow; C. Randell, Chadbury, Evesham. CHANNEL ISLAND: J. Dumbrell, Ditcheling, Sussex; H. Tait, Royal Shaw Farm, Windsor. SHEEP—LONG-WOOL: J. Painter, Belgrave House, Forest-road, Notts; G. Walmsley, Radstor, Bridlington. SHORT-WOOLS: J. Ford, Rushton, Blandford; T. Horley, The Fosse, Leamington; J. E. Rawlence, Bullbridge, Wilton. HORSES—AGRICULTURAL: J. H. Wood, Humberstone, Grimsby; A. Lovibond, Thorngrove Close, Bridgwater. HUNTERS AND HACKS: T. H. D. Bayley, Edwinstowe, Ollerton; H. D. Boulton, Putnoe, Bedford. PIGS: G. M. Sexton, Wherstead, Ipswich; M. Savidge, Saraden, Chipping Norton. INSPECTOR OF SHEARING: E. Olding, Salisbury.

DEVONS.

Bull, two and not exceeding four years old.—First prize, and Champion Prize as best of all the bulls, W. Farthing, Stowey Court, Bridgwater (Master Robin); second, Mrs. Langdon, Flitton-Barton, North Molton (Duke of Flitton 8th). Highly commended: J. Jackman, Hexworthy, Launceston (Earl of Exeter). Commended: J. H. Buller, Downes, Crediton.

Bull, two years old.—First prize, Mrs. M. Langdon (Duke of Plymouth); second, J. Gould, Bampfylde Lodge, Poltimore (Bampfylde). Commended: J. H. Buller.

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Bull-calf.—First prize, J. A. Smith, Bradford Peverill, Dorchester (Albert Victor); second, W. Farthing (Master Willie). Highly commended: Mrs. M. Langdon (Duke of Bedford).

Cow in calf or in milk.—First prize and Champion Prize as best of all the cows and heifers, J. A. Smith (Picture); second, J. Bradbeer, Pyeland, Taunton, Somerset (Nancy).

Heifer in calf or in milk, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, W. Farthing (Nellie); second, Mrs. M. Langdon (Temptress 3rd).

Heifer, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, T. L. Senior, Broughton, Aylesbury (Moss Rose the 1st); second, Viscount Falmouth, Tregothnan, Probus (Plymouth Queen).

Heifer calf.—First prize, T. L. Senior (Moss Rose the 2nd); second, J. A. Smith (Honest).

SHORTHORNS.

Bull, two and not exceeding four years old.—First prize, R. Stratton, The Duffryn, Newport, Monmouthshire (Protector); second, G. Fox, Harefield, Wilmslow, Cheshire (Leeman). Highly commended: W. Hosken and Son, Loggan's Mill, Hayle, Cornwall (Duke of Oxford). Commended: W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York (Sir Arthur Ingram).

Bull, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, J. Outhwaite, Bainess, Catterick, Yorkshire (Lord Godolphin); second, Lady Emily Pigot, Branches Park, Newmarket, Suffolk (Rapid Rhone). Commended: Lieut.-Col. Loyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P., Lockinge Park, Wantage, Berks (Prince Rupert).

Bull-calf, six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, Lieut.-Col. Loyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P. (Lord Rockville); second, Rev. R. B. Kennard, Marnhull Rectory, Blandford, Dorset (Marquis of Blandford).

Cow in calf or in milk.—First prize, Lady Emily Pigot (Victoria Victrix); second, J. Outhwaite (Vivandiere). Highly commended: J. Stratton, Alton Priors, Marlborough, Wilts (Euphemia); G. Garne, Churchhill Heath, Chipping Norton, Oxon (Butterfly's Duchess).

Heifer in calf or in milk, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, W. Hosken and Son (Moss Rose 2nd); second, Lady Emily Pigot (Rose of Wytham). Highly commended: R. Fookes, Milton Abbas, Blandford, Dorset (Lady Penrhyn). Highly commended: J. Outhwaite (Baroness Conyers). Commended: J. A. Mumford, Brill, Thame (Edith Emily).

Heifer, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, Rev. R. B. Kennard (Queen Mary); second, Lady Emily Pigot (Princess of Wytham). Highly commended: Lord Sudeley, Toddington House, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire (Seraphina Bella 2nd); J. S. Bult, Dodhill, Taunton, Somerset. Commended: R. Stratton (Brilliant Flower).

Heifer-calf, six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, R. Stratton (Regalia); second, B. St. John Ackers, Prinknash Park, Painswick, Gloucestershire (Lady Carew). Commended: Lord Fitzhardinge, Berkeley Castle, Berkeley (Lady Wild Eyes 7th); Lieut.-Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P. (Diana).

HEREFORDS.

Bull, two and not exceeding four years old.—First prize, Mrs. S. Edwards, Wintercott, Leominster (Winter-de-Cote); second, H. J. Bailey, Rosedale, Tenbury (King of the Dale). Highly commended: W. Evans, Llandowlas, Usk, Monmouthshire (Von Moltke 2nd). Commended: T. Thomas, St. Hilary, Cowbridge, Glamorganshire (Sir John 4th).

Bull, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, W. Taylor, Showle Court, Ledbury (Tredegar); second, H. N. Edwards, Broadward, Leominster (Alfred). Highly commended: J. Harding, The Greenhouse, Bridgnorth, Salop. Commended: T. Thomas (Symmetry), and Rev. A. Clive (Baron 3rd).

Bull-calf, six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, W. Tudge, Adforton, Leintwardine (Regulator); second, Mrs. S. Edwards (Plato). Commended: W. B. Peren (Lord Compton).

Cow in calf or in milk.—First prize, T. Thomas (Sunflower); second, T. Thomas (Rosaline). Highly commended: E. Benjafield, Gummershay House, Stalbridge, Blandford (Matchless 2nd); Mrs. S. Edwards (Young Mermaid 2nd); T. Rogers, Coxhall, Bucknell, Salop. Commended: W. Taylor, Showle Court, Ledbury (Dainty); U. Bull (Countess).

Heifer, in calf or in milk, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, T. Fenn, Stonebrook House, Ludlow (Lady Stanton). Commended: W. B. Peren, Compton House, South Petherton, Ilminster (Rosalie).

Heifer, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, P. Turner Leen, Pembridge (Verbena); second, J. W. James, Mappowder Court, Dorset (Rosebud). Highly commended: P. Turner (Isabel). Commended: P. Turner (Snowdrop); H. N. Edwards, Broadward, Leominster (Dolly).

Heifer-calf, six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, T. Fenn; second, H. N. Edwards (Cary). Highly commended: W. Taylor. Commended: T. J. Carwardine Stockton Bury, Leominster (Helena).

SUSSEX.

Bull, two and not exceeding four years old—First prize, A. Agate, West-street, Horsham, Sussex (Alfred 2nd); second, J. Turvill, Hartley-park Farm, Alton, Hants (Hartley). Highly commended: P. H. Ellis, Clayton, Hurstpierrepoint (Knight-Errant); E. and A. Stanford, Eatons, Ashurst, Steyning (Dorchester).

Bull, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, G. C. Carew-Gibson, Sandgate, Pulbro', Sussex (My Lord); second, J. Turvill (Tom). Highly commended: R. Mills (Young Bismarck).

Bull-calf, six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, G. C. Carew-Gibson; second, J. and A. Heasman, Angmering, Arundel, Sussex. Highly commended: A. Agate (Grand Duke 3rd).

Cow in calf or in milk.—First prize, B. Duke, Lyminster, Arundel, Sussex (Primrose); second, G. Smith, Paddockhurst, Crawley. Highly commended: C. Child (Jewell). The Class commended.

Heifer in calf or in milk, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, A. Agate (Auburn); second, J. and A. Heasman, (Maria Stuart).

Heifer, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, J. and A. Heasman (Pride of Ham); second, G. Smith (Pride of the Family). Highly commended: J. Turville (Honey).

Heifer-calf, six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, E. and A. Stanford; second, A. Agate (Honesty 1st). Highly commended: A. Agate (Adelaide 4th).

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

Bull, two and not exceeding four years old, first prize, Mrs. Malcolm, Beechwood, Lyndhurst, Hants (Blue Bonnet); second, G. Simpson, Wray-park, Reigate, Surrey (Prince Crocus).

Bull, not exceeding two years old, first prize, J. C. F. Ramsden, Busbridge-hall, Goldaming, Surrey (Modoc); second, W. Gilbey, Hargrave-park, Stanstead, Essex (Ducal). Highly commended: G. Simpson (The Queen's Favourite).

Cow, exceeding three years old, in calf or in milk, first prize, G. D. Digby, Sherborne-castle, Dorset (Miss Edith); second, G. Simpson (Gentle). Highly commended: W. Gilbey (Tal). Commended: W. Gilbey (Medora), J. C. F. Ramsden (Grisette), G. D. W. Digby (Queen of the Vale), F. L. Popham (Flora), G. Simpson (Queenie and Florence), J. Buckman (Fancy).

Heifer, not exceeding three years old, first prize, W. Gilbey (Fan); second, G. Simpson (Pretty Lass). Highly commended: R. Rendle. Commended: R. Rendle and T. F. Horner.

GUERNSEY.

Bull, two and not exceeding four years old.—First prize, Rev. J. R. Watson, La Favorita, Guernsey (No. 1 Cloth of Gold); second, E. A. Sanders, Stoke-house, Exeter, Devon (Prince Humbert).

Bull, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, Rev. J. R. Watson (No. 3 Cloth of Gold); second, H. Compton, Manor-house, Minestead, Lyndhurst, Hants (The Duke). Commended: E. A. Sanders (Prince Amadeus).

Cow, exceeding three years old, in calf or in milk.—First prize, R. Rendle, Catel-farm, Guernsey (Duchess); second, Rev. J. R. Watson (Portia). Highly commended: H. Compton (Ada).

Heifer, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, Rev. J. R. Watson (Esmeralda); second, J. B. Carey, St. Helene, St. Andrew's, Guernsey (Nelly). Highly commended: Rev. J. R. Watson (Sylva). Commended: H. Compton (Betty); J. James, Les Vauxbelets, Guernsey (Buttercup).

SHEEP.

LEICESTERS.

Yearling ram.—First and second prizes, G. Turner, jun., Thorpelands, Northampton.

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Ram of any other age.—First and second prizes, G. Turner, jun.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, G. Turner, jun.; second, J. H. Buller, Downes, Crediton, Devon.

COTSWOLDS.

Yearling ram.—First prize, Royal Agricultural College Farm, Cirencester; second, J. Gillett, Tangley, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. Commended: J. Gillett.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, Cirencester College; second, J. Wheeler and Sons, Long Compton.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First and second prizes, T. and S. G. Gillett, Kilkenny, Faringdon, Oxon. Commended: T. Thomas, St. Hilary, Cowbridge.

DEVON LONGWOOLS.

Yearling ram.—First prize, R. Corner, Torweston, Williton, Somerset; second, Sir J. H. Heathcoat-Amory, Bart., M.P., Knightshaves-court, Tiverton, Devon.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, G. Radmore, Courtharton, Thorverton, Cullompton; second, R. Corner.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, Sir J. H. Heathcoat-Amory, Bart., M.P.; second, R. Corner.

SOUTHDOWNS.

Yearling ram.—First and second prizes, W. Rigden, Hove, Brighton.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, W. Rigden; second, Sir W. Throckmorton, Bart., Buckland, Faringdon, Berks.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, Sir W. Throckmorton; second, H. S. Waller, Farmington, Northleach, Gloucestershire. Highly commended: Sir W. Throckmorton.

HAMPSHIRE DOWNS.

Yearling ram.—First prize, A. Morrison, Fonthill-house, Tisbury, Wilts; second, A. Morrison.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, W. F. Bennett, Chilmark, Salisbury, Wilts; second, J. Barton, Harkwood Farm, Basingstoke, Hants.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, W. Parsons, Monk Sherborne, Basingstoke; second, T. Chapman Saunders, Watercombe, Dorchester.

SHROPSHIRES.

Yearling ram.—First prize, Lord Chesham, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks; second, J. Pulley, Lower Eaton, Hereford.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, Lord Chesham; second, W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone, Warwickshire.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, Lord Chesham; second, W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone, Warwickshire. Commended: J. Pulley, Lower Eaton, Hereford.

OXFORDSHIRE DOWNS.

Yearling ram.—First prize, Duke of Marlborough, K.G., Blenheim Palace, Woodstock; second, A. F. Milton Druce, Twelve Acre, Eynsham, Oxford.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, J. Treadwell, Upper Winchendon, Aylesbury; second, A. F. Milton Druce. Highly commended: J. Treadwell.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, Duke of Marlborough; second, A. F. Milton Druce.

SOMERSET AND DORSET HORNS.

Yearling ram.—First prize, H. Farthing, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater, Somerset; second, H. Farthing.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, H. Farthing; second, H. Farthing.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, Viscount Bridport, Cricket St. Thomas, Chard, Somerset; second, Viscount Bridport.

EXMOOR AND OTHER MOUNTAIN.

Ram of any age.—First prize, Lord Poltimore, Poltimore-park, Exeter.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, Lord Poltimore; second, Lord Poltimore.

HORSES.

FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Stallion foaled before 1872.—First prize, W. Wynn, Cranhill Leys, Grafton, Alcester, Warwickshire (Nonpareil); second, S. Davis, Woolashill, Pershore, Worcestershire.

Stallion foaled in 1872.—First prize, S. Butler, Stitchcombe, Marlborough (Young Lincoln); second, R. Canning, Ramsbury-park, Hungerford. Commended: W. Byford, the Court, Glemsford.

Mare and foal, or in foal.—First prize, E. Gibbs, Chitterne, Heytesbury (Smart); second, J. Hennessy, Conygre-house, Filton (Blossom). Highly commended: W. Stanford, Charlton-court, Steyning (Brown). Commended: W. Priday, Podsmead-house, Hempstead (Smiler).

Filly foaled in 1872.—First prize, W. Baker, Moor Barns; second, S. Davis, Woolashill, Pershore. Highly commended: Lieut.-Colonel Loyd-Lindsay (Patty). Commended: T. David, St. Athan, Cowbridge (Diamond).

HUNTERS.

Thoroughbred stallion for hunters.—First prize, Major J. Simpson Ballard, The Verlands, Cowbridge (Reinfrid); second, Lord Fitzhardinge, Berkeley Castle (Red Cloud).

Mare or gelding, foaled before the 1st January, 1870.—First prize, and Champion Prize as best weight-carrying hunter, G. Bland Battams, Kilworthy, Tavistock (Hector); second, J. W. Miles, Shirehampton. Highly commended: L. Cornock, Aldbury, Thornbury (Kington Lass).

Mare or gelding, foaled in 1870.—First prize, G. Battams, (Sea King); second, G. B. Battams (Penzance). Highly commended: H. Cooper, Hazlewell House, Ilminster (Crown Prince).

Filly or gelding, foaled in 1871.—First prize, E. G. Legg, Combe Down, Beaminster (Black Prince); second, W. Trist (Sydenham).

Colt, gelding, or filly, foaled in 1872.—First prize, H. Cooper (Royal Oak); second, E. G. Legg (Rainbow).

Colt or filly, foaled in 1873.—First prize, H. J. Bailey, Rosedale, Tenbury (Precocity); second, N. Cooke, Chevithorne Barton (Second Flight).

Mare and foal, or in foal.—First prize, H. Carter, Cattybrook, Almondsbury (Brisk); second, F. Quartley, Brindley, South Molton (Moonbeam).

HACKS.

Mare or gelding, 14 hands and not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch, calculated to carry 14 stone.—First prize, W. Rookes, Baring House, Exeter (Prince); second, S. Butter, Hitchcombe.

Mare or gelding, 14 hands and not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch.—First prize, R. N. Hooper, Stanshares Court, Chipping Sodbury (The Hart); second, J. Gifford, North Cadbury, Castle Cary (Eliza).

PONIES.

Mare or gelding, not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, T. L. Senior (Pride of the Vale); second, A. Stevens, Park Place, Cardiff (Cwmro).

Mare or gelding, not exceeding 13 hands.—First prize, C. A. Jacobs, Riding School, Clifton (The Gem); second, Rev. J. Coleman, Allerton Rectory, Weston-super-Mare (Jenny).

PIGS.

LARGE BREED.

Boar, one year and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Pyke House, Littleborough; second, J. Dove, Hambrook, Bristol. Highly commended: R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsey.

Boar not exceeding one year old.—First prize, R. E. Duckering; second, J. Wheeler and Sons, Long Compton, Warwickshire. Commended: C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Breeding sow in farrow, or exhibited with her litter.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, J. Wheeler and Sons. Highly commended: M. Walker, Stockley Park, Analow, Burton-on-Trent. Commended: J. Dove, R. E. Duckering.

Pen of two breeding sows, not exceeding nine months of age.—First and second prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds. Highly commended: J. Dove. Commended: J. Dove.

SMALL BREED (BLACK).

Boar, one year and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, J. Wheeler and Sons.

Boar not exceeding one year old.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, the Earl of Portsmouth, Eggesford. Commended: the Earl of Portsmouth.

Breeding sow in farrow, or exhibited with her litter.—First prize, J. Wheeler and Sons; second, the Earl of Portsmouth. Highly commended: the Earl of Portsmouth.

Pen of two breeding sows, not exceeding nine months of age.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, the Earl of Portsmouth. Highly commended: T. Rose, Melton Magna, Wymondham.

SMALL BREED (WHITE).

Boar, one year and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, R. E. Duckering. Commended: M. Walker.

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Boar, not exceeding one year old.—First prize, J. Dove; second, M. Walker.

Breeding sow in farrow, or exhibited with her litter.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, R. E. Duckering.

Pen of two breeding sows, not exceeding nine months.—First and second prizes, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

BERKSHIRE.

Boar, above one year and not exceeding two years old.—First and second prizes, W. Hewer, Sevenhampton, Highworth. Highly commended: A. Stewart, Saint Bridge Farm, Gloucester. Commended: Cirencester College; H. Humfrey, Kingstone Farm, Shrivenham, Berks.

Boar, not exceeding one year old.—First prize, Cirencester College; second, A. Stewart. Highly commended: W. Hewer and H. Humfrey. Commended: J. Dove; B. St. John Ackers; A. C. Bailey, Swindon, Wilts; H. Humfrey.

Breeding sow in farrow, or exhibited with her litter.—First prize, Cirencester College; second, Marquis of Aylesbury. Highly commended: A. Stewart and H. Humfrey. Commended: N. Benjafield, Short's-green Farm, Motcombe, Shaftesbury; A. Stewart, Wheeler and Sons, and Sir W. Throckmorton, Bart.

Pen of two breeding sows, not exceeding nine months.—First prize, A. Stewart; second, Cirencester College. Highly commended: A. C. Baily, J. Dove.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

HORSES.

Cart stallions.—Prize, Sir J. H. Greville Smyth, Bart., Ashton Court, Bristol (Prince Imperial).

Thoroughbred stallions for hunters.—Prize, T. Kinsman Bickell, St. John's, Lamerton, Tavistock (Hunting Horn).

Pair of mares or geldings foaled before January 1st, 1869, best suited for town-work.—Prize, S. Butler, Stitchcomb, Marlborough (Drummer and Captain).

Cart mare or gelding foaled in 1870.—First prize, J. W. Miles, Shirehampton; second, E. Phillimore (Prestbury).

Cart mare or gelding foaled in 1871.—First prize, C. L. Hunt, Court Farm, Over, Westbury-on-Trym (Diamond); second, E. Phillimore, Prestbury-park Farm, Cheltenham (Perfection).

Cart mare or gelding foaled in 1872.—Second prize, W. Stanford (Diamond).

MULES.

Mule, male or female, above 15 hands high.—First and second prizes, Flower and Sons, Stratford-on-Avon. Highly commended: Duke of Beaufort, Badminton.

CATTLE.

Pair of Shorthorn Heifers, calved in the year 1872.—Prize, Mr. R. Stratton. One entry.

Pair of Hereford Heifers, calved in the year 1872.—Prize, W. B. Peren. One entry.

Pair of Devon Heifers, calved in the year 1872.—First prize, W. Farthing; second, T. L. Senior. Two entries.

SHEEP—LONGWOOLS.

Pen of 10 4-tooth couples in the wool.—Prize, T. Allen, Thurmaston, Leicester (Leicesters). One entry.

Pen of 10 4-tooth couples in the wool.—Prize, G. W. Homer, Athelhampton, Dorchester. One entry.

CHEESE AND BUTTER.

Judges: R. H. Symes, R. Harding, J. Pearce.

Thick Cheese, 3 cwt. of 1873 and 3 cwt. of 1874, over 56lb. each.—First prize, G. Hoddinott, Manor Farm, Norton St. Phillip; second, G. Gibbons, Tunley, Camerton, Bath.

Thin Cheese, 3 cwt. of 1874 make only.—First prize, G. Harris, Court House, Lower Cam, Dursley; second, J. Smith, Nupdown Farm, Hill, Thornbury.

BUTTER.

One dozen pounds of fresh butter.—First prize, Mrs. J. Thatcher, Beechwood Farm, Portbury: second, W. H. Williams, Home Farm, Dodington, Chipping Sodbury.

HORSE-SHOEING.

First prize, J. White, Leighton Mendip (41 minutes); second, R. Holcombe, Bishop's Lydiard (26 minutes); third, C Weaver, Wells (31 minutes). Highly commended: G. Ethridge, Bishop's Stoke (30 minutes). Commended: J. Hallet, Portbury, Bristol; and J. W. Batten, Wadeford, Chard.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

took place on Tuesday, Sir Massey Lopes, Bart., M.P., the president, in the chair. The Secretary read the annual report of the Council, from which it appeared that the funded capital, which at the close of 1863 was £2,608 15s. 9d., had by repeated investments been raised to £7,200 Consols, the amount at which it now stands, independently of a considerable balance in the hands of the Society's bankers. There were at present on the books: Life governors and life members, 89; governors, 117; annual members, 750; total, 956. The Council recommended that Mr. Richard Benyon, M.P., of Englefield House, Reading, be elected president, that the Right Hon. the Earl Morley be elected vice-president, and that the following members of the society be appointed members of council, to supply vacancies occurring by retirement, by rotation, or other causes:

EASTERN DIVISION.—Clement Bush, Weston, Bath; Thomas Danger, Rowford, Taunton; James Hole, Knowle, Dunster; J. Webb King, West Everleigh, Marlborough; J. E. Knollys, Fitzhead, Taunton; R. Neville-Grenville, Butleigh, Glastonbury; Gabriel S. Poole, South Brent, Weston-super-Mare; E. W. Williams, Herringstone, Dorchester; Herbert Williams, Stinsford, Dorchester.

WESTERN DIVISION.—Hon. and Rev. J. T. Boscawen, Lamorran, Probus; John Tamar Davy, Rose Ash, Southmolton; John Daw, Exeter; R. R. M. Daw, Exeter; Charles Gordon, Wiscombe, Honiton; W. R. Gilbert, the Priory, Bodmin; James Quartly, Molland, North Devon; E. U. Vidal, Cornborough, Bideford; Richard Wippell, Rudway, Thorverton.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.—A. F. M. Druce, Twelve Acre-hill, Eynsham; Rev. John Goring, Weston Park, Steyning; Arthur Grenfell, Queen's Terrace, Windsor; Wyndham Portal, Malshanger, Basingstoke; W. Rigden, Hove Farm, Brighton; W. B. Simonds, M.P., Abbot's Barton, Winchester; G. Simpson, Wray, Reigate; J. R. Stebbing, St. Andrew, Southampton; J. S. Turner, Chyngton, Seaford.

ELECTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO DISTRICTS.—James D. Allen, Pyt, Tisbury; Thomas Duckham, Baysham, Ross; H. M. Holdsworth, Wilton, Salisbury; S. P. Newbery, Plympton St. Mary, Devon; Henry Robertson, Overstowey, Bridgwater; H. D. Skrine, Warleigh, Bath.

The Earl of MOUNT-EDGCUMBE moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. J. C. MOORE STEVENS, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Sir J. DUCKWORTH proposed Mr. Benyon as president for the ensuing year.

Mr. RAMSDEN seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Major PAGET, M.P., moved that the gentlemen recommended by the Council to be appointed vice-presidents, and the gentlemen recommended by the Council for election to supply the vacancies occasioned by members retiring by rotation or otherwise should be elected members of the Council for a term of two years ensuing.

Mr. ASHLEY seconded the motion and it was carried.

Thanks were then given to the Mayor of Bristol, the ex-Mayor, the Society of Merchant Venturers, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, and members of the Local Committee, and the inhabitants of Bristol and neighbourhood generally "for the liberality which they have received and entertained the Council, and for their untiring zeal in endeavouring to promote the success of the Bristol meeting;" and further votes of thanks to the judges and officers of the society.

THE TRIAL OF IMPLEMENTS

took place on Monday and Tuesday. The first tried were the mowers, and 14 machines were set to work in a field at Stoke, of more than a mile from the show-ground, where there were but few spectators. The field was divided into 14 parts of about three quarters of an acre; and the firms represented were Samuelson and Co., Brenton, Pickslay and Sims, Hornsby, Brigham, Johnston Harvester Company, Burgess

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and Key, Howard, Osborne and Co., Mattison, Baker, Harrison and McGregor, Wood and Williams. The reapers were set to work at Kingweston, on a field of rye, rather thin in parts. Amongst those represented were Pickaley and Sims, Breston, Hornsby, Brigham and Co., Samuelson and Co., Johnston Harvester Company, Wood, Mattison, Williams, and Howard. The trial of steam ploughs and cultivators took place in a field adjoining the reaping, where Messrs. Howard, Fowler, and Barford and Perkins, were the firms represented.

RECEIPTS.

	Admissions.	Receipts.
Monday	3,791	699 10 6
Tuesday	11,298	1,414 17 0
Wednesday	22,242	2,717 2 6
Thursday	56,317	2,760 17 0
Friday	16,440	780 7 6
	110,088	£8,372 14 6

DEVON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BARNSTAPLE.

The meeting of this Society has been an undoubted success. There can be no mistake or doubt about it: most things have been favourable—scenery, situation, stock, and weather—and all folks have worked with a will to ensure this result. The one presiding idea of the neighbourhood, whether of landlord, tenant, or labourer, is the chase of the grand red deer over Exmoor in autumn and sly Reynard in the wild-duck season; and a right good chain of mutually correcting sympathy is it too! There is not in Suffolk over their auburn teams and Diamond pigs of Socratic visage a more kindred current of uniting interest than the art and recollection of venery supplies here; and in a thorough *esprit de corps* the first elements of triumph are inherent, as the stamp of animal exhibited here to-day, and especially horse-flesh, sufficiently indicates. Embosomed in the hollow of a real Devonshire valley we see the gay flags, tents, and shedding of the exhibition beneath us as we descend the rich grassy slope, and where our business is, within that enclosure of tall boards, to which the path lies through a garden and beside the fresh rushing current of the reservoir which supplies the town of Barnstaple. Blue policemen abound, and the ticket offices are duly arranged, but the officials are raw, and it takes longer than it need to arrive within, and there we find an appearance and a set-out that reminds one rather of the Bath and West of England gathering than a mere county show. There are the world-celebrated names of Hornsby, Ransome, and suchlike, with tiny double ploughs adapted to the banks of the district. Here you are admonished by placard to "wash your linen," and there you are instructed how at once to wash and wring it. On one side a firm takes a bright and promising position with the blue and yellow stores which are warranted to force the growth of any mortal thing, but especially the cash store of the manufacturer himself; whilst upon a rival stand one studies a grand collection of tall cereals, an actual sugar-cane, and a cotton plant all tufted with the snowy material which runs one's thoughts back to the scenes of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' together with gigantic mangold bulbs, and heaps else that indicate the excellence of the stimulant set forth. Then there are waggons and ploughs and mowing machines, notably Wood's, who, false to his name, now makes the frame of his implement of iron; and whips and guns and harrows, and suchlike paraphernalia, until one gets finally pitchforked alongside the ring into which the animals are being led and where is the special sphere of our criticism.

First enter a lordly array of really grand animals, the North Devon old bulls, comparatively small in size, but generally round and smooth as moles, though a few certainly have wide ungainly horns, a rhinoceros rump, and a disfiguring accumulation of fat about the tail, but as a rule they were wonderfully good and level. Their great weight made most of them walk delicately, but they had a very winning appearance notwithstanding, and the deep layer of juicy meat along the chine, loins, and quarter made one's mouth fairly water. The "Bulls above two and not exceeding three years old," were also very good. "Us didn't zee they afore, all prize bullocks bean't they?" was a very fair criticism of the lot on the part of a lout who would keep enclosing one in a superfluous and odoriferous embrace against which, locked in as we were, it was useless to protest by any impatience of movement. How aggravating it was, too, to hear this fetid fellow take such trouble to invert the grammar of his cases! In the next class there were some thick and some narrow, and one very playful party. Amongst the 'Bulls not less than six, nor exceeding twelve months,' Mr. Walter Farthing's representative was lowand lengthy, and padded with mellow meat along his back, while the rest in this class showed a tendency to flatness of rib, which may disappear, however, with good keep and increasing age. One looked starved, and several were suffering from ringworm, which in a showyard should not be allowed. Amongst the aged cows there was a big one, with a taking head, a great promise of milk, and much style, but "she is cross-bred" the natives protest, which means that the expansive aptitude of the breed experienced the advantage of richer keep upon the meadows of Somersetshire than her sort taste usually amidst the heather of the hill-side. We are bound in fairness to remark, a great want of uniformity in the style of the heads of this class generally. Does this indicate tampering? With their long-inherited type this should not be. With the representative of a minority the judging of the Devons seemed to go much on "the odd man out," and size certainly had all the best of it.

The South Devon kine, much bigger and more uneven as they are than the North Devon, had yet quite a family facial likeness throughout, whereby they contrasted favourably with their northern cousins. In the next class of North Devons there were some right good heifers again. It is, in fact, a breed rich in exquisite specimens such as must be a source at once of profit and delight to the breeder. It is assuredly to the other cattle of our English sorts what the Southdown is to other sheep. In the next class Promise is very stylish to look at in the distance, but does not admit of equal praise upon closer acquaintance. The fortunate winner is inferior to second prize in character of head, but deliciously mellow to the touch, and solidly invested with rare meat upon the choice joints. So weighted is she in that enviable respect that she has grown close and rather close and narrow behind, as though in self-defence she had packed her feet so as best to sustain the weight above. The heifers not less than six, nor exceeding twelve months, are comparatively inferior to their elder relatives. Some, moreover, already show signs of overtraining in their "poor feet," and one was bellowing painfully as though suffering from incipient colic. The South Devon cattle are of a much larger stamp than the northern sorts, and consequently less taking to

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the eye, but very useful evidently both for plough and butcher.

Next come the Shorthorns, and at their head Earl of Warwickshire III., a winner of last year at Plymouth and elsewhere. He is an upstanding bull, but wants squareness of dewlap, and he looks a trifle short in the quarter, as he is the least possible volcanic about the tail. How much better would he have looked, too, arrayed in rich roan! Messrs. Hoskens' second prize animal has a deal of Shorthorn style about him; with good crops, rib, and dewlap, but he is unevenly developed in places. With a few starved exceptions the Shorthorn bulls were fairly represented in the several sections, and several Devon tenant-farmers state that they are stealing a cross from the shorthorn in their native herds, much to their satisfaction, too, only, as one intelligent breeder knowingly observed, "We don't give money enough for the sort we use." For increased size, with elegant grace and aristocratic style, let them try a small red one of the best descended Bates or Knightley tribes. Their cattle have already enough of the Booth tubular shape. Of course if they go to the outside conglomerates of the Shorthorn, what is there for them to expect in the results but what they have found—that is, something of all sorts, and nothing worth keeping? The cider-soaking yokel was right in that remark. "Beautiful," admiringly observed a merry-looking matron to her comfortable spouse as the cows were led in, "but we could'nt keep them on our land, though the Torquay people like their meat too! and how beautiful they're trained up, so docile, and they take the whip you see, dear things!" We charitably hope that Devon matons' dear things are not expected to take the whip, but this apple-cheeked lady's words and tone were suggestive. Messrs. Hoskens' first prize cow walks well, is long and elegant, and greatly indebted to the mill, but not quite the A 1 animal of the Royal. Mr. Pollard's cow had in a certain degree more of the Shorthorn look about her, but is fairly placed second. In the heifers not exceeding three years old class, Messrs. Hoskens exhibited a perfect gem—thick, mellow, tubular, and worthy of competition anywhere. It was a good class throughout. In class 23, Mr. Williams' long Lady Seymour had been allowed to lose her calf-flesh or she might have been a dangerous antagonist to the winners, which are both of compact if rather short figure, but remarkably well made up, especially the first prize. Mr. Digby's beautiful fawn-tinted Jersey cows appeared next, but for promise of milk we have seen these quite equalled amongst Bates and Knightley Shorthorns. Their excellence, however, lies in the butter produce. Some wretched Guernseys were shown, fresh imported too.

The sheep are reckoned a good lot. The winners are certainly broad-backed and symmetrical. What they term the South Devon, however, look diversely compounded of the Cotswold, Leicester, and Lincoln in various degree, built upon the indigenous animals (whatever that might be), but which is called the Barmpton breed, and comes from a small district near Exmoor. Some of this sort cut about 20 lb. of wool, but suffer proportionately in the quality of flesh. 14 to 16 lb. a good flock will average in the clip, we were informed by those who ought to know. The Dorset were well represented, as were the good-flavoured Exmoor, and the coarser Dartmoor, of flannel fame.

There is a smart show of pigs, including white and black Suffolks, Essex, Berkshire, Duckering's compounds, and the huge Salford masses of hog-flesh, which always make us wonder where they can be housed at home. There were besides a few native specimens which had gained the first dark dye of advancing civilization, but have yet inquiring snouts of an exceedingly aboriginal order, which we cannot compliment.

Amongst the cart-horses there is a fine upstanding grey horse of Mr. Statter's breeding, somewhat light in carcase, but with much else to recommend him; while there is an active, roundish, useful brown, and a white-maned animal called Suffolk, but which that county would not own. He is still of a useful sort to compound with the light mountain-side mares. The cart classes, upon the whole, are decidedly indifferent, especially the mares, which are most nondescript; the winner having a good deal of gig-fashion about her, and calculated to breed well by a thoroughbred sire. Amongst the thoroughbred stallions Mr. Froude Dillon wins with a good-backed brown horse of unmistakable Touchstone character, and well calculated to put the rather loosely made proportions of the pack-mare together in their produce. He wants rather liberty of action, but is very pleasing in appearance as he stands. There is a Stockwell colt of some style, but slack over the back, and inclined to be leggy; as amongst the roadster stallions the first prize horse, of substantial and rich colour, trots well, but he would not shine in Norfolk or Yorkshire, though he has great power and mettle. The general character of the horses in this district was well represented. They have capital legs, and biggish feet, of use upon the swampy surface of Exmoor, with lots of power, but are, as a rule, too steep in the shoulder, and want yet one more infusion of blood. They are still of an active and very useful character. Mr. Cooke's first prize brood mare has plenty of size, and is clever-looking, but has apparently a little too much cart in her, a defect which her produce shows. The second prize mare, not so true made as the first, looks a huntsman's treasure all over for creeping through covert, or timber. There was a nice but small chesnut Blair Athol thoroughbred in the lot, with an excellent foal at foot and plenty of action, as she is credited with several short races. The four-year-olds had a good corky mover at their head, which wanted something of their general substance, yet by his going indicated their common defect. One more removal from the pack-mare of local celebrity in the direction of racing is what the district horses want. Among the four-year-olds over 15 hands we preferred the second prize grey to the first prize chesnut, but the lot have a certain lack of quality and pace for the Shires, although doubtless clever enough for a bank country. Some of the yearlings showed an increase of quality, notably the second prize colt, a nice animal. The ponies were too mixed, consisting of all kinds, from the "sorty" Exmoor, so grand a foundation as it proves for the weight-carrier, as witness Major Barlow's Tregothnan, to the flashy Galloway weed. There were some good ponies included, of an intermediate cobby character, but the class should have been divided.

The following is a list of the exibitors of implements taken by the numbers of the stands:

John Fowler and Co., Steam Plough Works, Leeds; Ransomes, Sims, and Head, the Orwell Works, Ipswich; Abbot, Bideford; Dening and Co., Chard; Osborne and Co., Liverpool; Isaac, Braunton; Samuel Barn, Milltown, Marwood; Lancey, Barnstable; Bell and Co., Oxford-street, London; Kerr, Dublin; Bradford and Co., London and Manchester; Davies, Regent-street, London; Beesley, Regent's-park, London; Wrenford, Newport, Barnstaple; Brown and Co., London; Huxtable, Ottery St. Mary and Honiton; Vanstone, Buckland Filleigh; Milford and Son, Thorverton, Devon; Huxtable, Brayford, Devon; Crump, Tewkesbury; Hornsby and Son, Grantham; W. A. Wood, Worship-street, London; Samuelson and Co., Oxon; Wright, Sandford, near Crediton; Eddy, Kennford, Exeter; Luxton and Co., Hatherleigh; Forbes, Regent's-park, London; Silvester, Halton-road, London; Goss, Plymouth; Fison, Ipswich; Greening, Westminster; Day, Son, and Hewitt, London; Tucker Bros., Ashburton; Gray, Torquay; Pettle, Barnstaple; Beare, Son, and Co., New-

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ton Abbot; McDougall Bros., Mark-lane, London; Bailey Bros., Chancery-lane, London; Western Counties Manure Company, Devonport; Gale, Joy-street, Barnstaple; Tremeer, Square, Barnstaple; Tipper, Birmingham; Goulding, Dublin and Cork; Parnell and Sons, Exeter and Bristol; Brenton, St. German's, Cornwall; Davey, St. German's; Garton and King, Exeter; Dicker, Chagford, Devon; Furze, Holdsworthy; Ackland, Exeter; Head, Wrightson, and Co., Stockton-on-Tees; McGregor and Co., Leigh, Lancashire; Moore, Filleigh, Southmolton; Labbett and Son, Braunton; Webber, Chawleigh, Devon; Carson, South Zeal, Okehampton; Wallis and Steevens, Basingstoke; Marshall, Sons, and Co., Gainsborough; Fishley, Pottery, Fremington; Matthews, Royal Pottery, Weston-Super-Mare; Barford and Perkins, Peterborough.

There was a trial of steam-ploughs on the Wednesday, in an eighteen-acre field more than a mile from the show-yard. North Devon farmers, while they are ready to acknowledge all the high merits of the steam-plough, where there is a flat, unbroken soil, are unanimous and emphatic in the declaration that it is unsuitable for the farms of this locality. However, a good field had been secured for the trial, and in it Fowler, of Leeds, and Barford and Perkins, of Peterborough, showed the utility of their implements, with six acres devoted to each firm. The trials of mowers took place in a field near the show yard. The crop of grass was very light and the bottom tough, which well tested the capability of the implements. The exhibitors who engaged in the trial were Samuelson, Brenton, Wood and Co., Osborne and Co., Harrison, McGregor and Co. Several side self-delivery reaping machines were worked in a capital field of rye by the above-named exhibitors, and Dicker, of Chagford, worked a reaper with manual delivery. There were nine entries of ploughs, but only three came on the ground—Huxtable's single turn-wrest, Eddy's double-furrow, and Davey's Climax double-furrow. The ground to be dealt with was a very hard surfaced piece of hill-side, with a stiff clay bottom. Of the three implements that came into the field only Davey's got to work, from the difficulties of the ground. The others would have worked, but the stewards thought the ground too bad to afford any thing like a fair trial. There can be no doubt that, as usual, these so-called trials without results, otherwise prizes, were a complete failure.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE: S. P. Newberry, Plympton; G. May, Modbury; M. Savage, Chipping Norton. HORSES: C. Gordon, Honiton; G. Tucker, St. Germans; Rev. J. Russell, Swymbridge. SHEEP; Leicester, Exmoor, Dorset Horn, and Somerset, and PIGS: R. Salter, Cullompton; R. Mayo, Dorchester; J. Palmer, Crediton. South Devons, Dartmoor, and other Long-wools: T. Wills, Lustleigh; J. Palmer, Bridestowe; T. Cook, Tiverton.

CATTLE.

DEVONS.

Bulls exceeding three years old.—First prize, W. Farthing, Stowey (Master Harry); second, J. Jackman, Hexworthy, Cornwall (Earl of Exeter); third, Mrs. M. Langdon, Flitton Barton, North Molton (Duke of Flitton VIII.). Highly commended: Viscount Falmouth, Tregothnan, Probus (Kingcraft).

Bulls above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, W. Farthing (Master Robin); second, Mrs. M. Langdon (Duke of Flitton X); third, J. Snow, Boode (The Czar).

Bulls above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, J. Gould, Bampfylde Lodge, Exeter (Bampfylde); second, Mrs. M. Langdon (Duke of Plymouth); third, G. Turner, Brampford Speke (Duke of Edinburgh). Highly commended: W. Farthing (The Shah).

Bulls not less than six nor exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, W. Farthing (Master Willie); second, Mrs. M. Langdon (Duke of Bedford). Commended: J. Gould, Bampfylde Lodge (Tempter II.).

Cows exceeding three years old.—First prize, J. Bradbeer, Pyeland, Taunton (Beauty); second, W. Farthing (Milkmaid); third, J. Bradbeer (Nancy).

Heifers ao exceeding three years old.—First prize, J. Harris, Bittadon House, Barnstaple (Curly); second, Mrs. M. Langdon (Temptress III.); third, J. Jackman, Hexworthy (Fancy). Highly commended: W. May, Popham (Countess).

Heifers not less than twelve months nor exceeding two years old.—First prize, W. Farthing (Duchess); second, W. May, Popham (Lady-bird); third, W. Perry, Alder (Camellia). Highly commended: D. Ridd, Chelpham Barton (Jenny). The whole class commended.

Heifers not less than six nor exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, Mrs. M. Langdon (Actress VIII.); second, J. Jackman (Tulip); third, G. Shapland, jun., Broadmeadow Cottage, Newport (Countess of Devon). Highly commended: J. Gould, Bampfylde Lodge, Exeter (Rosedale).

SOUTH DEVONS.

Bulls exceeding three years old.—First prize, J. Wroth, Coombe, Bigbury (Baron); second, E. R. Cornish, Torr Farm, Mounts, Totnes (Sir Roger). Highly commended: J. and T. Irish, Poulston, Halwell, Totnes (Hercules).

Bulls above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, R. Trant, Elston, Churstow (King Coffee); second, G. Coaker, Old Newnham, Plympton (Young Hero).

Bulls above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, J. Wroth, Coombe, Bigbury, Ivybridge (Forester); second, W. Coaker, Charleton Court, Kingsbridge (Viscount); third, G. S. Toms, Greenway, Brixham.

Bulls not less than six nor exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, W. Coaker, Charleton Court, Kingsbridge (Admiral III.); second, J. B. Oldreive, Little Dartmouth (The Czar). Highly commended: L. N. Oldreive, Landcombe, Dartmouth (May Duke).

Cows exceeding three years.—First prize, W. Coaker, Charleton Court, Kingsbridge (Beauty); second, W. Coaker (Duchess); third, G. Dewdney, Higher Chaddlewood, Plympton (Beauty). Highly commended: W. Coaker (Daisy). Class commended.

Heifers not exceeding three years old.—First prize, W. Coaker (Lily); second, L. N. Oldreive, Landcombe, Dartmouth (Minnehaha). Highly commended: W. Harvey, Frogmore Farm, Ashprington (Cherry).

Heifers not less than twelve months nor exceeding two years old.—First prize, W. Coaker (Venus); second, W. Harvey (Nancy II); third, G. Dewdney (Nelson). Highly commended: F. W. Coaker (Primrose). Class commended.

Heifers not less than six nor exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, W. Harvey (Rose); second, W. Coaker (Violet).

SHORTHORNS.

Bulls exceeding three years.—First prize, J. W. Wilson, Austin House, Broadway, Worcester (Earl of Warwickshire III.); second, W. Hosken and Son, Loggan's Mill, Hayle, Cornwall (Duke of Oxford); third, J. Horswell, jun., Burn's Hall, Lew Down (Oxford Duke I.). Highly commended: W. H. Hewett, Norton Court, Taunton (Crown Prince).

Bulls above two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, W. H. Hewett (The Claimant); second, J. Horswell, Exwick House, Exeter (Oxford Duke III.); third, R. W. Pollard, Blagdon, Paignton (Duke of Oxford).

Bulls above one and not exceeding two years.—First prize, W. H. Hewett (Saccharometer); second, J. Horswell, jun., Burn's Hall, Lew Down (Oxford Duke VIII.).

Bulls not less than six nor exceeding twelve months.—Prize, C. Williams, Pilton House Barnstaple.

Cows exceeding three years.—First prize, W. Hosken and Son, Loggan's Mill, Hayle (Countess of Oxford II.); second, R. W. Pollard, Blagdon, Paignton (Rose).

Heifers not exceeding three years.—First prize, W. Hosken and Son (Moss Rose II.); second, W. H. Hewett, Norton Court, Taunton (Fanny). Highly commended: W. H. Hewett (Elsie).

Heifers not less than twelve months nor exceeding two years.—First prize, J. S. Bult, Dodhill, Taunton; second, W. Hosken and Son (Kentish Girl); third, W. Horswell, Week, Milton Abbot, Tavistock (Oxford Cometilla).

Heifers not less than six nor exceeding twelve months.—First prize, R. W. Pollard, Blagdon, Paignton (Princess Jessie); second, D. R. Scratton, Ogwell, Newton Abbot (Artful).

CHANNEL ISLANDS (JERSEY).

Bulls exceeding one year old on the 1st June, 1874.—Prize, G. D. W. Digby, Sherborne Castle, Sherborne (Cow Boy).

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Cows exceeding three years old.—First prize, G. D. W. Digby (Miss Edith); second, G. D. W. Digby (Queen of the Vale).

Heifers not exceeding three years old.—First prize, G. D. W. Digby (Miss Augusta); second, G. D. W. Digby (Bessie).

GUERNSEY.

Bulls exceeding one year.—First prize, E. A. Sanders, Stoke House, Exeter (Prince Humbert); second, E. A. Sanders (Prince Amadeus).

Cows exceeding three years old.—First prize, R. Rendle, Catel, Guernsey (Lady Jane); second, R. Rendle (Butter-cup).

Heifers not exceeding three years old.—First prize, E. Andrew Sanders (Young Elegance); second, W. H. Walrond, New Court, Topsham (Daisy).

SHEEP.

LEICESTERS.

Yearling rams.—First and second prizes, J. Tremaine, Polsue, Grampound, Cornwall; third and highly commended, J. Gould, Bampfylde Lodge, Poltimore.

Rams of any other age.—First prize, J. Tremaine; second, T. Potter, Yellowford, Thorverton; third, G. Turner, Brampford Speke, Exeter.—The whole class commended.

Pens of five yearling ewes.—First prize, J. Gould; second, J. B. Torr, Westleigh House, near Bideford.

Pens of five ewes of two years old and upwards, with their lambs.—First prize, J. B. Torr; second, T. Potter. Highly commended: G. Copp, Hill Side, Tawstock.

SOUTH DEVONS.

Yearling rams.—First, second, and third prizes, J. Fairweather, Malston, Sherford, Kingsbridge. Highly commended: E. R. Cornish, Torr, Mounts, Totnes. Commended: J. Stooke, East Sherford, Plympton.

Rams of any other age.—First prize, J. S. Hallett, Sherford Barton, Plympton; second, J. Badcock, Bearscombe, Kingsbridge. Commended: C. G. Mason, Ashprington Court, Totnes.

Pens of five yearling ewes.—First prize, J. Stooke; second, J. S. Hallett. Commended: W. Harvey, Frogmore Farm, Ashprington.

Pens of five ewes of two years old and upwards.—First prize, J. S. Hallett; second, J. Stooke. Highly commended: W. C. Hodge, Pounds House, Weston Peverell.

OTHER LONG-WOOLS.

Yearling rams.—First prize, R. Corner, Torweston, Williton, Somerset; second, Sir J. Heathcoat-Amory, Bart., M.P., Knightshayes Court, Tiverton; third, R. Corner. Highly commended: Sir J. Heathcoat-Amory, Bart., M.P. Commended: R. Corner; T. Radmore, Court Hayes, Thorverton.

Rams of any other age.—First, second, and third prizes, R. Corner. Highly commended: J. Wheeler and Sons, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour.

Pens of five shearling ewes.—First prize, R. Corner; second, Sir J. Heathcoat-Amory, Bt.; third, R. Corner. Highly commended: J. N. Franklin, Huxham. Commended: W. Leverton, Woolleigh Barton, Beaford.

Pens of five ewes, of two years old and upwards, with their lambs.—First prize, Sir J. Heathcoat-Amory, Bt.; second, J. N. Franklin. Highly commended: J. Trott, South Hill Barton, Uffculme. Commended: T. Radmore.

DARTMOORS.

Yearling rams.—First prize, R. Palmer, Venn Barton, Ashbury, Northlew, second, third, and highly commended, J. Drew, Artiscombe, Tavistock.

Rams of any other age.—First prize, J. Drew; second, R. May, Grendon, Tavistock. Highly commended: T. Willing, Wringworthy, Tavistock. Commended: J. Drew; R. May.

Pens of five yearling ewes.—First and second prizes, R. May. Commended: J. Drew.

Pens of five ewes, of two years old and upwards.—First and second prizes, R. May. Highly commended: J. Drew.

EXMOORS.

Yearling rams.—Second prize, P. Rock, Gratton Barton, Highbray.

Rams of any other age.—First prize, Lord Poltimore; second, C. Williams, Pilton House, Barnstaple; third, W. Burden, Kerscott, Swimbridge, Barnstaple. Commended: J. Smyth, Bentwitchen Farm, Northomlton.

Pens of five yearling ewes.—First and second prizes.—First and second prizes, Lord Poltimore; third, E. Passmore, Higher Fylton, Northmolton.—The whole class commended.

Pens of five ewes, of two years old and upwards.—First prize, E. Passmore; second, Lord Poltimore; third and commended, T. Yeo, Dennington Barton, Swimbridge. The whole class commended.

SOMERSET AND DORSET HORNS.

Yearling rams.—First and second prizes, H. Farthing, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater; third, Viscount Bridport, Home Farm, Cricket St. Thomas, Chard.

Rams of any other age.—Second prize, H. Farthing.

Pens of five yearling ewes.—First and second prizes, Viscount Bridport.

HORSES.

FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Stallions foaled before the 1st of January, 1871.—First prize, J. Jece, Newport, Barnstaple (John Bull); second, G. E. Elliott, Monkirton, Pinhoe (Model); third, C. Brown, Middlezoy, Bridgwater (Protection).

Stallions foaled on or after the 1st of January, 1871.—First prize, F. Quartley, Brimley, Southmolton (Clayball); second, G. Elliott, Swilley Farm, Plymouth (Young Drayman); third, T. Buckingham, Landkey Town (Petro).

Mares in foal, or having a foal by her side.—First prize, R. Pethebridge, Ham, Barnstaple (Clydesdale mare and foal); second, N. Cook, Chevithorn Barton, Tiverton (Kealant); third, G. Lock, Instow Barton, Instow, Devon (Jessie).

Fillies foaled in 1872.—First prize, J. Hexter, Moor Farm, Crediton; second, W. B. Pearse, Court Gates, Stoddiscombe (Juno); third, W. T. Hynam, Abbott's Marsh, Barrington, Chulmleigh.

HACKS OR HUNTERS.

Thoroughbred stallions suitable for getting hacks or hunters.—Prize, J. F. Bellew, Stockleigh Court, Crediton (Hurstbourne).

Roadster stallions.—Prize, B. Giles, Penquit, Ivybridge (Cottager).

Mares in foal, or having foals by their side.—First prize, N. Cook, Chevithorne Barton, Tiverton (Marygold I.); second, T. Palmer and Sons, Borough, Kelly, Tavistock (Polly); third, Captain W. Arthur, R.N. (Mayday).

Geldings or fillies foaled in 1870.—First prize, W. Trist, Langford Barton, Ugborough (The Baron); second, H. Ellis, Morebath, Tiverton (Baronet); third, R. Pethebridge, Ham, Barnstaple (Intrepid).

Geldings or fillies, foaled in 1871.—First prize, E. G. Legg, Coombe Down, Beaminster, Dorset (Black Prince); second, W. Trist, Langford Barton, Ugborough (Sydenham); third, T. Palmer and Sons (Premier).

Geldings or fillies, foaled in 1872.—First prize, W. Trist (Edinburgh); second, E. G. Legg (Rainbow); third, J. Heal, Parkham, Bideford (Hart).

Colts, geldings, or fillies foaled in 1873.—First prize, N. Cook (Second Flight); second, F. Quartly, Brimley, Southmoulton (Starlight); third, G. Davey and Son, Plaistow Mills, Barnstaple (Prince Georgie).

Mares or geldings, over four years old, exceeding 15 hands high.—First prize, W. A. Deane, Webbery, Bideford (Lorna); second, A. Gould, Blackheath, Exminster (Pattern Card); third, Rev. J. J. Chichester, Clovelly Rectory, Bideford (Brown Stout). Highly commended: W. Rookes, Baring House, Exeter (Prince).

Mares or geldings, over four years old, not exceeding 15 hands high.—First prize, Pedrick and Price, Paris-street and Heavitree-road, Exeter (Perfection); second, J. Harper, Bear-street, Barnstaple (Bob); third, F. Quartly, Brimley, Southmolton (Vesper).

PONIES.

Ponies of any age or sex under 14 hands high.—First prize, T. Radden, Plymouth (black-brown mare); second, A. E. Gould (Dandy); third, W. Rookes (Beauty). Commended: J. Parminter, Fullaford, Highbray, Barnstaple (Bob).

PIGS.

LARGE BREED.

Boars not less than six months old.—First prize, J. Dove, Hambrook House, Hambrook, Bristol; second, R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsey, Lincolnshire; third, J. Wheeler and Sons, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour. Commended: R. N. G. Baker, Heavitree, Exeter.

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Sows of any age in farrow, or with their litters.—First prize, L. E. Duckering; second, Wheeler and Sons; third, J. Dove.

SMALL BREED (BLACK).

Boars not less than six months.—First prize, Earl of Portsmouth; second, G. Turner, Bramford Speke, Exeter; third, Earl of Portsmouth. Highly commended: J. Partridge, Hillerton House, Bow.

Sows of any age, in farrow or with their litters.—First prize, J. Wheeler and Son; second and third, Earl of Portsmouth. Highly commended: Earl of Portsmouth. Commended; Lord Clinton; G. Copp, Hillside, Tawstock; T. Fisher, Upcott, Tawstock.

SMALL BREED (WHITE).

Boars not less than six months old.—First prize, J. Dove; Highly commended: R. E. Duckering.

Sows of any age, in farrow or with their litters.—First prize, R. E. Duckering; second, J. Dove, Hambrook House, Bristol. Highly commended: J. Dove. Commended: J. Wheeler and Sons.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES.

Pair of steers, of any breed, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, J. Horswell, jun., Barn's Hall, Lew Down (Shorthorn steers); second, J. M. Hartnoll, Lerwell, Chittlehampton, Southmolton (North Devon steers).

Pair of North Devon steers, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, W. Shapland, Fyldon Barton, Northmolton; second, T. K. Lock, Instow Barton, Instow, North Devon.

North Devon cows in milk or in calf, bred by the exhibitor.—Prize, T. D. Ridd, Chelpham, Barton, Bratten Fleming, Devon (Lady Elizabeth).

A special general meeting of the members of the Association was held in the Show-yard, Lord Poltimore presiding. The meeting was called for the purpose of considering the expediency of altering the second Rule of the Association, states that "No exhibition of the Association shall be held in any year in which either the Royal or Bath and West of England Society may hold its meeting in the county," and

Mr. DREW now proposed to add the following: "Unless the Council shall at the time see cause to determine otherwise, and any such meeting of the Royal or Bath and West of England Society so held in the county shall be considered as equivalent to the holding of a meeting of this Association in the particular division of the county in which it may have been held."

Mr. J. TAPP seconded the resolution.

Mr. POLLARD moved as an amendment that the part of Rule 2 which prohibited their holding an annual meeting of the Association in any year in which either the Royal or Bath and West of England Societies held a meeting in the county, be struck out.

Earl DEVON pointed out that the effect of the alteration proposed by the resolution would be to place a discretionary power in the hands of the Council.

Mr. DREW said the adoption of the amendment would be breaking faith with the other societies.

Mr. SCRATTON seconded the amendment, as he believed their meeting, which would be held in advance of the others, would not injure the latter, and, if necessary, they could put their meeting forward a fortnight.

Mr. ANSTEY said the amendment could not be put, as it affected the rules, and no notice had been given.

The noble CHAIRMAN said that nothing but a negative amendment could be put to the meeting.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried by a large majority, two only voting against it.

At the luncheon, Mr. SCRATTON counselled the establishment of a South Hams herd book.

THE DEVON COUNTY SHOW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Let me say one word on the dissatisfaction expressed by the exhibitors of North Devon cattle at this show. The Council doubtless intended to please every one by appointing a judge for each class of animals—viz., Shorthorns, South Hams Devons, and North Devons; but, sir, when these three men of opposite views got to work, it was soon seen, especially in the North Devon classes, that the competition rested between "*quantity* and *quality*," and as the third voice came from the Shorthorn judge, *quantity* had it! However, as we breeders of North Devon are quality men, we shall happily meet the quantity men again next week at Bristol, and, thirdly, at the Royal, where quality with symmetrical proportions have proper respect paid them. Yours faithfully,

AN EXHIBITOR.

[We have received another letter conveying precisely the same protest, as it does seem curious that "the Flittons" should have been put out as they were at Barnstaple.—EDITOR M.L.E.]

THE ROYAL CORNWALL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT ST. AUSTELL.

The show-ground, about a mile from the town, was delightfully situated in a valley, surrounded by fine trees, whose shade added greatly to the comfort of the visitors, of whom upwards of 6,000 attended on the first day—a number far exceeding that of any previous first day. The management was all that could be desired, and reflects much credit on the secretary, the director, and the other officials. Of the opening classes of Devons, if some of these were numerically short, the quality in nearly every case was good, Mr. John Jackman beating Lord Falmouth in the old bull class, and taking the Cup as well for the best bull of any breed in the yard. Again, amongst the Devon heifers, which are very superior, Mr. Jackman's two-year-old is especially excellent, as also is Mr. Perry's yearling and Mr. Jackman's calf. The Shorthorns were a good lot, and would, all classes considered, do credit to any county show in England; indeed we shall be much surprised if some of these do not take a good deal of beating at the Bedford Royal. When we hear that some thirty-odd years back there was scarcely a Shorthorn in Cornwall, it speaks much for the energy of the farmers of the county that they are able to send such a lot of animals on to the show-ground. The first prize, however, goes to Mr. Wilson, of Worcestershire, for the well-known bull the Earl of Warwickshire; the second prize is taken by Mr. Whitford for Earl of Fawsley, a half-brother of the first prize bull; and Messrs. Hosken are third with Townley Oxford. For bulls above two and under three years old, Messrs. Hosken's Duke of Oxford and Mr. Horswell's bull met to fight their battles o'er again, with the same result as on former occasions, and very good bulls they both are. Mr. Tregaskis wins with a very good bull-calf in a strong class of 16. Messrs. Hosken are first and second with their cows Alexandria and Countess of Oxford 2nd—the first far awaythe best; as they also are first and second with their heifers Moss Rose 2nd and Lady Oxford; while Moss Rose also takes the Cup as the best female in any class of cattle, and a charming heifer she is. The Hoskens also take first prizes in the classes for heifers calved in 1872 and 1873.

The Hereford classes were fairly filled, and the

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breed is said to be increasing in favour in the county; but that Shorthorns are the most esteemed is shown by there being 54 entries of Shorthorns, against 25 Herefords. The sheep are of more than average merit, but short in number. Mr. James Tremaine takes nearly all the prizes for Leicesters; but in the shearling class the Barnstaple decision was reversed: his three-year-old ram, which takes first prize in the old class, is really a wonderful sheep. Mr. Tremaine's sheep struck us as being so much superior in their legs of mutton to the general run of Leicesters. The South Hams are a useful sheep, and the Dartmoors looked to pine for their native ground, and to dislike the confinement they were subjected to. Lord Falmouth had some nice Shropshire Downs, with which he took all the prizes offered.

Taken as a whole the horses may be said to be a good lot, but it is not to be wondered at that among so many there should be some inferior. In the old class of agricultural stallions there were six competitors, and the first prize, Excelsior, is a very nice brown horse belonging to Mr. H. Laity, and bred in Monmouthshire, and he ought to do some good in the West, where, however, they do not like a heavy horse for agricultural work, and amongst the young stock evidence of a cross with thoroughbred ones was easily seen. Two Clydesdales have been introduced lately, but they appeared to have very light middles and not the best feet ever seen. Amongst agricultural stallions foaled after January 1st, 1871, Mr. Hawkey takes first prize with a clever blue roan, two years old, beating Mr. W. R. Tobey's Sir Garnet, a three-year-old, without much character. The agricultural mares and foals were a very mixed lot, and some of them looking quite out of place with foals at foot by thoroughbred horses; and the prizes went to the mares looking most calculated to breed horses for agricultural purposes. Mr. E. James showed a very clever three-year-old mare, that looked fit for almost anything, and Mr. W. Mugbur had a second to her with a good top but too high on the leg. In this class was exhibited a grey gelding with Grey Castle as its sire, and nearly as high as a church steeple, just the reverse of what a horse should be. Mr. W. Trethewy showed a smart chesnut yearling filly which deserved the prize awarded. She looked full of Suffolk blood and would hold her own, we fancy, even in the home of the chesnuts. Mr. E. Stroker takes second prize for a useful colt, and Mr. J. King Martyn is third with a smart black or grey filly, as much like light harness work; there were ten entries in this class, but scarcely two alike. Six thoroughbred stallions were entered and from the ring-side they looked a very good lot. Mr. H. Laity has a very handsome horse in Mouravieff, who in spite of his age wears very fresh and well, carries two good ends, has a deep middle, and goes remarkably well, with lots of freedom in his shoulders, while he can still use his hind legs. The second prize horse, Eastley, has a very handsome top, with good middle, but is rather high and short, and he is deficient in action. Poor old Motley looked pretty fresh, but he has lost his action, and his prize-taking days are over; and Garna, by King Tom, is but a flashy-looking one. The hunter mares and foals were a useful lot, Major Carlyon sending four out of the eight shown, and taking first and second prizes with two good mares, Mr. T. Hicks being third with a good sort of old grey mare. *The class* of the show was undoubtedly the three-year-old geldings and mares for hunting purposes, of which there were twelve entries; while three prizes were given, two were highly commended, and the entire class commended. The first is a very strong bay mare that at first sight looked rather plain, but she is a fine mover, and improves on acquaintance. This mare belongs to Mr. J. Laity, and with luck looks like being a very valuable weight carrier; the second prize horse of Mr. Chegwyn looks now more like harness than cross-country work, and the third prize, Miss Floretta, is full of quality, but rather light. One very handsome horse lost the prize on account of his hocks not looking quite the thing. There are not many counties that can produce such a class. The two-year-olds were a smart lot again. We preferred the second prize to the first, whose shoulders are too short, but he is a very smart-looking nag, and he moves well. The second prize one is a stronger animal, and looks more like carrying 14 stone to hounds, whilst the third is more of a park hack than a hunter. A very good-looking son of Mouravieff gets the prize as the best yearling, and a thoroughbred one by Dundee is second, in whom Major Carlyon has a very promising horse; whilst his filly by Blair Athol does not look worth half her sire's fee.

There were twenty hunters not less than four years old, and here we cannot agree with the judges in their first prize horse; it is true he looks equal to any weight, and he improves when set going, but a plainer one we have seldom seen. A very different sort is Mr. Jackman's bay mare, an eight-year-old "Irish hunter," with lots of substance, good quality, and one that looks and goes like a hunter. Mr. Whitford's Jessie, a good-looking mare, is highly commended, as is also Mr. Grigg's Rallie by Rallywood. There are several animals shown in this class that were very useful ones, but not coming up to the required condition of being "weight-carriers." A Cup given for the hunter in this class to be tried over hurdles was well won by Mr. Jackman's bay mare already alluded to. There were some good performers; but the "Irish hunter" proved herself a good one in her work as well as to look at. There were fourteen cobs and hacks not exceeding fourteen hands three inches in the next class, the first prize, a chesnut three-year-old mare belonging to Mr. W. Grose, was good looking, with a nice top and shoulders, but when ridden she did not appear to have length enough before the saddle, and her hind legs were too far behind her. Mr. Silas Rickard took the second prize with a nice four-year-old, and Mr. Cardell was highly commended for a three-year-old, as Mr. H. W. Tremaine received the same compliment for an aged cob who has been a wonder in his day. There was a fair show of pigs, Mr. Jacob Dove, of Bristol, and Messrs. Wheeler and Duckerings taking most of the prizes.

There was a small show of implements, the exhibitors of which stood thus in the catalogue: Brenton, Polbathic, St. Germans; Davey, Crofthole, St. Germans; Blamey and Son, Truro and Liskeard; Clemow and Co., St. Merryn, Padstow; Prout, Kelley, Lewanick; Draydon, Helland Bridge; Wellington, Probus; Mitchell and Son, Lelant, Hayle; Hornsby and Son, Grantham; Plimsaul Brothers, Plymouth; Samuelson and Co., Banbury; Wood, London; Day, Son, and Hewitt, Dorset-street, London; Marsden, Leeds; Osborne and Co., St. Austell; Clark, St. Austell; Oatey and Martyn, Wadebridge; Marshall Sons and Co., Gainsborough; Hearle and Sons, Gwarder, Penryn; Bradford and Co., High Holborn, London; Crabb and Sons, Bodmin and Falmouth; Ackland, Exeter; Goss, Plymouth; Jones, Aberdare; Singer and Company, Plymouth; Murton, Plymouth; Bailey Brothers, Chancery-lane, London; Myers, Navigation-road, York; Martyn, Wadebridge; Phillips and Co., Newton Abbot.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—Devons and Herefords: Mr. Powlesland, Stockley Pomeroy; J. W. P. James, Mappowder Court, Dorchester. Shorthorns: C. Howard, Biddenham, Bedfordshire; J. Wood, Harewood Hill, Darlington. Jerseys: Mr. Lisbriel, St. Neot. Sheep: W. Sandry, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham; E. Howard, Nocton Rise, Lincoln. Horses: Hacks and Hunters—H. Biddell

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Playford, Ipswich; T. Trist, Ugborough. Agricultural horses: N. G. Barthropp, Great Yarmouth; Mr. Stordy, Swinfen, Lichfield. PIGS: W. F. Collier, Woodtown, Horrabridge.

DEVONS.

Bulls above three years old.—First prize, J. Jackman, Hexworthy (Perfection); second, Viscount Falmouth, Tregothnan (Kingcraft); third, R. Knight.

Bulls above two and not exceeding three years old.—Prize, Mr. Julyan, Creed (Sweet William).

Bulls not exceeding two years old.—First prize, Mr. Julyan (Baronet); second, R. Bickle, Lifton (Perfection); third, J. Smith, Kea (Earl Bothwell).

Bulls not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, E. H. Somer, Advent, Camelford (Young Kerscott); second, R. Bickle (Prince 2nd); third, J. Menhenick, Wadebridge (Harold).

Cow in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months.—First prize, Mr. Julyan (Bloomer); second, Mr. Julyan (Cherry); third, J. Tremaine, Polsue.

Heifer in calf, or in milk, calved in 1871.—First prize, J. Jackman, Hexworthy; second, Mr. Julyan (Famous); third, J. Tremayne.

Heifer calved in 1872.—First prize, W. Perry, Lew Down, Devon (Champion); second, Mr. Julyan (Flora); third, J. Menhenick, Wadebridge (Diana).

Heifer calved in 1873.—First prize, J. Jackman; second, J. Menhenick (Marie). Highly commended: W. Perry, Lew Down.

SHORTHORNS.

Bulls above three years old.—First prize, J. Wilson, Broadway, Worcestershire; second, W. Whitford, Trehane, St. Erme (Earl of Fawaley); third, Hosken and Son, Hayle (Towaley Oxford).

Bulls above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, Hosken and Son (Duke of Oxford); second, J. Horswell, Burns Hall, Lew Down; third, J. Faull, Probus (Mercury).

Bulls not exceeding two years old.—First prize, J. Thomas, Gerrans (Knight of Oxford); second, W. Horswell, Week Barton; third, R. W. Pollard, Blagdon, Paignton (Duke of Oxford). Commended: Mr. Croggan, Creed (Rufus).

Bulls not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, Mr. Tregaskis, St. Issey; second, J. Horswell, Burns Hall; third, T. Blamey, Veryan (Marquis of Oxford). Commended: E. Stocker, jun., St. Mewan (Burngullow); G. Williams, Ruanlanthorne (Kingscote).

Cows in calf, or if in milk having had a calf within six months.—First prize, Hosken and Son (Alexandria); second, Hosken and Son (Countess of Oxford 2nd); third, R. W. Pollard, Blagdon, Paignton (Rose). Commended: J. Gill, Probus.

Heifers in calf or in milk, calved in 1871.—First prize, Hosken and Son (Moss Rose 2nd); second, Hosken and Son (Lady Cr'ord); third, Major Carlyon, Tregrehan, Par Station (Sweetbriar).

Heifers calved in 1873.—First prize, Hosken and Son (Countess of Oxford 3rd); second, J. Horswell, Burns Hall, Lew Down.

Heifers calved in 1873.—First prize, Hosken and Son (Kentish Girl); second, R. W. Pollard (Princess Oxford). Commended: Hosken and Son (Countess of Cornwall); J. Gill, Probus.

HEREFORDS.

Bulls above two years old.—First prize, G. Lobb, Lawhitton (Ostorius); second, J. Baron, Lanivet; third, R. Tucker, Prideaux Farm (Admiral).

Bulls not exceeding two years old.—First prize, Mr. Hawkes, St. Breward (King Koffee); second, J. Paull, Ruanlanihorne (Ganymede). Commended: G. Lobb, Lawhitton (Patriarch).

Bulls not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, R. Olver, Trescowe, Bodmin; second, R. Olver, Penhallow.

Cows in calf, or in milk, having had a calf within six months.—First prize, W. Grose, St. Kew; second, J. Paull (Daisy). Highly commended: R. Olver, Trescowe. Commended: R. Olver, Penhallow.

Heifers in calf, or in milk, calved in 1871.—First prize, W. Grose; second, W. Grose.

Heifers calved in 1872.—First prize, W. Grose; second, J. Paull. Commended: R. Olver.

Heifers calved in 1873.—First prize, J. Paull; second, W. Grose.

CHANNEL ISLAND BREED.

Bulls not exceeding four years old.—Prize, Mr. Rendle, Ca'el Farm, Guernsey.

Cows in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months.—First prize, Mr. Rendle; second, J. Tremayne, M.P.; third, J. Tremayne, M.P.

Heifers in calf, or in milk, calved in 1871.—First prize, D. H. Shilson, Trewhiddle, St. Austell; second, J. Tremayne; third, T. Coode, Pond-dhu, St. Austell.

SHEEP.

Leicester yearling rams.—First, second, and third prizes, J. Tremain Polsue.

Rams of any other age.—First prize, J. Tremain; second, Mr. Rosewarne, Nanpuska; third, J. Tremain.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First and second prize, J. Tremain; third, Mr. Rosewarne.

South Ham yearling rams.—First and second prize, J. Stooke, East Sherbord, Plympton; third, R. Cornish, Mounts, Totnes.

South Ham rams, of any other age.—First prize, R. D. Clemens, St. Keyne; second, J. Moon, Penhale; third, J. Dyer, Dobwalls, Liskeard.

Pen of South Ham yearling ewes.—First prize, R. C. Clarke, St. Budeaux; second, J. Stooke; third, J. Moon, Penhale, Liskeard.

Dartmoor yearling rams, to be shown in their wool.—First prize, R. Palmer, Venn Barton, Exbourne; second, J. Drew, Artiscombe, Tavistock.

Dartmoor rams of any other age, to be shown in their wool. First prize, R. May, Grendon, Tavistock; second, J. Drew.

Pen of five Dartmoor yearling ewes, to be shown in their wool.—First and second prizes, R. May. Commended: J. Drew.

Long-woolled yearling rams, not qualified to compete in the foregoing classes.—First prize, R. Corner Torweston, Somerset; second, R. H. Marshall, Trenoon, St. Mowgan; third, R. H. Marshall.

Long-woolled old rams.—First prize, Wheeler and Sons; second, R. Corner, Torweston, Somerset; third, R. Corner.

Pen of five long-wolled yearling ewes.—First and second prizes, R. Corner.

Shropshire Down yearling rams.—First and second prizes, Viscount Falmouth.

Shropshire Down old rams.—First and second prizes, Viscount Falmouth.

Pen of five Shropshire Down yearling ewes.—First and second prizes, Viscount Falmouth.

HORSES.

Agricultural stallions, foaled before 1st January, 1871.—First prize, H. Laity, Praze, Crowan (Excelsior); second, North Cornwall Stud Company (Bobby Burns.

Agricultural stallions, foaled on or after 1st January, 1871.—First prize, Mr. Hawkey, St. Columb (Cornish Champion); second, W. R. Sobey, St. Veep (Sir Garnet).

Agricultural mares and foals, or mares in foal.—First prize, J. Eglos, Merther (Tulip); second, J. Tremain, Polsue; third, J. Robins, Withiel. Highly commended: C. R. Gatley, Truro.

Agricultural geldings or fillies, foaled in 1871.—First prize, E. J. Newlyn; second, W. Mugfur, St. Sampsons; third, W. H. Tremaine, Newlyn.

Agricultural geldings or fillies, foaled in 1872.—First prize, T. Blamey, Veryan; second, Mr. Lark, Cornelly.

Agricultural colts, geldings, or fillies, foaled in 1873.—First prize, W. Trethewy, Probus; second, E. Stocker, jun., St. Mewan; third, J. King Martyn, St. Enoder. Highly commended: D. Cock, Roche.

Thoroughbred stallions, foaled before 1st January, 1871.—First prize, H. Laity, Crowan (Mouravieff); second, J. R. Bickle, Lamerton (Eastley).

Thoroughbred stallions, foaled on or after 1st January, 1871.—Prize, North Cornwall Stud Company (Pirate King).

Hacks or hunters, mares and foals, or in foal.—First prize, Major Carlyon (Princess); second, Major Carlyon (Sweet Oil); third, S. Hicks, Bodmin (Jessie). Highly commended: W. H. Preston, St. Mewan.

Geldings or fillies, foaled in 1871.—First prize, J. Laity, Goldsithney; second, Mr. Chegwyn, Pool; third, R. White, St. Just (Miss Floretta).

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Geldings or fillies foaled in 1872.—First prize, J. H. Grigg, Creed (Laddie); second, N. H. Hocking, Nansloe, Wendron; third, W. Rowse, Bodmin.

Colts, geldings, or fillies foaled in 1873.—First prize, E. J. Newlyn; second, Major Carlyon; third, J. Tremain.

Weight-carrying hunters, not less than four years old.—First prize, A. Brewer, Probus; second, Mr. Jackman, Plymouth. Highly commended: R. H. Hocking; W. Whitford, Trehane, St. Erme (Jessie).

Weight-carrying hunter, mare or gelding, to be tested over hurdles in the show yard.—Special prize, Silver cup, Mr. Jackman.

Cobs, mares, or geldings, not exceeding 14 hands 3 inches high.—First prize, W. Grose, Lanivet; second, S. Rickard, Lower St. Columb.

Mare or gelding cob, not exceeding 14 hands 3 inches high, to be tested over hurdles in the showyard.—Special prize, Silver Cup, W. H. Tremaine.

Ponies, mares or geldings, not exceeding 13½ hands high.—First prize, Mr. Jackman; second, J. G. Hugo, Feock. Highly commended: Miss H. M. Tremaine, Heligan (Leotard); J. Lovering, St. Austell.

Mare or gelding pony, not exceeding 13½ hands high, to be tested over hurdles in the showyard.—Special prize, Silver Cup, R. Nicholls, Lostwithiel. Highly commended: J. Paull, Ruanlanihorne.

PIGS.

Boars, large breed.—First prize, J. Dove, Bristol; second, Wheeler and Son, Long Compton. Commended: Mr. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsay.

Breeding sows in farrows, or that have farrowed within six months of the meeting.—First prize, J. Dove; second, Wheeler and Sons. Highly commended: Mr. Duckering.

Pen of two breeding sows (of the same litter), not exceeding twelve months old.—Prize, Mr. Duckering.

Small breed, boars exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, Mr. Duckering; second, Wheeler and Sons; third, W. Fenton, St. Mewan.

Boars not exceeding twelve months old on the 1st June, 1874.—First prize, Mr. Duckering; second, J. Dove; third, J. Tremain. Highly commended; J. Tremain; N. Reynolds, Creed. Commended: R. Knight, Lanivet; J. Basset, Kenwyn; W. Trevenen, Crowan.

Breeding sows in farrows, or that have farrowed within six months of the meeting.—First prize, Mr. Duckering; second, J. Dove; third, Wheeler and Sons. Highly commended: J. Dove. Commended: J. Tremain.

Pen of two breeding sows (of the same litter), not exceeding twelve months old on the 1st June, 1874.—First prize, J. Dove; second, Wheeler and Sons; third, J. S. Guy, Endellion. Highly commended: R. Nicholls.

SPECIAL AWARDS.

The best cow in the yard.—Mr. Jackman (Devon).
Best bull.—Messrs. Hosken (Shorthorn).
Best ram.—Mr. Tremain.
Best pen of ewes.—Mr. Tremain.
Best pig.—Mr. Dove.

THE OXFORDSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT WITNEY.

This show proved to be one of the most attractive meetings ever held by the County Society. It was a very generally goodone, though the cattle were not the best section, but Mr. Penson's bull in the first class, and Mr. G. Garne's cow, and Mr. Hewer's heifer, were as good as any in their respective classes as were ever shown at the Society's shows. The sheep were a large show, and the Duke of Marlborough's Oxfordshire Downs were quite a show of themselves; while Mr. Gillett's Cotswolds were also good. There was a good show of horses, much larger than ever exhibited in Oxfordshire; but the two prizes for hunters went out of the county.

JUDGES.—CATTLE: C. Howard, Biddenham, Bedford; E. Little, Lankill, Chippenham. HORSES: T. Bulford, Hordley; T. M. K. Elliott, Heathercote. SHEEP AND PIGS: J. Bryan, Northleigh; R. J. Newton, Campsfield.

CATTLE.

The best horned animal in the yard, exhibited in either of the Classes 1 to 6.—A Silver Cup, of 5 gs., R. Penson, Foxcote.

Bull of two years old and upwards.—First prize, £7, R Penson; second, £3, J. A. Mumford, Brill.

Bull of one year and under two years old.—First prize, £7, J. A. Mumford; second, £3, H. Betteridge, East Hanney. Commended: J. Dodwell, Long Crendon, and A. T. Matthews, Hanborough.

Bull-calf under one year old.—First prize, £7, G. Garne, Churchill Heath; second, £3, R. Penson. Commended: T. Hewer, Inglesham, and J. A. Mumford.

Cow (having already produced one calf) in milk or in-calf, of three years old and upwards.—First prize, £7, G. Garne; second, £3, J. B. Jenkins, Kingston Bagpuze.

Heifer in milk or in-calf, under three years old.—First prize, £7, J. A. Mumford; second, £3, T. Hollis, Coggs.

Heifer for breeding purposes, under two years old.—First prize, £7, T. Hewer; second, £3, J. A. Mumford. Commended: G. Garne.

Pair of cows in milk, of five years old and upwards.—First prize, £7, S. Smith, Somerton; second, £3, G. Wallis, Old Shifford. Commended: J. Timms, Evenlode.

For the best entry in Classes 7 or 8.—A Silver Cup or Plate, value £10, S. Smith.

HORSES.

Mare for breeding hunters.—A silver Cup, of 5 gs., F Dandridge, Northcourt.

Hunter, five years and upwards, being at least equal to 13 stone weight, exhibited by a tenant-farmer.—A Silver Cup, of 5 gs., G. A. Lepper, Aylesbury.

Hunter not over seven years.—A Silver Cup, of £10, G. A. Lepper. Highly commended: W. H. Fox, Bradwell Grove.

Nag horse for general purposes.—First prize, £7, A. R. Howland, Thame. Highly commended: T. Akers, Burton Abbotts.

Cart mare, with colt or to foal this season.—First prize, £7, T. Akers, Burton Abbotts; second, £3, J. Hutt, Water Eaton. Highly commended: S. Davis, Woolashill.

Cart gelding or filly, above two and under four years.—First prize, £7, J. Hitchman, Little Milton; second, £3, to ditto. Highly commended: J. Hutt.

Cart colt or filly, under two years.—First prize, £7, S. Busby Curbridge; second, £3, Mrs. Rowland, Shabbington. Highly commended: H. Barnett Glympton Park.

Entire cart horse travelling in Oxfordshire or within 2 miles of Witney for the season of 1874.—First prize, £7, W Coles, Long Crendon; second, £3, H. Woodbridge, Chimney. Highly commended: J. Hutt.

SHEEP.

Oxfordshire Down shearling ram.—First prize £7, Duke of Marlborough; second, £3, A. F. M. Druce, Eynsham. Highly commended: G. Wallis; commended: Duke of Marlborough.

Oxfordshire Down ram, above two years old.—First prize, £7, J. Treadwell, Upper Winchendon; second, £3, A. F. M. Druce. Highly commended: G. Wallis.

Oxfordshire Down ram exhibited in classes 17 or 18—Plate, value 4gs., J. Treadwell.

Pen of five Oxfordshire shearling ewes.—First prize, £7, Duke of Marlborough; second, £3, G. Wallis. Highly commended: A. F. M. Druce. Commended: Z. W. Stilgoe, Adderbury.

Pen of five breeding Oxfordshire Down ewes, with their lambs.—First prize, £7, Duke of Marlborough; second, £3, J. Treadwell. Commended: H. Gale, Caddesdon.

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Pen of five Oxfordshire Down shearling wethers.—First prize, plate, value 5gs., Sir H. Dashwood, Bart., Kirtlington Park; second, £3, Z. W. Stilgoe.

Long-woolled shearling ram.—First prize, £7, T. and S. G. Gillett, Kilkenny; second, £3, ditto. Highly commended: S. Smith.

Long-woolled ram, above two years old.—First prize, £7. S. Smith; second, £3, T. and S. G. Gillett.

Pen of five long-woolled shearling ewes, First prize, £7, T. and S. G. Gillett; second, £3, ditto.

Pen of five long-woolled breeding ewes, with their lambs.—First prize. £7, T. and S. Gillett; second, £3, ditto.

Pen of 40 stock ewes of any one breed, the *bona fide* property of the exhibitor, which shall have bred and brought up lambs on his farm. A Silver Cup, value £20, Duke of Marlborough. Commended: C. Gillett, Lower Haddon, and T. and S. G. Gillett.

Pen of ten Oxfordshire Down ram lambs. A Silver Cup, value £5, G. Adams, Faringdon. Highly commended: W. S. Hunt, Fawler.

Pen of ten Oxfordshire Down ewe lambs. A Silver Cup, value £5, W. S. Hunt. Highly commended: Mrs. Pratt, Little Haseley.

Pen of ten long-woolled ram lambs. A Silver Cup, value £5, E. Tombs, Shilton. Highly commended: C. Gillett.

Pen of ten long-woolled ewe lambs.—A Silver Cup, value £5, E. Tombs.

PIGS.

Boar not exceeding 16 months old.—First prize, £7, A. C. Baily, Swindon; second, £3, J. Dove, Bristol. Highly commended: H. Humpfrey, Shrivenham. Commended: Ditto.

Boar exhibited in class 31.—Plate, value 3gs., A. C. Baily.

Sow in farrow or with pigs.—First prize, £7, H. Humfrey; second, £3, ditto. Highly commended: J. Dove

Pen of five breeding pigs of one litter, not exceeding six months.—First prize, £7, H. Humfrey; second, £3, J. Druce, Eynsham. Commended: J. Dove.

Beast, sheep, or pig, for consumption, brought to earliest maturity, symmetry and quality being considered.—A Silver Cup or Plate, value 5gs., E. W. Harcourt, Nuneham Park.

Best jumper of a wall, water jump, timber fence, hedge and ditch.—A Cup, value £20, J. Hutt.

Shoeing a saddle horse—First prize, £3, E. Glanville, Oxford; second, £2, A. Ballard, Longworth.

Shoeing of a cart horse—First prize, £3, C. Wiggins, Witney; second, £2, W. Jackson, sen., Witney.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND ISLE OF ELY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT NEWMARKET.

In the first instance it was resolved that, in consequence of the Royal Agricultural Society visiting Bedford this year, the county show should be abandoned; but it was subsequently determined that the meeting should be held as usual. Under the circumstances there was a great falling off, and the attendance was very limited. At the luncheon, Mr. C. W. Townley, the chairman, said there were not so many things exhibited as might have been expected, but the quality came up very well.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CART HORSES: J. Manning, Orlingbury, Wellingborough; T. Plowright, jun., Pinchbeck, Lincoln. NAG HORSES: J. E. Bennett, Husband's Bosworth, Rugby; T. M. K. Elliott, Heathencote, Towcester. CATTLE: C. Howard, Biddenham; J. Lynn, Stroxton, Grantham. LONG-WOOLLED SHEEP AND PIGS: J. H. Caswell, Laughton, Folkingham; H. Dudding, Wragby, Lincoln. SHORT-WOOLLED AND CROSS-BRED SHEEP: T. Fulcher, Elmham, Dereham; J. Treadwell, Upper Winchendon, Aylesbury. IMPLEMENTS: M. Cooke, Ely; J. Martin, Littleport. BUTTER AND CHEESE: G. Dooks, Newmarket; M. Hilton, Newmarket.

HORSES.

AGRICULTURAL.

Stallion.—First prize, J. Martin, Littleport; second, H. Stanley, Bury St. Edmunds.

Entire three years old colt.—First prize, T. Briggs, Babraham; second, H. Cockle, Hilrow.

Entire two years old colt.—First prize, G. E. Daintree, Fenton; second, J. Martin.

Cart mare, not under four years old.—First prize, C. Ambrose, Stuntney; second, H. Lambert, Abington Park.

Mare and foal.—First prize, C. Ambrose; second, F. G. Robins, Isleham.

Two years old filly.—First prize, C. Ambrose; second, T. H. Vergette, Borough Fen, Peterborough.

Yearling colt or filly.—First prize, J. Coy, Decoy Farm, near Mildenhall; second, B. W. Grounds, jun., Whittlesey.

Plough team.—First prize, E. Staples, Exning; second, J. Crisp, Stow-cum-Quy.

Dray horse.—First prize, T. Gardner; second, J. S. Nunn.

Cart foal.—First prize, J. Martin; second, C. Ambrose.

Entire horse for agricultural purposes.—Prize, a cup, value £20, J. Martin.

RIDING AND COACHING.

Stallion calculated to get weight-carrying hunters.—Prize, T. Smith, Bansted Manor.

Hackney stallion.—First prize, W. Giddens, Walpole; second, C. Groncock, Newmarket.

Hackney mare or gelding.—First prize, W. Giddens; second F. W. Lilley, Granchester.

Hunter of any age.—Prize, G. S. Hall, Ely.

Carriage horse, not entered for any other premium.—First prize, W. R. Cockle, Hilrow.

Hackney mare or gelding, not exceeding 15 hands high, not entered for any other premium.—Prize, T. Banyard, Horningsea.

Hackney mare or gelding, not exceedig 14 hands, not entered in premium 24.—A cup value £10, W. R. Cockle, Hilrow.

Riding cob, not exceeding 14 hands 2 inches, and not under 13 hands 2 inches.—Prize, F. W. Lilley, Granchester.

Pony under 13 hands 2 inches.—Prize, W. F. Saberton, Wilbutton.

Yearling colt or filly got by "Little Pippin."—Prize, H. Stanley, Bury St. Edmund's.

Thoroughbred mare and foal.—First prize, T. Jennings, Newmarket; second, S. Smith, Bansted Manor.

Thoroughbred stallion, calculated to get hunters, open to serve half-bred mares, within the limits of the Society.—Prize, Earl of Stamford and Warrington.

CATTLE.

Bull not exceeding two years.—First prize, Lord Braybrooke, Audley End; second, H. Porter, Haddenham.

Bull not exceeding one year.—First prize, Lady Pigot, Newmarket; second, T. Banyard, Horningsea.

Cow in calf or in milk.—First prize, T. Jennings, Newmarket; second, C. Ambrose, Stuntney.

Heifer not exceeding three years.—Prize, Lady Pigot.

Heifer not exceeding two years.—First prize, Lady Pigot; second, C. Ambrose.

Heifer not exceeding one year.—First prize, Lady Pigot; second, C. Daintree, Fentor.

Alderney and Guernsey cow in calf or in milk.—First prize, W. Gilbey, Hargrave Park; second, J. Dawson, Newmarket.

Shorthorn bull of any age.—Prize, C. Beart, Stow, Downham Market.

Best bull in the yard.—Prize, C. Beart.

Bull, cow, and offspring.—Prize, G. Jonas, Ickleton.

SHEEP.

Shearling Leicester or Lincoln ram.—First and second prizes, T. Gunnell, Milton.

Pen of five Leicester or Lincoln ram-lambs.—First prize, F. Allwood, Walsworth; second, F. Ellis, Chesterton.

Pen of five Leicester or Lincoln ewes, each certified to have brought up a lamb this year.—First prize, T. Gunnell; second, F. Allwood.

Pen of five shearling Leicester or Lincoln ewes.—First and second prizes, T. Gunnell.

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Pen of five Leicester or Lincoln ewe-lambs.—First and second prizes, F. Ellis.

Shearling Southdown ram.—First and second prizes, Lord Braybrooke.

Pen of five Southdown ram-lambs.—Prize, F. M. Jonas, Chrishall Grange.

Pen of five Southdown ewes, each certified to have brought up a lamb this year.—First prize, F. M. Jonas; second, G. Jonas.

Pen of five shearling Southdown ewes.—First prize, G. Jonas; second, F. M. Jonas.

Pen of five Southdown ewe-lambs.—First prize, F. M. Jonas; second, G. Jonas.

Pen of five short-woolled fat shearling wethers.—Prize, G. Cooke, Horseheath Park.

Shearling short-woolled ram, not Southdown.—First prize, G. Cooke; second, F. Street, Bedford.

Pen of five short-woolled ram-lambs, not Southdowns.—First prize, G. Cooke; second, F. Street.

Pen of five short-woolled ewes, each certified to have brought up a lamb this year, not Southdown.—First prize, G. Cooke; second, F. Street.

Pen of five shearling short-woolled ewes, not Southdowns.—First prize, G. Cooke; second, F. Street.

Pen of five shortwoolled ewe lambs, not Southdowns.—First prize, H. Lambert, Abington Park; second, G. Cooke.

Pen of five cross-bred lambs.—First prize, T. Rush, Babraham; second, W. Baker, Stapleford.

Pen of five half-bred fat shearling wethers.—First prize, W. J. Waters, Babraham.

Southdown ram.—First prize, Lord Braybrooke; second, G. Jonas, Ickleton.

Pen of five cross-bred or half-bred ewe lambs.—First prize, T. Rush, Babraham; second, R. Musk, Dullingham.

Pen of five cross-bred or half-bred ram lambs.—First prize, T. Rush, Babraham; second, W. Baker.

Blackfaced Suffolk ram.—First prize, J. M. Green, Stradishall Place.

Shearling blackfaced Suffolk ram.—First prize, J. M. Green; second, Lord G. Manners, M.P., Cheveley Park; third, W. S. Gardner, Moulton.

Pen of five shearling blackfaced Suffolk ewes.—First prize, Lord G. Manners, M.P.; second, W. S. Gardner; third, E. Staples, Exning.

Pen of five blackfaced Suffolk ewes, each certified to have brought up a lamb this year.—First prize, E. Staples; second, W. S. Gardner.

Pen of five blackfaced Suffolk ewe lambs.—First prize, H. Northern, Moulton; second, Lord G. Manners, M.P.

Pen of five blackfaced Suffolk ram lambs.—First prize, Lord G. Manners, M.P.; second, J. S. Green; third, H. Northern.

PIGS.

Boar, large breed.—First and second prizes, H. A. Kilham, Tydd St. Mary.

Boar, small breed.—First and second prizes, H. A. Kilham.

Sow, in pig or suckling, large breed.—First prize, H. A. Kilham.

Sow, in pig or suckling, small breed.—First prize, H. A. Kilham; second, J. P. Fison, Teversham.

Pen of three sow pigs, not six months old, large breed.—First prize, H. A. Kilham.

Pen of three sow pigs, not six months old, small breed.—First prize, H. A. Kilham.

IMPLEMENTS.

Collection of agricultural implements.—First prize, Ransomes, Sims, and Head, Orwell Works, Ipswich.

BUTTER.

Three pounds of butter, in single pounds, the exhibitor being an owner or occupier of land.—First prize, R. White, Soham; second, T. Jennings, Newmarket.

THE HORSE SHOW AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.

Those great judges of form, the tight-lacing young ladies who set about correcting nature's loveliest work, often find when they have nearly accomplished the feat, as Abernethy said, of getting the contents of a quart-pot into a pint, that Dame Nature starts for them a danger signal in the shape of a jolly red nose. Now we do not say the manager of the Agricultural Hall ever accomplished the quart-pot and pint feat, but he is evidently aware that nature must give way to art if too tightly pinched; and this year it was given out that he was going to start a danger signal — not a jolly nose, but a thermometer. This is a step in the right direction, as a thermometer is a correct reporter if not supplied with iced champagne, as then it might err, like some other reporters, who actually gave the credit of managing a horse show to one who acted the parts of bottle-holder, head-waiter, messenger, and cock chambermaid, and who knew as much about a horse show, and had as much to do with it, as Maria Martin or the Red Barn. But though we failed to find the thermometer, we found the hall as clean and as sweet as ever, and comparatively cool to the scorching heat in the paddock on Epsom Downs, and, to give the Secretary his due, everything was well done at "*the greatest horse show in the world,*" which must be all the world to him, as we happen to have witnessed a few of the small ones, one where there were 450 stallions, including West Australian:

> So have I heard on Afric's burning shore
> Another lion give a grievous roar,
> And the first lion thought the last a bore.

About ten o'clock we found Lord Waterford, Sir George Wombwell, and Colonel Luttrell, who acted for Mr. John Musters, who had met with an accident when trying a horse some days ago; while Mr. Phillips, of Knightsbridge, the well-known dealer, after being an absentee for fifteen months through a broken leg from a kick, was to be seen supported by a couple of friends which he told us once did service for the Honourable Robert Grimston well-known in the Vale. Then Mr. A. H. Billington, who has three or four nice horses in the yard, has not quite recovered of an arm broken in two places and a severe kick on the ankle. With this we must conclude the chapter of accidents, although we nearly had another when Honeycomb, a well-known show nag, while cantering round the ring, stepped in a hole and came down plump on his rider's leg. "There's another fall in beef!" we ejaculated at the moment, which so startled an agricultural friend, deep in the morning paper, that with anxiety in his face, he cried "O drabbit it! You don't say so!" But we must return to the ring, where we find forms familiar to the eye, while some of the judges act so frequently that surely they give more than a fair share of these fanciful verdicts, which, after all, as Mr. Hawkins remarked of the evidence of the noble army of Carabineers when they had all been brought up and one after the other said on oath in confident tones, *That's him*, "My Lord, all this is but opinion after all," and with three or four facts the learned Q.C. routed the regiment." As one gallop across a fair hunting country for a cup or two at the end of the show season of each year would set at rest all differences of opinion as to which was the best of the show nags up to a certain weight, and keep an impostor fit for nothing but the ring out of it. Then there are bipeds who will enter where angels dare not tread, and who, when they see the orderly throng standing round, set the common decencies and rules of a horse show at defiance by trying to thrust themselves into the ring on the strength of knowing an official or a judge—as if they and only they knew an official or a judge. We put the great

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men first for repulsing several and doing their duty. Barring numbers of nondescript animals, whose like we never wish to look upon again, the show of horses is good, for there are many deep-framed, good-ended, nice-limbed, free-stepping, hunting-like horses; a few for the ladies, and several for the youngsters, as well as a goodly lot of well made quick-stepping roadsters and fashionable grand-moving park hacks; while nearly all the prize horses of any note are among them, which go the round of the shows like a travelling circus, so that what you see at one place you meet with at another. Then there are roadster, but no thorough-bred stallions, harness horses in pairs and tandems, polo ponies, and people continually asking when the jumping will begin. Is it not lamentable that a few five-pound notes laid out to encourage owners of hacks to jump them, and a little water to make a splash, is a greater attraction to the cockney and paying multitude than the finest shaped horses that a thousand pounds in prizes will bring together? But how can we expect people to appreciate a hunter who never saw a hound?

It takes about three minutes to run the Derby course, and say at the outside a minute and a half to hoist the 1, 2, 3, while the six-and-twenty horses in the weight-carrying hunters up to not less than fifteen stone took the judges exactly two hours by the clock to place. The first is the compact, stout-built Palmerston, a great prize-taker last year, with limbs well placed, and a quick, sharp goer, but evidently not showing to his best in the Hall. The second, Iron King, is a rather soft-looking bay, but a useful horse with good action; while Chief Constable, a taker of several prizes as a four-year-old last year, was much fancied by many, and takes third honours. He has fined a great deal, and now shows more of the blood of his sire, Theobald, a son of Stockwell, and makes good use of his iron-looking legs, bringing the hind ones well under him. Behind him is the lighter-made Grandmaster of Mr. Holmes; Lucifer, a fine powerful brown of Mr. Billington's; Waverley, a blood-like nag of Mr. Percival's; Earl Spencer's Emperor; Mr. Hayward's Sir Isaac Newton; Mr. Tattersall Musgrave's Honeycomb, often described in this paper; Mr. G. Bland's Conrad and Gem of the Peak. A half-bred stallion entered in the roadsters also figured in this class, and one year, at Birmingham, actually took a thorough-bred stallion prize, and again beat several more thorough-breds another year, but was disqualified as not to be found in the stud book. He never struck us as a thoroughbred, and is not the first half-bred that has carried off a thorough-bred stallion prize. The hunters without condition as to weight were a very good class, mustering over fifty, including the well-known Banker, who is now in his prime, and to whom we have always stuck to from a two-year-old. Then Iron King, a second prize in the weight carriers, takes the same honours here, but is disqualified because he has already taken a hunting prize, which let in Mr. Trueman Mill's well-known bloodlike chesnut Ruby, and a good goer; but as he does not give a satisfactory account of himself, Mr. Harvey Bayly's Newsmonger comes in for second honours, a horse which was second to Landmark at Malton one year, and now thickened into a compact clever-looking one, and as sound as the day he was foaled, and Digby Grand, a good moving, rather light-backed son of old Orpheus, for third honours, while Mr. Goodliffe's Marshal MacMahon, invincible as a two-year-old, takes the fourth place. Mr. Billington's Caradoc was much fancied by the judges. Mr. Jewison's Freddy was neat and could go, as could Major Chaplin's hog-maned Singalee, while Dolly Varden, of Wansford, looked like flying with a light weight; and Captain Heygate, a breeder of hunters, has in Sir Hercules a neat one that will bear looking into, and will be sold at the Captain's fifth annual sale at Tattersall's on the 22nd June. Some of the others we noticed were the Earl of Rosebery's The Boy, Mr. Newcomen's Kismet, Mr. Battam's King of Trumps, Mr. Parry's Mrs. Borrodale, Mr. Sanday's Silvertail, Mr. Linnell's Czaravina, and Mr. Lepper's Calico The four-year-old class was good, and mustered over thirty strong, headed by Cashier, a fine looking horse, and an oily goer of great character, who was afterwards awarded the Cup for the best hunter in all the classes; and darkness coming on, we had no time for a close inspection, Among the four-year-olds he beats was Prize-taker, a first prize three-year-old when he was nowhere; the Showman, a very good-looking one from Hull, not unknown in the ring, but which did not show so well in the saddle as when we have seen him lead at Driffield, Malton, Hull, &c. Nor had Lieut.-Colonel Barlow's Cornishman, a rather gentlemanly horse, got quite used to the saddle and the Hall, a horse we saw take prizes at Hull and Gainsborough last year. Mr. Mills' Reindeer and Captain Heygate's Constable were nice horses, and some more which we have not time to notice. The second four-year-old, Sedgwick, was light and shelly, and not much to look at. In the hunters under 15 hands 2in. out of the twenty-one or two there were a few nice ones, but the tug of war laid between Sir George Wombwell's Miss Sykes, a very bloodlike, handsome mare, and good goer, and Mr. Harvey Bailey's thick-set, nicely-built Enterprise, as strong as a tower, with grand action, and legs well under him. Sir George retired, and Lord Shannon took his place, the verdict being in favour of Enterprise, which was then not half shown in the covert hacks and roadsters not exceeding fifteen two, as he is a wonderfully fine trotter, and was beaten by Norma, a fast stepping cob, kept at her best pace the whole time. The third was Corisande, of good form and action; while Filbert, one of the neatest of cobs, with grand action, if not lasting, came in for a commendation. The riding horses of any height, exceeding fifteen two, as a lot were poor. Inniskilliner could move well, and so could Brunette stylishly; while on Coomassie we should not like to risk a rather bald crown.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.

HUNTERS.

Lord Waterford.
Sir George Wombwell.
Colonel Luttrell.

RIDING HORSES.

The Marquis of Waterford.
The Earl of Shannon.
Sir George Wombwell.

COVER HACKS AND ROADSTERS.

Lord Shannon.
Colonel Kingscote.
Colonel Maude.

Weight carriers up to 15 stone.—First prize, £60, H. Jewison, Raisthorp, York (Palmerston); second, £30, R. Hutton, Gloucester-place (Iron King); third, £20, T. Harvey Bayly, Ollerton (Chief Constable).

Without condition as to weight.—First prize, £60, W. Armstrong, Kendal (The Banker); second, £25, T. Harvey D. Bayly (Newsmonger); third, £15, A. Kennard, May Fair (Digby Grand); fourth, £10, J. Goodliffe, Huntingdon (Marshal McMahon).

Four years old.—First prize, £50, W. Armstrong (Cashier); second, £25, T. H. Ashton, Worcester (Sedgwick).

Not exceeding 15 hands 2 inches high.—First prize, £40, T. Harvey D. Bayly (Enterprise); second, £20,

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Sir G. Wombwell (Miss Sykes). [Lord Shannon judged in this class.]

RIDING HORSES.

Exceeding 15 hands 2 inches high.—First prize, £20, G. Heaviside, Dublin Castle (Inniskillener); second, £10, Smith and Sanday, Nottingham (Brunette); third, £5, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales (Coomassie).

COVER HACKS AND ROADSTERS.

Not exceeding 15 hands 2 inches high.—First prize, £20, R. E. D. Poucy, Kensington (Norma); second, £10, T. Harvey Bayly (Enterprise); third, £8, R. Nelson, Barton, York (Corisande). Commended: H. Frisby, Buckingham-gate, Filbert.

PARK HACKS AND LADIES HORSES.

Not exceeding 15 hands 2 inches high.—First prize, £20, Mrs. Frisby (Lady Adelaide); second, £10, Sir George Wombwell's (Miss Sykes); third, £5, A. C. Kennard, Eaton-place (Sunshine).

STOCK SALES.

SALE OF SHORTHORNS AT BLISWORTH,

ON FRIDAY, MAY 22ND, 1874.

BY MR. THORNTON.

Blisworth is a convenient centre on the London and North Western Railway for the Northamptonshire and Warwickshire farmers; and as the Rev. John Storer's herd at Hellidon, near Daventry, some fourteen miles away, had outgrown the small farm, he sent forward three-and-twenty of his animals for sale at George Savage's farm, adjoining the canal, and scarcely five minutes' walk from the station. Mr. Waldo, whose herd in Kent is of somewhat similar blood, wishing to dispose of two or three tribes, contributed eleven head, and these, with three bulls from Mr. C. C. Dormer, and a few odd lots, mustered sufficient for a sale. The situation may have helped it; but doubtless the blood had more attraction, for we have not seen this year so large and influential a company as surrounded the ring at half-past one. Yorkshire was well represented by Mr. Booth, Mr. Pickersgill, and others; Lincoln, by Messrs. Dudding, Pears, Paddison, and Garfit; the Rev. Thomas Staniforth and Mr. Jacob Fair hailed with several others from Lancashire; while Cumberland and Northumberland had representatives; and Mr. Crosbie came from Ireland, and Mr. Deans and Mr. Easton from Scotland. Even distant Wales is now affording a home for the Shorthorn, and Mr. Pugh took one of the handsomest lots into Carmarthenshire.

The place is well adapted for a sale. There is a large, open straw-yard, surrounded with houses and loose-boxes, so that from fifty to sixty head could be well accommodated, and an adjoining field makes a good place for the ring, to say nothing of the easy delivery to the station, and absence of any town or crowded dwellings. The very thing, however, acts somewhat against the stock. The cattle we heard had been wisely put up there since Monday and Tuesday, but notwithstanding this things never will show in that bloom, or with that contented look, as in their own pastures and houses. The pedigrees read attractively; the catalogue opening with Anna 3rd (Rev. J. Storer), a large, good red and white cow, with a fine Shorthorn head and character. Although she had a very fair red yearling in the catalogue, lot 18, she laboured under the disadvantage of having calved at seven months, still looking fresh and healthy and unbulled; she went slowly along until Mr. Blackwell, of Nottinghamshire, secured her at 85 gs. Her heifer was the most attractive female, especially as her two sisters had made in 1872 respectively 105 and 190 gs. each. Moreover, she was unbulled, and, by the way, the unsatisfactory state of many of the lots had doubtless a damaging effect on the sale. After being put up at 100gs., Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Pickersgill finally opposed until the latter secured her at 170 gs. Lot 8, Coral, which also traced to a Warlaby tribe, had two or three objectionable crosses to begin with; this, as well as her light-fleshed appearance, albeit she milked fairly too, and broken service prevented any strong bidding, and Mr. Edward Fawcett, who has a liking for the tribe, got her at 45 gs. He also bought her bull-calf by Knight of Knowlmere, a promising animal, at 36 gs.

The most numerous tribe was the Sockburn. This family having as ancient descent as any of the kingdom had passed through various hands before reaching Mr. Storer's. On Robert Colling's Lancaster (360) Mr. Bates implanted Belvedere (the "double blessing," as it is humorously termed), and Mr. Whitaker's Norfolk. The Rev. T. Cator added a little Tempest and Spencer blood, whilst Mr. Townshend gave it a dose of Bates through Duke of Cambridge, and Mr. Storer is now applying the Booth portion. Fecundity must be naturally expected from such an admixture as well as diversity of character. Yet this was not apparent. March Duchess was a large massive square cow, somewhat palish in her red and white colour, but a fine animal nevertheless. Being recently bulled, and not having calved for two years previously, Mr. Wardle got her on the hazard at 45 gs. Rose Duchess was also good, although not of such scale as March Duchess. Neat as Earl of Rosedale may have been he is not the bull to impress size or grandeur. Even Rose Duchess had no live calf to show, and she sold very well at 72 gs. Queen Duchess 3rd has gone six months and came again, so that only 42 gs. could be got for her. The two next having calves by them were not in good order, and being young did not show well. They were the only two by Earl of Clare, and gave him little credit as a sire. They made 46gs. and 40gs. respectively. A nice heifer, Milcote Maid, of Mr. Adkin's old Diana tribe, sold slowly, but well, at 62 gs. (Mr. Gurney), and then probably came, next to Anna 7th, the pick of Mr. Storer's lot. This was Rennie Gwynne 2nd, a sweet nice roan heifer, bred by the late Mr. Caddy; after sharp 5 and 10 gs. bids she went at 130 gs. to Mr. Gibb, Canada, Mr. C. Williams being one of the last on. The yearling heifers sold well, and a little more spirit was thrown into the sale, Knowlmere Duchess, out of May Duchess, going at 65 gs. to Mr. Wardle; indeed he got the best of this Sockburn tribe.

Mr. Waldo's cattle were in better condition, having apparently been well done; the females were of two tribes. Lot 2 was bred by Messrs. Angus, a large massive cow, a little flat ribbed and plain in her quarters; not holding, she went very cheap at 39 gs. Her two heifers inherited their dam's defects, and coupled with it what the late Mr. Maynard described as a strong constitutioned nose; they accordingly made but low figures. The five Sweethearts were better; tracing from Mr. Tracy's branch of Sweetheart 3rd, they had the crosses of the Irish Baron, combining the Booth and Sylph blood of Baron of Rathcool, his son, and finally of Fitz-Hopewell, a capital sire, bred by Mr. Waldo from Fathom, of the Fame tribe, which was bought at Holmepierrepoint. Lot 9 was

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an elegant good cow, but thin and fretted from her journey, and Mr. W. Garne got her a bargain at 60 gs. for the old Broadmoor pastures; while her heifer calf, certainly by Mr. Booth's King of Britain, ran up to within 4 gs. of her dam's price. Lot 14, Charming Bead, a very handsome heifer by Mr. Torr's Beadsman, sold fairly well at 130 gs.; she was heavy incalf, and her more than half-sister, not so forward and perhaps a trifle plainer, was bought by Mr. Attenborough at 80 gs.

Of the bulls, Rosedale Favourite, out of the dam of the prize heifer Rosedale had been used at Hellidon; although neat, yet he lacked size, if he may be a good bull for a herd of large-framed pointy cows. Mr. Deans got him at a trifle over butchers' price (47gs.), whilst Rosedale Comet, a white, could only reach 40gs. Lot 27, Crown of the Realm, a very short-legged thick-fleshed bull, had some difficulty at times in breathing, and in consequence a reserve of 150gs. was put on him. This Mr. Pickersgill covered with 5, and the bull goes into Yorkshire at 155gs. Flower Duke caused some amusement by his ugly colour and big horns, although a useful, large, farmer's bull. Prince of the Roses, by Prince Christian from Warlaby, out of Rose of Eden, a 300gs. purchase at Beeston, did not show quite so well as he might have done, and was not so good in his fore-arm as we would expect from his blood. Messrs. Dudding and Pears joined on him, and he went reasonably at 110gs. The young bull-calves, although late in the season, sold fairly well, and brought the average to £46 14s. for the bulls. A few extra lots were sold afterwards. Raspberry, and her calf, of the Nonpareil tribe, went cheap enough at 76gs. the pair, and Mr. Fawcett re-purchased the Queen of Beauty at 53gs., which Mr. Longman bought at his sale last autumn for 50gs. Grand Patriot, a good roan bull of Mr. Oliver's breeding, goes into Wales at 71gs.

Taking the result of the sale, it appears that Mr. Storer's twenty-three head averaged within six shillings of 60 gs. each, and Mr. Waldo's eight shillings over £60. The five Sylphs, *alias* Sweethearts, made £278 6s. 7d. each, the eight Blanches £53 8s. 4d.; but taking into consideration their state and condition, this can hardly be looked upon as a just estimate. The sale all through was slow, and the biddings came forth reluctantly, although there was a company present sufficient to take three times the number at double the price. But this must always occur in a greater or less degree with draft sales away from home. Mr. Booth, of Warlaby, was in the chair at lunch.

SALE OF THE LATE MR. BLYTH'S SHORTHORN HERD,

At Woolhampton, on Friday, June 12th, 1874.

BY MR. THORNTON.

It has been often said that a good bull leads to a pure herd, and it may justly apply to the Woolhampton herd. Ten years ago Tam o'Shanter (20930), own brother to Saraphina 13th and 15th, was bought at Mr. Lawford's sale at Southcott. He did good service among the dairy cows kept on the home farm, and was very useful to the tenants hard by. Some pure bred cows were soon afterwards bought, and gradually replaced the half-breds and Alderneys, though one or two Guernseys were to be seen on the sale day. The establishment requiring good butter and cream for town was put in by way of apology for their appearance; but of this there was little need, for though the cows showed good udders, yet the calves running by their sides managed to empty them. Mr. Charles Barnett's herd supplied Old Water Wave 6th, Lot 3, a fine, deep old cow, very much of the old Yorkshire type, especially about the head and horns. She had bred a large family, and done good service in the ten years she had been on the farm. The dispersion of Mr. Champion's herd at Calcot in the neighbourhood, one of the first herds, by-the-bye, in the district, was the means of bringing a few more to Woolhampton. In 1865, however, several purchases were made at Mr. Fawcett's, of Childwick; Mr. Wells, of Redleaf (whence Lot 1 came, one of the finest cows in the sale); and from Mr. Bowly. Fair Lady, a 60 gs. purchase at the Siddington sale, gave so much satisfaction, that several others were bought privately from Mr. Bowly, and the catalogue of seventy-five head, contained no less than twenty-four lots descended from his herd. Three lots were also bought at Her Majesty's sale at Windsor, in 1867; among these were Lot 9, Ringlet, which Mr. W. Garne took at 35 gs., as well as most of her heifers, which were called Frogmores. One of them, however, Lot 19, a handsome red, Mr. Cope took into Ireland, at 50 gs., as well as the following lot, Melody 2nd, one of the best in the sale, at 65 gs. She was a large, massive, red, round-ribbed cow, down calving. Lot 6, Queen of the South, of Lord Ducie's Chaff tribe, was a calf purchase at Mr. Fawcett's; a useful cow herself, she had been a true and regular breeder, producing seven calves, four of which were in the catalogue. Three of them were purchased by Mr. King for Mr. Benyon, M.P., at 50 gs., 40 gs., and 52 gs. respectively; but the last calf, a nice hairy roan, but thin, went to Mr. C. Stubbs, at 21 gs. Four years later, Fra Diavolo was selected at the Royal at Leicester, where he stood fourth as a yearling. Some good heifers were by him, whilst some of the younger ones had Snowball as sire. This bull was by Seventh Duke of York from British Lass, a cow of the Gazelle tribe. Lots 41 and 42, two capital yearlings, were fine samples of his get, and about the two best yearlings; the better bred (42) made a guinea less (56 gs.) than the better looking (41) lot, which went to Norwich. Last year it was intended to have a few more fashionably-bred animals. Duke of Kennet, bred by Mr. Sheldon, combining the Bates and Knightley blood, was the sire of the calves, and Knight of Geneva, of the Duchess and Blanche strains, had both been bought previously; but when Col. Towneley's sale took place two heifers were bought, Oxford's Duty, a red, and Grand Duke's Butterfly, of the Blanche tribe. Bull-calves had been dropped from each, but neither of the calves made great prices, not being in high condition. Oxford's Duty, with the bull Knight of Geneva, was reserved, with about eight or nine others, to keep up a herd at Woolhampton, but Grand Duke's Butterfly was sold. The blooming condition that the "Talleyrand of trainers" can put on had departed, consequently she dropped something over 50 gs. on her cost price. M. De Vitre bought her at 185 gs. Red Butterfly, bred by Mr. Attenboro, and bought at Whitley last year, returns to her old quarters at 100 gs. Many of the lots go into Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, Kent, and Sussex, two or three into Hampshire, Essex, and Oxfordshire, while several remain in the county, and it was singular that though many North Country breeders were present, none of the lots go due north. Looking at the cows, heifers, and calves in the park, there was nothing very striking in the herd. Even and uniform they were naturally enough, being by the same sires; but no lot was so very excellent as to specially attract notice. Two good red cows were noticeable, and Mr. Gorringe bought them both to go into Sussex. The fashionable lots were not cracks, though very good. Neither were they fat good, healthy condition was the rule; and the appearance of the heifers indicated that the calf flesh might have been better kept on. As to the arrangements they were excellent, and the field in which the luncheon tent and sale-ring were erected afforded one of those charming little bits of beautifully-wooded landscape scenery,

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bounded by Kingclere in the distance, that only the South of England can show. Here and there in the park the coloury cattle, the bright red-bricked mansion, and noble trees formed a picture that if transferred to canvas might gain the eye-line in the Academy.

ANOTHER GREAT SALE OF AMERICAN SHORTHORNS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—What can possess breeders to become so anxious for that *peculiar* breed of the Duchesses, is to me strange and unaccountable, and I cannot help saying that it is of an idiotic character. This bad example was set in England by earls, nobility, and gentry, who were born with "*silver spoons in their mouths*," and who never knew the industry, perseverance, and sterling stability required to obtain wealth by the sweat of their brow, and hence became ignorant of the *true value* of money. With men placed in such a critical situation, their minds become stagnant without some hobby to ride, and when once adopted they are reckless in its support. If *pedigree* is a protection, then let the man sustain it. Pedigree in a nobleman is good, when nobly sustained; but when he becomes reckless with his purse to support fashion, where is his usefulness? Poverty and *high pedigree*, however fashionable, cannot go well together. So it is with the pedigree of Duchesses: view them in their pampered state of to-day, loaded with flesh to attract the novice; then look at them hence in their natural state, and what are they? Mark their pedigree, and what does it amount to? It will not sustain their constitution, for die they will. This pernicious example has been studied in this country. A nobleman's pedigree is ignored, title is sneezed at in the human race, and for this reason is transferred to cattle; they are honoured with Dukes and Duchesses; thus become fashionable, regardless of value or true merits. Such a position has rendered them a fictitious name and false fame, and when brought to the hammer, no matter whether the auctioneer is a swaggering prodigal, a chattering magpie, or a sound man of few words, the bidders are there with the money in their pockets, or an established credit, and they will have them at fabulous prices even if *they know they will die before they get them home*, and are aware that this family or tribe are constitutionally failing by pampering to hide their faults. With this erroneous system of speculation, these enticing titles will become extinct. I will not say much now on the cattle or sale, but send you the particulars from the *Chicago Times;* but I will say, the highest *prices sold, and called "Bates Duchesses,"* showed plainly, in their heads, and black-tipped horns, the West Highland cross; while the slender waist, so general in all the Duchesses that were sold, was inherited from Duke bulls called *pure*. The general impression of the crowd was, that America needed the money much more than they did the 2nd Duke of Hillhurst, and those who have suffered from the weak constitutions of the Duchesses were glad those animals were returning home, like the prodigal son, to die where their ancestors originated.

The Professor was there to represent the Agricultural College of Michigan. He is still of the opinion that he can drain swamps to the centre and ignore the outlets; and he still thinks that the Bates young bull he purchased at the New York Mills sale, with a light waist, large paunch, flat sides, long legs, and narrow brisket, is going to improve the College stock wonderfully, because he is fashionable, hence the improvement. Mr. Page was so much exhausted, that he was compelled to call Colonel Kid to his assistance in the midst of the sale. The Colonel is a favourite auctioneer in Kentucky, and has sold many of the best there. You will hear further from me on the Dukes and Duchesses. W. H. SOTHAM.

Transit House, Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill.

Since writing you from Chicago there is some doubt whether the bull sold for fourteen thousand dollars will go to England. From the appearance and conduct of the purchaser, Mr. Geo. Robbins, the matter looks mysterious. This gentleman, the day previous, at Mr. C. C. Park's sale, made it known to many that he was commissioned to give twenty thousand dollars for the bull, therefore other breeders of the same tribe ran him up.

Detroit, Mich., May 25th.

The stock farm of Colonel William S. King, of Minneapolis Minn., has long been regarded as a model of its kind by the Shorthorn cattle-dealers of this country. Its owner has paid great attention to the breeding of blooded stock, and had acquired a herd second to none in America. It has been found, of late, necessary to abandon the principal portion of the pasture and meadow land for city purposes, and in consequence thereof Colonel King was compelled to dispose of he Lyndale herd, comprising 80 head of the choicest Shorthorn cows and bulls to be found in the market. This sale too, place at Dexter Park, beginning at 11 o'clock. It was the means of drawing together nearly 400 of the stock-fanciers of this country, and also was successful in attracting the attention of Shorthorn dealers in England and Canada, where the merits of the herd were perhaps more fully appreciated than here at home. The grand stand of the Dexter Park course was jammed with spectators and parties intent on purchasing the stock; and the quarter-stretch, which was partially reserved for the display of the animals, was crowded with stock men and others. The sale was beyond doubt one of the most noteworthy of the day. The sale began with the exhibition of the noted bull, Second Duke of Hillhurst, a Duchess animal, by the Sixth Duke of Jeneva. He is less than three years old, is red and white, and a perfect model in build. The moment the auctioneer, Mr. John R. Page, of New York State, asked for an offer for the Duke, a gentleman in the crowd made the response, "Ten thousand dollars!" A buzz of excitement went about the grand stand, and amongst the bidders on the quarter-stretch, all of whom craned their necks to get a glimpse at the gentleman who had made so large an offer. He was a quiet-looking Englishman, with nothing in particular to individualise him above the hundreds of other stock men. The bid was then jumped to 12,000 dols., when a season of sparring in bids then occurred between the Englishman and Long John Wentworth, the latter fancy stock man desiring to possess himself of this bull. The bids went up gradually, 100 dols. at a time, until finally Long John found his limit reached at 13,900, and the little Englishman was awarded the sale at 14,000 dols. The purchaser is George R. Robbins, of London, England, who will take the bull to his country at an early day. It is the desire of the English Shorthorn fanciers and breeders to gather together all the Bates stock animals there are in America and get them back to England again, where they may hold the monopoly of this strain. Two or three calves by this famous bull, were also on the ground and disposed of during the day. The price at which the Duke was sold is the largest ever realised in America for a bull. The highest figure reached for bulls at the famous New York Mills sale was only 12,000 dols. A short time after the Duke of Hillhurst was knocked down to Mr. Robbins, his agent was offered 16,000 dols. for his bargain, but he would not accept the proffer, as he stated to parties, privately, that his principal was so anxious to secure the bull that he had instructed him to pay 20,000 dols. for him if he could not be obtained for less.

After disposition had been made of this bull the sale of the cows was begun and continued until the list was exhausted, after which the remainder of the bulls were taken up and disposed of. Bidding on the cows was quite spirited many of the animals bringing high and first-class prices. There was not a cow or heifer in the catalogue that sold for less than 200 dols., while several of them ran as high as 5,500 dols. A trio of Duchess heifers ranged from 2,100 dols. to

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4,400 dols., while two heifers, less than two years old, and twins, realized 11,000 dols. from one gentleman afterwards, and while the sale was in progress a telegram was received, from a party in another state, offering 15,000 dols. for the same animals. Very spirited bidding was shown on a seven-months bull-calf, True Blue, by the Second Duke of Oneida, one of the most noted bulls of the country. Started at 1,000 dols., the bids ran up finally to 2,240 dols., and at that figure the little fellow was transferred to a new owner. Only four of the cows were withdrawn from the stand, Col. King asking permission to retire them on account of their being in an unfit condition for sale, and he not being willing to guarantee their breeding qualities.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Garland, red and white, four years, bred by Lord Penrhyn, England.—T. J. McGibbon, Cynthiana, Ky., 2,100 dols.

Hubbacks Garland, red and white, one and a half years, by Baron Hubback Second.—William Sandusky, Indianola, Ill., 2,100 dols.

Grace, red and white, nine months, by Second Duke of Hillhurst.—S. W. Jacobs, West Liberty, Iowa, 1,115 dols.

Gem of Lyndale, red and white, two years.—S. E. Ward, Kansas City, 1,850 dols.

Peri Third, roan, five years.—A. W. Griswold, Morrisonville, Vt., 2,100 dols.

Peri Second, of Lyndale, red, six months.—Avery and Murphy, Detroit, 2,500 dols.

Peri Fourth, red and white, four and a half years.—T. J. McGibbon, 3,000 dols.

Peri Fifth, red and white, one and a half years.—James Wadsworth, Genessee, N. Y., 4,000 dols.

Bell Duchess, red, three and a half years, by Sixth Duke of Geneva.—James Wadsworth, 4,400 dols.

Bell Duchess Second, red and white, two years, by Baron Hubback Second.—Ben. B. Groome, Winchester, Ky., 2,100 dols.

Bell Duchess Third, red, two years, by Second Duke of Oneida.—T. J. McGibbon, 3,300 dols.

Lyndale Wild Eyes, roan, bred in England, three years.—T. J. McGibbon, 5,000 dols.

Star of Lyndale and calf, red and white, three years.—S. E. Ward, 1,850 dols.

Scottish Lady, red, two and a half years.—S. W. Jacobs, 1,275 dols.

Florence, roan, one and a half years.—D. M. Flynn, Booneville, Iowa, 1,700 dols.

Sunshine, roan, five and a half years.—D. W. Wendell, Lincoln, Ill., 650 dols.

Sunrise, roan, one and a half years.—A. W. Griswold, Morrisville, Vt., 1,025 dols.

Sunflower, roan, four months.—Chas. Wadsworth, Genessee, N. Y., 800 dols.

Second Lady Gwynne, red and white, five and a half years.—T. J. McGibbon, 1,500 dols.

Malvern Fourteenth, red roan, four years.—J. R. Craig, Edmundton, Canada, 1,300 dols.

Oakwood Gwynne Second, roan, one year.—N. M. Curtis, Ogdensburgh, N. Y., 1,500 dols.

Third Malvern Gwynne, roan.—T. J. McGibbon, Cynthiana, Ky., 3,000 dols.

Miss Gwynne, roan, one year.—A. W. Griswold, Morrisville, Vt., 2,000 dols.

Butterfly's Rose, roan, five years.—S. E. Ward, Kansas City, 1,025 dols.

Butterfly' Gift, red, one and a-half years.—S. E. Ward, Kansas City, 1,900 dols.

Lucy Ann Twelfth, red and white.—John Nichols, Bloomington, Ill., 750 dols.

Rosebud, red roan, two years.—S. W. Jacobs, West Liberty, Iowa, 500 dols.

Lady Newham Third, and bull calf, red, six years.—S. E. Ward, Kansas City, 825 dols.

Agnes, red and white, two and a half years.—S. E. Ward, 1,025 dols.

Noelle Sixth, red, two years.—A. W. Griswold, Morrisville, Vt., 1,600 dols.

Mazurka of Lyndale, red roan, five years.—S. Meredith and Son, Cambridge City, Ind., 1,525.

Mazurka and Lyndale Third, red roan, one and three-fourths years.—J. H. Kissenger, Clarksville, Mo., 1,475 dols.

Mazurka of Lyndale Fourth, red, eight months.—John Nichols, Bloomington, Ill., 1,100 dols.

Empress, roan, three and a-half years.—S. E. Ward, Kansas City, 800 dols.

Lady Mary Fifth, red, two and three-forths years.—General N. M. Curtis, Ogdensburgh, N. Y., 3,000 dols.

Lady Clyde, roan, one and a-half years.—J. C. Jenkins, Petersburg, Ky., 900 dols.

Lady Mary Seventh, roan; twin with Lady Mary Eighth, roan, 5,500 dols each.—Charles Wadsworth, Genessee, N.Y.

Second Tube Rose of Brattleboro, red and white, seven years.—T. J. McGibbon, Cynthiana, Ky., 1,805 dols.

Fifth Lady Sale of Brattleboro, roan, four and three-fourth years.—Charles Wadsworth, Genessee, N.Y., 2,000 dols.

Sixth Lady Sale of Brattleboro, red and white, three years.—J. R. Craig, Edmundton, Canada, 900 dols.

Eighth Lady Sale of Brattleboro, roan, two years, bred in England.—Charles Wadsworth, Genessee, N. Y., 1,600 dols.

Roan Princess, roan, one and a half years.—D. M. Flynn, Boonville, Iowa, 1,600 dols.

Rosa Bonheur Fifth, red and white, one and three-fourth years.—Gen. N. M. Curtis, Ogdensburgh, N. Y., 900 dols.

Lilac, roan, eight years.—John Nichols, Bloomington, Ill., 330 dols.

Prune, red, ten years.—J. Weaver, Oleana, Henderson County, Ill., 375 dols.

Royal Oakland Beauty, red, four years.—Benjamin Sumner, Woodstock, Conn., 525 dols.

British Maid, roan, two years, bred in England.—J. Weaver, Oleana, Ill., 200 dols.

Mayflower, roan, bred in Ireland, five years.—E. L. Davidson, Springfield, Ky., 1,424 dols.

Jane Flower, roan, two years.—J. G. Colter, Reesville, O., 1,225 dols.

Pink Thorn Leaf, with bull calf, roan, nine years, bred in England.—E. L. Davidson, Springfield, Ky., 900 dols.

Rose of Lyndale, red, two years.—J. G. Colter, Reesville, O. 650 dols.

Mazurka Ninth, red roan, four years.—S. E. Ward, Kansas City, 700 dols.

Miss Leslie, roan, six years.—Josiah Chorn, Towanda, Ill., 2,005 dols.

Miss Leslie Napier, red, three years.—J. Chorn, Towanda, 2,015 dols.

Constance of Lyndale Second, red, two and a-half years.—A. W. Griswold Morrisville, Vt., 1,675 dols.

Constance of Lyndale 3rd, roan, one and a-half years.—John R. Craig, Edmundton, Canada, 1,600 dols.

Oakwood Gwynne, roan, two and a half years, was withdrawn, but afterwards sold at private sale.—C. C. Parks, Waukegan, 750 dols.

Hope of Oakwood, red roan, two years.—D. M. Flynn, Boonville, Iowa, 600 dols.

This last concluded the sale of cows and heifers, when the following bulls were brought into the arena and disposed of. The first-mentioned animal was the first one disposed of at the auction, before the cows were put up, but is placed here for classification:

Second Duke of Hillhurst (12893), red and white, by Sixth Duke of Geneva, Duchess.—G. R. Robbins, London, England, 14,000 dols.

Lord of the Lake, roan, two and a half years.—C. A. Degraff, St. Paul, Minn., 500 dols.

Emperor Booth (11915), red, three and a half years.—J. M. Colter, Reesville, O., 425 dols.

Baron Hubback Second, red, bred in England, four years.—C. A. Degraff, St. Paul, 2,600 dols.

Marquis of Oakwood, red roan, two years.—J. M. Kanyon, Fillmore, Mo., 560 dols.

Sam, roan, one and a half years.—John Wentworth, Chicago, 500 dols.

Second Baron of Oakwood, roan, one and a half years.—D. M. Flynn, Boonville, Iowa, 410 dols.

Lord Bright Eyes, red, one year.—Charles Whittaker, Chelsea, Mich., 360 dols.

Panic, white, one year.—D. M. Flynn, Boonville, Iowa, 300 dols.

Peabody, roan, one year.—J. D. Downer, Marshaltown, Iowa, 190 dols.

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Third Baron of Oakwood, roan, one year.—D. M. Flynn, Boonville, Iowa, 280 dols.

Fourth Baron of Oakwood, white, one year.—H. Sherwood, Breedsville, Mich., 200 dols.

Star, red and white, one year.—P. Stuart, for J. Wentworth, Chicago, 745 dols.

Forrester, roan, one year.—Peter Stuart, Gibson City, Ill., 210 dols.

Earl Gwynne, red and white, one year.—S. W. Jacobs, West Liberty, Iowa, 190 dols.

Lord Carlisle, roan, nine months.—F. H. Mathews, Chicago, 210 dols.

Patron, red and white, eight months.—P. Stuart, for John Wentworth, Chicago, 440 dols.

True Blue, red and white, seven months.—P. A. Coes, Washburne, Ill., 2,240 dols.

Patriot, red and white, six months.—R. C. Kelly, Peru, Ill. 200 dols.

Prince Gwynne, roan, three months.—S. M. Thompson, Canton, Ill., 360 dols.

Cherry Prince, roan, by Second Duke of Oneida, one year was not in the catalogue.—Emery Cobb, Kankakee, Ill. 505 dols.

There were, in all, 59 cows sold, aggregating 103,370 dols. making an average of about 1,735 dols. each. Twenty-one bulls were sold for 25,425 dols., averaging nearly 1,217 dols each. The sum total of this sale was 127,795 dols.

THE ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

MILK, BUTTER, AND BREAD.

At the sitting of the Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the operation of the Adulteration Act, Dr. Voelcker, the analyst of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, was examined by Mr. C. S. Read, the chairman; when Dr. Voelcker said he was astonished to hear that any one professing to be an analyst could have said, as Dr. Tidy was reported to have declared, that 33 per cent. of water could be added to milk without detection. There were variations in the qualities of milk certainly, but these were not great. The greatest variation in milk solids was from 10 to 14, but the usual variations—the natural ones—were from 10 to 13. But he would make no "standards," such as had been suggested by Dr. Tidy, below which he should decide milk to be adulterated. No such standard should be fixed in an analyst's mind, let alone in an Act of Parliament. To fix such a standard even at 10 per cent. would permit a dishonest tradesman to adulterate, while it would lead an honest tradesman to be fined for selling poor milk as pure; and milk would be poor in some seasons. Asked as to the difference between town and country milk, he said town milk was, as a rule, better than country milk, for the reason that some of the owners of town dairies knew how to keep up their cows better than some of the country owners. With regard to the operation of the Act on the milk supply, he considered that much good had been done by legislation, for better milk was to be obtained now than before. Milk was sometimes a little artificially coloured, but it was chiefly adulterated with water and by the abstraction of the cream. What was called "Australian" and "Dutch" butter was manufactured to a large extent. He had examined a sample of stuff sold as "Australian butter" at 7½d. a pound, and on inquiry he found it to consist largely of bone fat, this grease being extracted by the steaming of bones of animals. This was manufactured in England, and was most disagreeable to the taste and smell. The real Australian butter was good. The Dutch butter was better to the taste than English, but it was manufactured from American lard and some real butter. The American lard, a merchant had complained to him, was sent over from here to Dunkirk and came back as Dutch butter. Asked if genuine butter naturally varied, he said it varied less in composition than in quality, for the quality varied with the food of the cow. He was astonished at seeing that analysts had given decided statements as to the fats found in butter, as there were no decided tests. As to bread, before the Act the bakers used a "whitening powder," which contained alum, and this was followed by the sale of American flour, which was of the same character as the whitening powder. This practice was largely stopped by the Act. Rice used to be mixed with bread too. Potatoes were also used, but he should hardly call the use of potatoes an adulteration. He did not think sugar was adulterated, and as to the sugar "mites," there was no more to cause alarm in these than in the mites in cheese. He had seen many samples of mustard, but most were "mixed." As to cocoa, he could say the "prepared cocoa" was a mixture of starchy matter with the fat of the cocoa, but he thought this was done to make the cocoa more digestible. As to "pure cocoa," as the oil was to some extent extracted in this, it would come under the proposed extraction clauses. As to "prepared" corn flours, he could say they were chiefly of starch, but he considered starch an element of nutrition and as food. With regard to the absence of gluten in the flours, he did not consider this as establishing anything against them, for wheat meal, which contained 12 per cent of gluten, cost a great deal more than bean flour, which contained twice the quantity of gluten. The bran taken from wheaten flour, containing a large quantity of gluten, might be looked upon, according to some views, as an adulteration but as things were, the finer the flour the less gluten there was in it. If a man had to live exclusively on bread it would be better for him to eat brown bread, as containing more gluten, than upon white. Then, as to arrowroot, the starch contained in the corn flours was quite as nutritious as arrowroot, which was costlier. As to beer, he did not know of any decided adulteration of beer now. All wines were mixed and one might look in vain for a pure vintage of foreign wines Some wines were more fortified than others, especially port and sherries; but as to claret, the cheaper this was the more likelihood there was of getting it less mixed. The higher classes of clarets were largely mixed. As to "British wines," they were mixed; but he had not found anything injurious in them, except when they were young, when they would cause headache. As to French brandy, much of this so imported from France was nothing but beetroot spirit, and coloured and flavoured that it would puzzle a chemist to discover the cheat. Some spirits were adulterated with "fusel oil" (potato spirit), which was extremely injurious. He was astonished to hear that Dr. Tidy said most vinegar was adulterated wholly. The large quantity of vinegar sold was from malt; but some pickling vinegars were in many cases adulterated with acetic acid. Summarising his views on adulteration, he said that cattle foods and articles used by agriculturists were far more adulterated than human food. He thought, too, that much wrong had been done by the so-called food analysts, and he supported the idea that there should be a court of appeal against the statements of analysts. He thought it could not be allowed that "colouring" or "facing" of tea should be recognised as lawful, as this would be opening the door to every adulteration. He would not, however, have considered 1½ per cent. of facing an adulteration. Asked who would be the best judge of tea, a dealer of experience or an "average analytical chymist," he held that an analyst could do very little in regard to tea, as it was a matter more of quality than anything else. As to the judgment of the "average analyst," he thought this should be open to question; many of them who were hastily appointed after the passing of the Act, had to learn their business, and many of them had not even had a sufficient training to enable them to be judges of food analyses. Some of their statements in evidence had been very flippant and unwarrantable, and they had done harm in rendering the Act obnoxious to honest men, who had been wronged by analysts' statements founded on a want of knowledge. The witness referred to the statement of the "wholesale examinations" (many thousands in a brief period) described by Dr. Tidy as having been made by him, and that this was not the way that analyses should be made, it was impossible from the number made, to take every case and fully and thoroughly examine every sample with all the *minutiæ* necessary to arrive at the truth. This could not be done in a wholesale or hasty way. He did not think that milk was adulterated in this country, and he thought the state

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adulterated tea would come to an end here if all such teas were stopped at the Customs. He had not found any decidedly adulterated tea.

Examined by Mr. WELBY, the witness objected to seeing certificates, especially his own, on tradesmen's goods; for, he said, he had known a certificate given on a good sample to be attached to an adulterated article. In reply to Mr. HEYGATE, he said that much of the champagne was made from something else than grape, and though he could not say that what it was made of was positively injurious, yet it had disagreeable effects. As to "improvers" going about the country offering to "doctor" or improve articles, as deposed by Mr. W. Jackson, the witness thought this was possible, but not probable, and that such persons had very little practice. The witness thought that many of the local analysts were incompetent, and that it would be far better to have fewer analysts, more highly paid, by salaries, and that the appointments should be taken out of the hands of local authorities. In reply to Sir HENRY PEEK, he said he thought there should be a laboratory at Somerset-house to give the means of judging the analysts' analyses. He looked upon damaged tea when used to mix with other tea and sold as pure as an adulteration. He did not know that it was necessary to "face" tea to make it bear the voyage. He could not say—either in agreement or disagreement with Dr. Allen of Sheffield—whether when there was 69 per cent. of insoluble matter found in tea the tea contained exhausted leaves. In reply to Mr. SANDFORD, the witness said that his meaning of not having any standard was that he would have every case decided on its merits. Though he knew that the facing of the tea was practised to make the tea appear better, yet he did not think it was morally an adulteration, because it was generally understood that tea was faced, just as it was known there was colour in butter and cheese; but in these cases the working man ate his butter and cheese and did not think about it. As to the facing of green tea being required to enable it to bear the voyage, black tea bore the voyage and was not faced. The examination of the witness by Mr. CARPENTER GARNIER turned upon "condensed milk," and this, he said, was mixed with sugar; and the butter was taken from it, as the preparation would not otherwise keep. He did not consider this an adulteration. In reply to Dr. BEADY, he said he thought the the facing of tea was not a necessary process. In reply to Viscount BARRINGTON, the witness said that butter being an animal fat it was hard to distinguish it from other animal fats. Asked as to the composition known in London under the name of "Normandy butter," he said he did not know the particular composition under this name, but there was a French "butter" which was altogether an artificial composition, in which there was no butter whatever. One of these butters he had seen, which was fair tasting, but it was only composed of lard, dripping, and "kitchen stuff," coloured with annetto. In reply to Mr. MUNTZ, the witness said that he had found that if cows were fed on too much sewage grass it would prove injurious to the cow and affect the milk to some extent, but this would only be from the cow having too much watery food, and there was nothing in sewage grass in itself injurious, but the milk of such a cow would be injurious to a child.

ADULTERATED BUTTER.—When butter is mixed with tallow, it may be usually detected by melting a little of the butter in a spoon, and smelling it, when the smell of the tallow may be at once perceived. Another way to learn whether thi substance has been added is to melt a small piece of butter at a heat not exceeding that of boiling water, and pour it into a wine-glass. Then immediately pour over it two fluid drachms of commercial nitric acid (aqua fortis), and shake them slightly. If the butter employed was pure, it will rise to the surface, and not become opaque for some minutes; but if it contains much tallow, it will quickly become a more or less opaque white mass, the nature of the change, and the time required, depending on the amount of fat present in the adulterated article. Sometimes butter is adulterated with horse-bone oil. In this case, the butter is to be shaken up with hot water, until melted, and allowed to collect upon the surface. Remove five drops of this, and place them on a watch-glass, and immediately add ten drops of strong sulphuric acid. If the butter has been adulterated with horse-bone oil, a deeper colour will be produced than if the butter did not contain that substance.—*Cassell.*

AGRICULTURAL LAW CASE.

THE MANURE TRADE IN THE WEST.

In the full Court of Exchequer, their lordships gave judgment in the case of the Western Counties and General Manure Company (Limited) v. Lawes' Chemical Manure Company, which had been argued before them a few days previously. The action came on in the nature of a special case, the plaintiffs being a firm of manufacturers of artificial manure at Plymouth, where they carry on an extensive business, and also amongst the farmers of Devonshire and Cornwall; and their allegation is that the defendants, who are in the same line, printed and circulated a trade circular which was tantamount to a false and malicious libel concerning the plaintiffs in the way of their trade and business as artificial manure manufacturers. It was in the form of a letter dated January 27th, 1873, written by Professor Anderson, of the Chemical Department of Glasgow University, to Mr. Moon, then secretary of the Devon and Cornwall Chamber of Agriculture at Plymouth, and contained this passage:

"I inclose herewith your four samples of artificia manure, which I must say differ very much in quality. They are all mixtures, and do not consist of bones and acid alone. . . . No 2" (meaning the defendants' artificial manure) "is much the best, and seems to contain some kind of phosphate. . . No. 4" (meaning the plaintiffs' artificial manure) "appears to contain a considerable quantity of coprolites, and is altogether an article of low quality, and ought to be the cheapest of the four samples. . . . I know places where No. 2" (meaning the defendants' manure) "would be sold at about £8 per ton, and No. 4" (the plaintiffs') at £5 and not more."

The plaintiffs alleged that in consequence of this libel, as they termed it, several influential farmers in Devonshire and Cornwall, who formerly purchased large quantities of their manure, ceased dealing with them. The damages were laid at £3,000. The defendants denied the allegation in plaintiffs' declaration, and the plaintiffs entered a demurrer to that plea; and that the latter was no answer to the action.

Mr. Charles Bowen, the counsel for the defendants, contended at some length that the statements contained in the circular were not tantamount in law to a libel; but Mr. Arthur Charles, for the other side, argued in support of the demurrer.

On the suggestion of Baron Bramwell, who was one of the judges before whom the arguments were heard, the case was adjourned to give the plaintiffs an opportunity of modifying their declaration; but as the recommendaion of his lordship had not been acted upon,

The Court now gave its decision, which was that the words complained of were calculated to injure the plaintiffs in their trade and business as manufacturers of artificial manure, and consequently that they were libellous. Judgment would therefore be entered for the plaintiffs.

SALE OF MR. MILWARD'S PONIES AT TATTERSALL'S, ON MONDAY, JUNE 1.—Renira, 14.2½, Mr Ridler, 155 gs.; Creswell, 14.1½, Mr. Padwick, 120 gs.; Isabay, 14.2, Mr. Dalgetty, 90 gs.; Lady Constance, 14.1½, Mr. Padwick, 95 gs.; Miss Chatty, 14.1½, Mr. Ridler, 250 gs.; Lady Nora, 14.2, Mr. Irving, 130 gs.; The Black Swan, 14.2, Mr. Machell, 125 gs.; The Maid of Sker, 14.1½, Mr. Padwick, 80 gs.; Truda, bay, 14.1½, Mr. Padwick, 50 gs.; Selina, bay, 14.2, Mr. Ridler, 50 gs.; Thorgon, 14.0½, Mr. Padwick, 85 gs.: Seeta, brown, 13.3, Mr. Machell, 200 gs.; Tardiff, 14.1½, Mr. Atkins, 71 gs.; Ombra, 13.3, Mr. Padwick, 51 gs.; Penderell, 13.3, Mr. Lloyd, 55 gs.; Queen May, 13.3, Mr. Mackinlay, 65 gs.; Clodia, 14, Mr. Taylor, 55 gs.; Lonsdale, 14.1½, Mr. Miles, 56 gs. Also four hacks: Nella, 15.1½, Mr. Candy, 97 gs.; Armynel, 15, Mr. Hatton, 40 gs.; Princess Thyra, 14.3, Mr. Rice, 58 gs.; Home Rule, 14.3, Marquis of Headfort, 120 gs. This at 95½ gs. is the highest average the Thurgarton ponies have ever made, as Miss Chatty, at the extraordinary price of 250 gs. is, of course, the top figure ever realised. Mr. Milward was riding this mare at Hull during the Royal Show.

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EAST LOTHIAN AGRICULTURAL CLUB.

LOCAL TAXATION.

At the monthly meeting held in the hall at Haddington, Mr. Charles Smith, factor, Whittingham, presiding, Mr. Gaukroger, Southfield, being vice-chairman, Mr. Robertson, New Mains, opened the debate on The Effect of Local Taxation on Agricultural Tenants.

Mr. ROBERTSON said: The subject before us is local taxation, its effects upon the agricultural tenant. The different local Acts which most directly bear upon tenants of land are the Poor-law Act which was passed in 1845, with its after-progeny, if I might be so allowed to term them, that is, the Registration Act, Lunacy Act, and Burial Grounds Act. All these are generally wrought by one board, although under separate heads. The Poor-law has lately got a grandchild in the Education (Scotland) Act of 1872, which is as yet but a mere child, not almost in any case having arrived at maturity. The modes of raising of money for the different purposes of these are based upon one and the same principle, namely, one half being from proprietors, the other half from tenants and occupiers. Agricultural leases in Scotland are generally for a tenure of nineteen years. Many leases consequently at the passing, or when these Acts became law, had a considerable period still to run. Consequently the agricultural tenant is particularly interested under an existing contract that he pays no more than his proportion of these different assessments along with others. It must, however, appear evident that the agricultural tenant pays in all cases more than a fair proportion. This arises to a certain extent from a want of fair representation at the Poor-law Board, from which emanates the the mode of assessment under which all monies are levied under the different Acts formerly stated. The Act provides that the proprietors of lands and heritages of the annual value of £20 and upwards are entitled to sit and act at the board meetings, while the tenant farmers are only represented through a very limited number of elected members, which prevents any motion being carried as to classification for which the Act provides, any concessions in that way being opposed to the interests of small heritages, who are in general so numerously represented at board meetings in the event of any question being raised to affect their interests. Let us look at the case of an agricultural tenant paying on a thousand a year 6d. a pound, which will give the sum of £25 a year. Then the case of a mercantile man renting premises at a hundred a year pays £2 10s., who, in the majority of cases, has as great an interest, and is in as lucrative a position, and in nine cases out of ten earning a larger income than the tenant-farmer. Also, look at the proprietor paying upon his twenty pounds rent his 10s. a year, who is entitled to sit and act as a member of that board, while the tenant-farmer, paying his £25 a year, is only represented through a very limited number of elected members; and, if a classification is got it is only to the extent of one-half, or one-third at the very most, where I hold in justice one-tenth would be nearer the mark. What I consider should be the mode from which to draw assessments for the purposes of these different Acts is, that proprietors of lands and heritages and occupiers of heritages, should be charged upon their gross rental, while tenants and occupiers of land should be charged upon one-fifth of their gross rental, and that tenants and occupiers of land and heritages, paying rates upon £50 a year and upwards, should have a right to sit and act as members of that board, in the same manner as proprietors of lands and heritages of £20 a year and upwards have at present, and that there be no division as at present, but the rates be collected *in cumulo*. Land under lease I hold to be only the raw material from which we manufacture our goods, consequently, we are no more entitled to be assessed upon it in the gross than is the manufacturer of woollen cloth to be assessed upon his wool, or the merchant upon his goods—these being the raw material from which they derive their profit, in like manner as the tenant derives his profit from the land. The recent Education Act bears very heavily upon the tenant farmer in so far as when they are united to a burgh, the landward part of the parish paying, in many cases, two-thirds of the assessment, while the benefits or number of pupils attending schools will not be more than a fifth of the proportion from burghs, and the landward part of the parish is powerless, from the limited number of parties to vote or represent their interests when brought in contract with burghs; also I hold under this Act, proprietors of land or heritages were unjustly relieved, from erecting the buildings for the purposes of education, and have been allowed to pocket what was public property. The Haddingtonshire Road Act of 1863 is the only other local Act of 1873 is the only other local Act which affects the agricultural tenant in this county. This Act I hold to be a step in the right direction, and consider it an advantage in its present state even to the old system of tolls. Only it appears to me something was neglected in the present state of the county. This county being surrounded by toll bars in other counties, I hold that we ought to have a cordon of toll bars around the county, to prevent other counties using our roads without paying for them, and that check-books could be furnished to all parties paying road rates within this county to allow such to pass toll-free, and that landlords should pay one-third more of assessment than they at present do, to pay equal with the tenant; as the present rates are quite inadequate to keep the roads in proper repair from the great rise in the labour market, and upon all material used for the purpose of repairing the roads. I observe that a bill for the abolition of tolls in Mid-Lothian was brought into Parliament, and among other provisions which I quite approve of the proprietors purpose paying the whole assessments for the maintenance of the roads. They are, however, cute enough not to overlook the tenant-farmers under existing leases. This I hold to be quite just, but you will find in all late enactments by Parliament no such provision is ever made in levying any new assessment for local purposes as to exempt tenant-farmers under existing leases. Take the Poor-law Act, the Regristration Act, the Lunacy Act, and last, though not least objectionable, the Education (Scotland) Act. These statements will, I have no doubt, not meet the views of many I see around this table, but may be the means of drawing the attention of others to the subject who are better qualified than I am to deal with the different points. In conclusion, before I sit down, I beg to put a motion—"That a committee of five members be appointed to endeavour to remedy any of these excess charges, and to watch over the interests of the tenant-farmers should any legislative enactment be brought before Parliament affecting their interest, with power to add to their number."

Mr. HARVEY (Whittingham Mains) said Mr. Robertson made no reference to the gun tax and the dog tax—two abominable imposts.

The CHAIRMAN: These are scarcely local taxes.

Mr. HARVEY: They have a local bearing certainly.

Mr. DURIE (Barney Mains) said several of the taxes referred to were more national than local taxes, therefore it was doubtful if they came within the scope of the subject for discussion. He quite agreed with Mr. Robertson about the roads, excepting the border tolls: he did not approve of them. Every other county that passed a road bill, got the landlords to pay half the maintenance of the roads, but in East Lothian the proprietors only paid a third, while the tenants paid two-thirds. One scandalous tax, and it was strictly a local tax, was the Haddington Customs. It was surely absurd of any town council or town's authorities charging the public for coming in from the country to keep the town alive. If they got the town custom abolished, and got the landlords to pay one-half the cost of maintaining the roads, he thought they would have little cause of complaint on the score of local taxation.

Mr. PATON (Standingstones) thought of all the taxes they had in that locality the Haddington Customs were the most absurd. In imposing such taxes he thought the townspeople stood in their own light. Only the other day he sent a straw-cutter in a cart to Haddington in the morning to get repaired. He was then charged 4d. for the cart. Being pressed for it at home he sent for it the same afternoon; he had again to pay 4d. That certainly was far from encouraging

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trade, for he would rather send anything else of the kind anywhere than to Haddington, just on account of those petty, irritating changes. Street manure, or any manure manufactured in the town, is charged at the rate of a halfpenny per cartload passing along the street, and guano, or any pure article of manure, is charged the same, but dissolved bones and other manufactured artificial manures are charged at the rate of fourpence per load. One day lately he sent down two carts for nitrate of soda—a pure manure—and fourpence per cart was charged. He maintained, however, that nitrate of soda, being a pure manure, came under the same category as guano, and only paid a halfpenny per cart, adding that he would at once pay more, if his liability could be established. These were one or two of the examples of the irritating nature of the customs, and of the darkness, so to speak, which still overhung the town of Haddington.

Mr. SMITH (Stevenson Maine) said the farmers had paid too much all along under the Poor-law Act, the assessments in connection with which were no doubt meant to be a tax on the means and substance of the people. Many thought the land ought to bear the burden of the poor. Be that as it may, there was no question the farmers had not been properly represented at those local boards—and certainly they never had been represented in Parliament as they ought to have been long ago. If the landlords had looked better after their own interests by looking more to the tenant's, they would have had more power in the House of Commons at the present time. But the commercial interest, the railway interest, and other interests had assumed greater power in the House of Commons than they would have done had the landlords at the outset taken on themselves the legitimate burdens on the land, thus carrying the tenant along with them, and making a more powerful agricultural representation than they had just now. A great deal of the taxation of the country came out of the tenants' pockets. They were taxed on an uncertain income. Many thousands of pounds were put into the soil, and in a measure lost by the tenantry of Scotland; yet under the Poor-law Act they paid 6d. about with the landlord. The income-tax was a very hard one on the farmer. The farmers were taxed on their rentals whether it was income or not. Of course they could get certain deductions by keeping very correct books and record of all their transactions, and showing these. The road tax in that county was certainly unfairly divided as between landlord and tenant. If the tenantry were better represented in the House of Commons, which they would be soon, such questions would be better adjusted and attended to in the future. As regards the Education Act, the farmer was nominally much the same after as before its passing, though actually he will have more to pay. Though many of the landlords did not exact it, the proprietors had the power before of making the tenants pay half the cost of education, and that was all they had still to do. Only under the new Act the landlord, he supposed, could compel the tenant to pay half the cost of schools building, which could not have been done before.

Mr. SHIERREFF (Saltcoats) endorsed generally what Mr. Smith had said. The education rates and suchlike he thought were more imperial than local rates. One purely local rate, however, had not yet been touched on—viz., the addition of 2½ per cent. to the fiars in East Lothian. They lived now in the days of free trade, and the augmentation to the fiars in question was a very old impost. In his part of the county they had little to complain of in the form of local taxation. Their poor rates were only 3½d. per £. Their road rate was similar, and their school rate was 3d. per £. A readjustment of some of these taxes was worthy of the consideration of Parliament. For instance, many labouring people, who worked perhaps in his parish, had their houses or settlement in the parish of Haddington, and when they required aliment they became chargeable on that parish, in which perhaps they had worked very little.

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Robertson opened the discussion creditably, though he seemed to be under a misapprehension as to the effect of different representation in the parochial boards on the arrangement of the assessment as between landlord and tenant. The proportion of the Poor-law assessment, as payable between landlords and tenants, was fixed by Act of Parliament. More tenant-farmers, therefore, in the administration of affairs would only affect the classification of the assessments between tenant and tenant, so to speak, as between tenants of lands and those of houses. A majority of the Board either way cannot affect the proportion payable as between landlord and tenant. Tenants paid nothing under the Lunacy Act. [A Voice: "They do."] The Chairman: They pay under the Poor-law Act and Administration for Pauper Lunatics, but he had yet to learn that they paid under the Lunacy Act. As regards the question of what was local taxation and what was not, there seemed to be some diversity of opinion. He thought all taxation which was under local administration might be called local. The tenants had nothing to complain of in the recent change made by the Education Act, for previously they were liable—and some had to pay it—for one-half the expense of education, and in reference to representation the greatest reformer could surely desire no more sweeping change than the new Act had produced. The landlords paid the half of the assessment, and had no prior claim to be put on the administrative boards. The landlords might be elected or not, as the farmers and other electors chose. If there was anything which formed reasonable cause of complaint, it might be regarded as the road rate. It was explainable, however. Formerly the farmers paid all the statute labour rates, and the landlords had only the toll charges to pay on the turnpikes, like the other members of the public. The arrangement, therefore, that the tenants pay two-thirds and the landlords only one third of the maintenance of the roads, was not so unreasonable in the circumstances of the county, though times may have changed sufficiently now to induce matters to be looked at from a different point of view. The time may have arrived for a readjustment of the existing arrangement, and in order to put the roads in a good state of repair, it might be well to consider whether the landlord's payment should not be equalled to the tenant's present contribution. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. ROBERTSON said that most of the hits at his views had in his opinion been unsuccessful. The landlords, with the parish minister, had raised the parish schoolmaster's salary from £35 to £70 without the tenant having a single voice in the matter. Though formerly the education rate was not generally exacted from the tenants, those farmers who had to pay it had not a single representative at the Board, and the landlords doubled the salary of the teachers, many of whom were old men and were now, when the burden came on the tenantry, retiring on handsome allowances, the ratepayers having to provide proper teaching machinery over and above. (Hear, hear.) No man could gainsay his argument that hitherto the tenantry of Scotland had been unfairly dealt with under several of the Acts referred to. Why, in the Poor-law administration they were completely swamped by the owners of small properties.

Mr. SHIERREFF wished to know if Mr. Robertson was aware of the position of the farmer in all those matters when he took his farm?

Mr. ROBERTSON: I was not aware of the Education Act.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that if the different representation in the management of schools occasioned by the new act had increased the burdens so much, it certainly was not an argument in favour of popular management or representation.

Mr. HARVEY considered pauper lunatics a great burden on the parish and the farmer. In the parish of Whittingham they had four pauper lunatics, who cost £150 a year.

Mr. ELDER, to show the state in which the present school boards got some parishes, adduced the case of the parish of Morham. There, the landlord left matters in a very awkward position. The school-room was scarcely fit to keep a pig in for the last twenty years, and the school-house would not be considered good enough for a pauper. The landlord had at length resolved to go on with new buildings. Accordingly, plans had been prepared, and estimates for the erection of new buildings accepted, when, after all, the proprietor backed out as the Education Act made its appearance, and left the parish to provide a school and buildings for itself. The tenantry and the parish had now to do what should have been accomplished twenty years ago.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Athelstaneford) had no intention of speaking on the subject under discussion; but he was so much pleased with the discussion that he would offer a few remarks. The discussion had taken quite as much of a legislative turn as a local, but he thought the Club might benefit very much by remarks on such general subjects as it would on what might, strictly speaking, be termed local taxation. He thought the town of Haddington erred very much in exacting the charges it did from the farmers. The town depended much

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more on the country than the country did on the town. The farmers, it should be remembered, had other means of disposing of their produce. They had the metropolitan market in Edinburgh within easy access by rail. There was no doubt the Poor-law bore heavily on the tenantry of Scotland, and the lunaties were a very heavy charge on the tenantry. As long as the world lasted there would always be poor upon the land, and he thought the land should support the poor. The tenantry should have nothing to do with maintaining the poor, because they paid full market value for the land, so that those rates that were enacted in addition were exigencies over and above the market or commercial value of the land. Then the Education Act compelled tenant farmers to pay for the education of other people's children. Well, the farmers did very well if they educated their own children, but they were taxed to pay for the education it might be of the children of labourers, the full marketable value of whose services they had previously paid. He thought that was an unreasonable thing. The farmers were pinched to pay labourers the high marketable value of their services, and yet after all were liable to be taxed for the education of those very men's families. He did not think the gun-tax was such an obnoxious thing as Mr. Harvey would have them believe. It had done good in preventing the carrying of guns and fire-arms by idle people, and altogether he thought it was not a bad tax. The agricultural or farming interest had never been properly represented in the House of Commons. That was the cause of the legislation being, as many of them complained it was, unfair to the farmer. There were only some three or four actual representatives of the tenant-farmers in the House. They must have a great many more. It had been said suitable representatives could not spare the time or bear the expense. He did not think there would be much difficulty in getting men to represent the agricultural interest properly if the counties only set about it; but though a little contribution was necessary, he was sure there would be many of the farmers ready to subscribe. There was no radicalism about such a proposal. The farmers were entitled to be fairly and fully represented. If they were things would be better balanced.

After some further discussion, Mr. ROBERTSON withdrew his motion for the appointment of a committee until any bill affecting their interests was before Parliament.

THE MIDLAND FARMERS' CLUB.

THIN SEEDING.

At the last meeting at the Great Western Hotel, in Birmingham, the Earl of Yarmouth, M.P., the President, in the chair,

Major HALLETT read a paper on Thin Seeding and the Selection of Seeds, in which wheat was first spoken of, and the process of tillering—the great characteristic of all the cereals, described. At the Exeter meeting of the British Association, he exhibited three plants of wheat, barley, and oats, each from a single grain, with the following: wheat, 94 stems; barley, 110 stems; oats, 87 stems. A plant of wheat required space for full development, and, therefore, time to fill that space. It was evident that the proper space and time to allow to each grain were those which, while sufficient for full development, left no ground unoccupied at harvest. Such proper time must, it was plain, be much earlier then when wheat was planted so thickly that tillering could not take place. In reference to the time of sowing, the rate of wheat growth during the different months must be considered, and the best measure of this was the time it takes to come up. Wheat sown on 1st of September comes up in seven days. In a mild autumn wheat sown on the 1st of October comes up in fourteen days; on the 1st of November in twenty-one days; and on the 1st of December in twenty-eight days. Assuming this to be the rate of wheat growth when it is up, then that which was up on the 1st of September made in the first fifteen days of that month a growth equal to that of the whole month of October; in the next ten days a growth equal to that of whole of November; and in the last five days of September a growth equal to that of the first twenty days of December; or, in other words, wheat up on the 1st of September, compared with that up on the 1st of October, had exactly a double autumn for growth before the winter set in. In determining the space to be assigned to each grain, they must deal with seed the result of continuous selection, for the vital powers of the different grains of ordinary wheat are so very unequal that it would be impossible to fix upon any uniform distance. In planting grains of wheat in August, singly, and 12in. apart each way, all the requisite conditions of time and space seemed to be best fulfilled. He had known wheat planted on September the 9th, 9in. by 9in., to produce at the rate of 108 bushels per acre. It was a matter for the maturest study and judgment to correctly apportion the quantity of seed to the time of sowing and to all the existing surrounding circumstances. As a general basis he would suggest on a large scale the drilling of wheat as follows: End of August to 10th September, two or three gallons per acre; for each week later, to the end of September, an additional gallon per acre. With regard to the selection of seed, Major Hallett said the importance of a good pedigree for animals, as also for some agricultural plants, was fully recognised; but the moment the farmer dealt with cereals he altogether ignored the great principle of like producing like. Upon that great principle running through all nature he based his system of selection. After alluding to the benefits which had resulted from the principle of selection in many agricultural plants, such as parsnips, cabbages, turnips, potatoes, hops, &c., he said that close observation showed that in the cereals, as throughout nature, no two plants or grains are precisely alike in productive power, and hence that of any two or greater number of grains or plants one is always superior to all the others, although that superiority can be discovered only by actual trial. This superiority may consist in various particular characteristics. The following were the chief points of his standard in order of their importance, but all have to be duly considered: 1, hardihood of constitution; 2, trueness of type; 3, quality of sample; 4, productiveness; 5, power of tillering; 6, stiffness and toughness of straw; 7, earliness of ripening. The plan of selection which he pursued was as follows: A grain produced a plant, consisting of many ears. He planted the grains from these ears in such a manner that each ear occupied a row by itself, each of its grains occupying a hole in this row; and the holes being twelve inches apart every way. At harvest, after the most careful study and comparison of the plants from all these grains, he selected the finest one, which he accepted as a proof that its parent grain was the best of all, under the peculiar circumstances of that season. This process was repeated annually, starting every year with the proved best grain, although the verification of this superiority was not obtained until the following harvest. After giving instances of the results due to the influence of selection alone, by which the length of the ears had been doubled, their contents nearly trebled, and the tillering power of the seed increased five-fold, Major Hallett next proceeded to consider what might be effected by the combination of thin seeding with selection. Taking the seed wheat sown by a usual mode at two bushels per acre, 1½ millions of grains per acre (speaking roughly) were put into the ground. In ordinary crops the number of ears produced per acre being taken as about one million and the crop as 34 bushels, they had at 700,000 grains to the bushel, 23,800,000 grains per acre, or an average per ear of only 23 to 24 grains; and if more than one million ears per acre were claimed it must be at the expense of their contents. Five pints of wheat per acre planted in September 12in. by 12in. gave 1,001,880 ears per acre, or 67,760 ears in excess of those produced on the other side of the hedge from 6 pecks, or more than twenty-one times the seed. Again, 5 pints planted 12in. by 12in. October 17th, gave 958,820 ears per acre; and planted similarly October 4th, 966,792 per acre; while one bushel planted October 15 gave only 812,160. Two plants of twenty-four ears each gave 1,911 and 1,878 grains, or seventy-nine per ear. Twenty ears per foot, at forty-eight grains only ear, would produce eleven quarters per acre. In reference to effects of his system, Major Hallett directed attention to the

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effect upon the crop of the more increased size of the grain produced. A bushel of pedigree wheat produced from single grains, planted 12in. by 12in., contained about 460,000 grains, while a bushel of ordinary wheat contained 700,000 grains and upwards. Therefore, in two crops, consisting of precisely the same number of grains, the crop from the thin seeding would be upwards of seventy bushels against forty-six bushels, or nine quarters against six quarters per acre. Again, a bushel of pedigree barley, produced from grains planted singly 12in. by 12in., contained 390,400 grains, while a bushel of ordinary barley contained upwards of 550,000, or in two crops of equal numbers of grains, the one would be 55 bushels, the other 39, or 7 quarters against 5 quarters per acre. Thus in the increased size alone of the grains produced, they obtained an increase of crop of from 40 to 50 per cent. The present average contents of ears of wheat must be from 20 to 30. Were it grown as he proposed, the average contents of the ears would be, at the very least, from 40 to 60—far more probable from 60 to 90; for under such a system, so small an ear as one of 40 grains was quite the exception. And this increase of the contents of the ears would be obtained without any diminution of their number. In other words, the crop would thus at least be doubled. The saving of nearly one million quarters of wheat used for seed was likewise, in itself, a matter of national importance. In conclusion, Major Hallett said, by the adoption of his system the land of England might be made to double its present produce of corn, and that the whole of the breadstuffs which we purchase each year at the enormous sum of £40,000,000 sterling might be produced upon our own land at home, enriching the proprietors and cultivators of England, and annually adding those forty millions to the wealth of the entire nation.

A discussion ensued, in which objections were raised to the adoption of Major Hallett's system by several speakers, who confessed that they did not speak from practical experience of it or his seed, while Mr. Hawthorn and Mr. Bomford, after long experience of both, spoke highly in its favour, the former complaining that there was a lack of men present who had used Major Hallett's seed, or followed up his instructions, and under those circumstances they were not in a position to dispute what Major Hallett had said. He had planted Major Hallett's wheat for the last twelve years, and he never planted it without a good crop. One year, when he planted on the 7th September, he grew more than sixty bushels per acre. The great difficulty in carrying out thin seeding was planting it at a proper time.—Major HALLETT replied, and on the motion of Mr. BOWEN JONES, seconded by Mr. BARTLEET, a vote of thanks was passed to Major Hallett for his paper, who, in replying, invited the members of the Club to visit and inspect his farm.

THE INTRODUCTION OF SUPERPHOSPHATE, OR DISSOLVED BONES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—The following paper was written for, and appeared in a local newspaper, *The Aberdeen Journal*, some two or three weeks since. It has been suggested by some who take an interest in the application of chemical science to agriculture, that, on account of the facts stated—not, it seems, generally known, and now becoming of an historical character—it deserves the wider circulation which your columns afford. As a reader and occasional correspondent of, and I may add, a pretty constant agricultural reporter to *The Mark Lane Express* for a period of forty years, I may say that it appears to me that the subject would not be without interest to a large proportion of your readers. In point of fact, the first paper on the subject of superphosphate was written for *The Mark Lane Express*; but the then editor, deeming the paper to be of some permanent importance, transferred it in the first instance to the pages of *The Farmers' Magazine*, also under his charge, in which it appeared in the beginning of the year 1842. It was stated lately in a periodical publication that the process for the preparation of superphosphate was at one time the subject of a patent. That is not the case. A person who subsequently became an extensive manufacturer of superphosphate applied for a patent; but the paper in *The Farmers' Magazine*, above referred to, as well as other evidence, was brought forward to show that the process was known and had been already practised, and the application was refused.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
W. HAY.

Tillydesk, Aberdeenshire, June 13th, 1874.

In Liebig's first work on the Chemistry of Agriculture, a suggestion was thrown out to the effect that bones might be more advantageously applied as manure if the phosphate of lime, of which they mainly consist, were brought into a state of complete solution before depositing it in the soil. Immediately after the publication of that work, viz., in 1841, the writer of this, impressed with a sense of the importance of the suggestion, put it to the test of experiment by dissolving a few bushels of ordinary crushed bones in sulphuric acid, and applying the product, diluted with several hundred parts of water, as a manure for the production of turnips. The solution was, in the first instance, applied to the drills by means of a common watering pan; and the quantity of phosphate of lime so applied was, by calculation, made equal, or little more than equal, to the whole amount of that substance (or rather of phosphoric acid), which a crop of turnips would take up from the soil. Such was the first attempt, so far as is known, to apply phosphate of lime in a soluble condition, or rather in a state of actual solution, as manure. It is needless now to state in detail the result of our first experiment, or to describe the various appliances (a water cart, &c.), which were subsequently used for distributing the solution. It is only necessary to add, that the application of so large a quantity of liquid over a field of any considerable extent was found to be a very laborious business; and the practical difficulties thence arising led to the consideration whether the "dissolved bones" (for at that period bones were the only source of phosphate of lime available) might not be applied in a dry or powdered state. It was speedily found that the preparation might be so applied if used in larger quantity—not, indeed, with equal success, but still with such a measure of success as to justify us in dispensing with the more cumbersome and laborious mode of application. In giving some account of our first year's experiments in the local newspapers, and more especially in *The Farmers' Magazine* of that day, we endeavoured to state the considerations which led us to see the importance of Liebig's suggestion, and to explain the *rationale* of the practice (which we of course recommended for adoption), both with respect to the preparation of the manure and to the superior advantages which we held it must needs possess when applied for the immediate production of a crop of turnips. In doing this, we explained the nature of the chemical action which takes place when dilute sulphuric acid is added to reduced or crushed bones, and stated that the important product thence resulting was "what chemists called a *Superphosphate* of Lime," putting the word "Superphosphate" in italics as a sort of apology, so to speak, for using a purely technical term; for such the word then was, although it has since come to be familiar in the mouths of all parties connected with agriculture, not only in this country, but throughout Europe and America. In the chemical language of that day a *super-salt* was a combination of an acid with a base in which the former was supposed to exist in its *highest* proportion relatively to the base; and such, in point of fact, the peculiar phosphate of lime referred to really is, being what chemists would now call a *mono-calcic phosphate*; that is, phosphoric acid in combination with *one* equivalent of calcium (the metallic base of lime). It was to this soluble phosphate of lime, then, that the term *superphosphate* was

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originally applied by us. Like many other words in common use, it has gradually, with a change of circumstances, been made to bear a different meaning from that originally attached to it; and it would now be impossible, even if it were desirable, to recal it to its original and specific signification. In the commercial and agricultural world it is now commonly used, in a general way, to signify a manure prepared by the action of sulphuric acid on ground coprolites, apatite, or other mineral or semi-mineral phosphates of lime, while it has ceased to be applied to "dissolved bones." A curious evidence was afforded some years ago of the misconception and of the popular ignorance which prevailed on this subject by a discussion, which was carried on in some of the agricultural journals, as to whether "superphosphate" made from bones was not different in its nature and qualities from superphosphate manufactured coprolites, &c. The soluble phosphate of lime produced by the action of sulphuric acid upon "bone-earth" and other natural tri-basic phosphates, has, for some years past, been generally—both by chemists and others—called "Bi-phosphate;" and, in want of a better term (the use of the word *superphosphate*, in its original sense, being precluded), the writer of this must plead guilty to the use of the word bi-phosphate in these columns and elsewhere. But, though following others in using the term *biphosphate* for the soluble phosphate of lime, we took occasion to point out some eight or ten years ago that it is really a misnomer, besides being otherwise objectionable, and ventured to advise analytical chemists, in noting the results of their analyses of "superphosphates" &c., to state the precise amount of phosphoric acid existing in a soluble condition in the manure—whether in combination with lime, or other alkalies—instead of the usual details about "biphosphate" and its equality to so much "bone phosphate rendered soluble." But to this point we shall have occasion to recur, for the important work which we are about to notice affords evidence of the propriety of our suggestion. In first using the term "superphosphate" in the manner above indicated, we had little idea that the word would come to be generally adopted throughout the world as the name of a substance familiarly known to everyone connected with the science or practice of agriculture. Still less did we expect to see the day when some two or three millions of pounds would be invested in its manufacture in Great Britain alone, not to speak of the extent to which the same manufacture is carried on in America and on the Continent of Europe, or to witness the amount of shipping, of general trade, and of labour (in mining, collecting coprolites, &c.), to which the demand for "superphosphate" has given rise. For many years we gave, from time to time, instructions to farmers for the preparation of their own superphosphate, and in this part of the country, in the Lothians, and in some parts of England, the purchasing of a number of "carboys" of sulphuric acid, and its application to the "dissolving of bones" in large wooden troughs, or in tanks, or in some other rude way, formed, for a considerable period, a regular portion of the "annual toil" of the farm on the part of many of the more intelligent and enterprising agriculturists. But, *nous avons changé tout cela:* the manufacture of superphosphate, not only from bones, but from coprolites, fossilised guano, &c., came to be taken up as a special business by individuals or by commercial firms; and had these parties in all cases, or even generally, conducted the business with anything like a proper knowledge of scientific principles, or been content with moderate profits, nothing but good would have resulted to all concerned. Much trouble would have been saved to the farmer, while the commodity which he required might have been produced of better quality, if not at a cheaper rate, on account of the facilities which its manufacture on a large scale necessarily affords. Unluckily, the very nature of the manufacture not only afforded the utmost facilities for adulteration, but actually made such adulteration a sort of necessity, resulting from ignorance on the part of some, while in not a few cases (too many, the amount of worthless stuff in the market seemed to indicate) the rate of profit which might be realised at the expense of the farmer was matter of discretion—we do not say of conscience—on the part of the vendors of what was called "superphosphate." In fact, the farmers for a time accepted anything under that name; and the word, like "charity," was made to cover a multitude of sins. During the last twelve or fifteen years, we have again and again insisted on the duty obviously laid upon the farmers of taking some means to ascertain that the materials which they bought as manure were really something like what they were sold for by the vendors; and in doing so, we have repeatedly stated what ought to be the composition of honestly-prepared superphosphate, at the same time earnestly advising all parties to have nothing to do with mixtures of indefinite composition, sold under the names of "corn-manure," "turnip-manure," "grass-manure," and so forth. We have never ceased to remind farmers that the two substances of which they are mainly in want are phosphoric acid (in a soluble condition) and nitrogen—the latter in the form of ammonia, or of a nitric acid salt. Our warnings seemed, for a time, to fall in a great measure unheeded. The manure trade flourished. Some of those engaged in it realised fortunes by a very simple process. Gradually, however, in this case—as we have had occasion to observe in other cases—the seed sown has, after a time, been productive of fruit. Increased intelligence and knowledge of the subject among agriculturists have led them to look more closely after their own interests. Nor has the sharp teaching of experience been wanting. The result has been that what are called Analytical Associations—that is, associations of farmers for the purpose of obtaining analyses of the manures and feeding stuffs which they purchase—have been instituted in various parts of the country. These associations have already done an incalculable amount of good, not only to their own members, but to the agricultural community generally. We observe that Dr. Voelcker has very lately discarded the term biphosphate, and substituted "mono-phosphate," by which, doubtless, he means to indicate the anhydrous salt, or what we have above designated as "mono-calcic phosphate," the chemical formula for which is, $CaO\ P_2\ O_5$, or, which is the same thing, $Ca\ P_2\ O_8$. Biphosphate of lime, according to Morfit (who uses the old chemical notation), is $CaO, 2HO, PO_5$. It is exceedingly desirable that *some* uniform system should be adopted with reference to this matter. The phosphoric acid, we repeat, is the valuable constituent to the farmer; and what he desires to know from the chemical analyst is how much—what per-centage—of that substance a given manure contains.

[Mr. Hay in this article makes some reference to a work which we have not seen, and so prefer to let him speak on his own authority.—EDITOR *M. L. E.*]

THE DORSETSHIRE DOWN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—In reference to your remarks on the Dorsetshire Down couples with which I took the prize at the Bath and West of England Show at Bristol, I beg to say—1st. That the term "longwool" is an error in the catalogue's description, the prize having been offered for the best short-wool couples, and my sheep were entered as such. 2nd. The Dorsetshire Down sheep originated in a cross between the Hampshire and Southdown. It is the breed of sheep usually kept in this county, and is believed to be the best tenant-farmers' sheep, or in other words the most profitable, combining as it does the size of the Hampshire with the quality of the Southdown. 3rd. In answer to your question how is this breed to be maintained? I can only say that I annually let and sell upwards of one hundred Dorsetshire Down tups.—I remain, yours obediently,

GEORGE W. HOMER.

Athelhampton Hall, Dorsetshire, June 20, 1874.

THE HERD BOOK.—The following circular has been issued: 34, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, W., June 15, 1874.—Sir,—A numerous and influential body of Shorthorn breeders having expressed a wish that some steps should be taken as to the future management of Coates' *Herd Book* whenever Mr. Strafford should determine to resign the editorship, and as he has now signified to us his desire to do so, we earnestly invite you to attend a meeting of subscribers, to be held at Willis Rooms, King-street, St. James's, at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, July 1, to consider with him the best mode for the continuation of that work.—We remain, yours faithfully, Dunmore, Skelmersdale, Penrhyn, R. Nigel, F. Kingscote, John Storer, Thos. C. Booth.

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REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE

DURING THE PAST MONTH.

Up to the 12th of June the weather was forcing and the heat almost tropical, with, however, so scanty an allowance of rain, that a general conviction prevailed the crop of hay must be short, as well as that of spring corn, though the prospects for wheat were unusually good. But before half the month was reached came a week of very cold weather, with frosts so frequent and so sharp that much of the potato crop suffered, the whole harvest became deferred, and some apprehension has been entertained for the earlier pieces of wheat, which had pushed rapidly into bloom during the heat, The prospect, therefore, for the main crop has become less favourable, while there seems little chance for spring corn, especially beans and peas, from the long persistence of dry weather. The fall of rain having varied materially in different places, we may have chequered crops, though all seem likely to be short, excepting wheat, and that is yet doubtful; the same sort of weather having ruled in France, at a period when stocks were so low, that values have been greatly enhanced, much wheat going from our coast, with flour and oats, and this at a time when we have little to spare, and have only been hoping to reach the end of our term, without the public having to pay extravagant rates. That the stocks of wheat here must be at a low ebb is seen from the little now held in granary, and the small returns constantly made in the weekly sales, the last four weeks showing less by 39,000 qrs. than the small returns of 1873, which is about 25 per cent. below the rate then noted, and our foreign receipts weekly continue below our estimated necessities. It is true that consumption always falls off in summer, and we are beginning to get the help of new potatoes from abroad and our own early districts; but there is no provision against any possible calamity that may yet take place at the blooming time or gatherings, and the position is somewhat critical; yet, as we live upon the bounty of Providence, let us hopefully depend upon it, especially as more rain has since fallen. They have already had so great a pressure from prices in the South of France, that 78s. to 80s. has been paid for wheat, but foreign arrivals are reaching Bordeaux and its neighbourhood, now moderating values, and throughout the provinces there has been lately a partial decline. Still Marseilles, with all its receipts, keeps dear, having to contribute to the necessities of Switzerland as well as France. America has continued the cheapest place, and still sends the most liberal supplies, and to that country we shall still have to look till our own sheaves begin to be gathered, and the nation's anxiety shall cease. The following were the most recent prices at the several places named: Best white native wheat at Paris 73s., red 71s.; Spanish white and Oregon at Rouen 70s., spring American 62s. 6d., Polish 61s. 6d.; Ghirka at Marseilles 67s., Polish 66s. 8d.; Californian white at Antwerp 66s., spring American 60s. 6d.; best native wheat at Liege 69s.; at Louvain 68s.; wheat at Maestricht 68s.; red wheat at Berlin 55s. 6d., at Cologne 63s., at Mayenne for August 58s.; high-mixed at Danzic 60s.; wheat at Pesth 56s. to 66s., Mecklenburgh at Hambro' 63s. 6d., Ghirka off the coast Oregon 64s., Canadian 62s.; red spring at New York, per 480lbs. free on board, 44s. 6d.

The first Monday in Mark-lane opened on a small supply of English wheat, the foreign arrivals being moderate, about two-thirds from New York and India, and a good portion from Adelaide. The show of fresh samples from Essex was very limited; but with fine weather the demand was equally so, and prices were only maintained by a Continental inquiry. Orders from France raised the price of white foreign 1s. per qr., but red sorts being left to English millers were 1s. per qr. lower, with only little doing. Floating cargoes went off at full rates for the Continent, France being the principal buyer. Though short deliveries in the country this week kept some places from a decline, others noted a fall of 1s. as Gainsboro', Market Rasen, Melton Mowbray, Newcastle, Sheffield, &c.; but Liverpool on Tuesday was 6d. per cental down for red, and 1d. more on Friday. No change was noted at Leith; Edinburgh was quiet for fine qualities, and 1s. lower for inferior wheat; and Aberdeen quoted a similar decline. The scarcity of native samples at Dublin kept them at the former range; but foreign was dull, and in favour of buyers.

On the second Monday the English supplies were small, and exceeded by the exports; but the foreign arrivals were doubled, half being from America, and a fair quantity from Australia. The show of fresh samples this morning was very scanty; but it mattered not, the weather having increased in fineness, insomuch that factors were willing to take 1s. less, and even then found it difficult to sell. In foreign, generally, little was done, and less money was taken—say 1s. on white qualities, and 1s. to 2s. on red American spring. In floating cargoes white sorts obtained the prices of the previous week, but red declined 1s. per qr. The mid-summer weather which had been then prevailing, together with lower advices from London, had its usual influence in the country, making poorly-supplied places dull, and generally reducing rates 1s. per qr.; while some places noted a larger reduction, as Lynn, Melton Mowbray, Newcastle, St. Ives, &c., and Liverpool was down 2d. to 4d. per cental for the week. Edinburgh, Leith, and Glasgow were all cheaper 1s. qr. Dublin was dull for Irish sorts notwithstanding their scarcity, and foreign was 6d. per barrel lower.

On the third Monday there was another small supply of home growth, and the foreign arrivals fell off to less than one half of the previous week, two-thirds being American, with a moderate quantity from the Baltic. On the Essex stands a very small quantity of fresh samples was exhibited; but though some frosty nights had been experienced, there was no disposition to pay more money, and the previous rates were but slowly given. The sudden change of weather, however, checked the downward disposition of prices, and at Friday's decline of 1s. some little business was done. In floating cargoes the previous rates were paid for the Continent. The country markets this week mostly resisted any further reduction, though some still remained dull; but on Saturday there was a recovery of 1s. at several places. Liverpool was quiet on Tuesday, and improved 1d. to 2d. per cental on Friday. At Aberdeen, with severe drought, there was no change; but Leith and Edinburgh were 1s. to 2s. lower for wheat. Dublin, commencing the week dull, with some decline, afterwards rallied, and noted an improvement of 3d. per barrel on foreign.

On the fourth Monday the smallest supplies were received both English and foreign, the latter only exceeding the exports by about 3,000 qrs. The exhibition of fresh English samples was also extremely scanty, and

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factors commenced by asking 1s advance, but the weather indicating a return to warmth they did not succeed, business remaining very slow. In foreign white there was no change, but the improvement in red spring noted on Friday was confirmed, with, however, but little business passing. The demand for floating cargoes was steady, and rather more money was paid for red American. There has been, therefore, a decline for the month of about 1s. to 2s. per qr. Since the last London market prices have hardened in the country.

The imports into London for four weeks were in English qualities 13,963 qrs., foreign 88,883 qrs., against 17,539 qrs. English, 188,712 qrs. foreign for the same period in 1873. The exports were 18,450 qrs. wheat, 20,415 cwts. flour. The imports into the kingdom for the four weeks ending the 18th of June were 2,727,010 cwts. wheat, 457,806 cwts. flour, against 2,906,638 cwts. wheat, 437,488 cwts. flour in 1873. The London averages commenced at 63s. 6d. and closed at 68s. 2d. per qr. The general averages opened at 62s. 2d. and ended at 61s. 4d. The weekly sales noted for four weeks were 160,881 qrs., against 199,847 qrs. for four weeks in the same time last year.

The flour trade has been pretty steady as to prices during the month, but varying in activity with the demand for wheat. For the most part business has been dull, country sorts giving way on the second Monday 1s. per sack, leaving Norfolks at 43s. Foreign, also, in sacks and barrels, have yielded to the same extent, but were kept from further decline by the demand from France; and it was this that brought our exports to 20,415 cwts., the trade being mostly in medium quality barrels, at about 28s.; but fine kilndried qualities for consumption still bring 32s. to 33s. The most recent quotation at New York for extra State was 6 d. 35c. (23s. 7d. per brl.) free on board. The top price of town-made has stood at 54s., and it has stood at about the same at Paris. The arrivals into London for the four weeks were in country sacks 48,847, in foreign 16,950 sacks 40,211 brls., against 74,425 sacks country, 15,147 sacks 62,215 brls. foreign for the same period in 1873.

Maize, after declining about 2s. in the first two markets, recovered 1s. to 1s. 6d. on the third, and has since remained firm, American landed being worth about 39s., white 42s. to 43s. The price at New York for mixed was 25s. 9d. free on board; at Pesth, in Hungary, it was quoted 37s. The imports into London for four weeks were 36,884 qrs., against 49,243 qrs. in 1873.

The malting season being over it has mattered little that the crop of English barley has been nearly exhausted and brought supplies to their lowest. Foreign arrivals also have been very moderate, and so prices have kept at a high range for grinding and distillation, the lowest price for the former being about 33s., while prime stout French and Danish have been worth 40s. to 44s. It is thought we cannot have a good crop this year and that prices for malting will again rule high. The imports for four weeks into London in British were only 406 qrs., in foreign 30,110 qrs., against 1,344 qrs. British, 25,553 qrs. foreign in 1873.

Malt during the month has been but a slow sale, and with more anxiety to clear stocks, at the close there was a decline of 1s. per qr.

The oat trade, with continuously good arrivals from abroad, has been almost constantly rising. Stocks here, in Scotland and Ireland being reduced very low, and placing the whole country in a state of dependence on our receipts from the Baltic and elsewhere, Parliament being in town, has kept up a large consumption, and values have improved fully 1s., notwithstanding slight fluctuations in the lower qualities. 40 lbs. Russian have become worth 29s. 6d. to 30s., and prime sweet Sweden 30s. to 31s., with the lighter and inferior qualities relatively quite as dear. The long drought here and in France give both countries but poor prospects. Indeed we have lately had a French demand, and though some rain has recently fallen in France, as well as here, prices in Paris have risen, prime qualities being fully worth 31s. In Belgium, Holland, and Germany, as well as Hungry, it has been much the same, and as there are yet fully two months to harvest, people begin to doubt the power of Russia and Sweden to supply all the world, and fear extravagant rates, unless rain falls in abundance and changes the prospect generally. Our receipts in London for four weeks were 618 qrs. English, 64 Scotch, 237,849 qrs. foreign, against 1,422 qrs. English, 157,327 qrs. foreign in 1873.

The bean supplies, both English and foreign, have been moderate, and the first Monday opened with a rise of 1s. to 2s. per qr., which has since been maintained but nothing beyond it, the late advance making them very dear and lessening the demand. Ticks are worth 42s., Harrows 48s., and small 52s., large French 46s., Egyptian 44s. The imports for four weeks into London were 1,253 qrs. English, 3,872 qrs. foreign, against 1,977 qrs. English, 1,300 qrs. foreign in 1873.

Hog peas have been forced up by scarcity, still maples are worth 47s., and duns 44s. to 45s., while white foreign have risen from their comparative cheapness about 2s., being now worth 45s. The total imports in four weeks were 312 qrs. English, 8,735 qrs. foreign, against 149 English, 3,525 qrs. foreign in 1873.

Linseed has been quiet but maintained its price. Arrivals 43,644 qrs. against 14,630 qrs. in 1873.

The poor prospects for the crop of cloverseed and other seeds have kept the values up, but there are very small stocks on hand.

MUIR OF ORD SHEEP MARKET.—INVERNESS, (Wednesday.)—A stiffer market than that which was held today has not taken place on the same stance for several years. The numbers on the ground were also below that of the corresponding market of last year. Blackfaced predominated, and several lots of Cheviots were also on the ground, but halfbreds were conspicuous by their absence. The prevailing drought has caused pastures to decline, and hill farmers having sent their stock to their summer quarters were loth to bring them to market, expecting that sales could not be effected to their advantage. The fact is that there is at present a sort of panic in the sheep trade. Wool is also disposed of at reduced figures; and these things combined caused, as we have said, transactions to be effected with difficulty; and at the conclusion a great proportion of stock remained unsold. Few dealers put in an appearance. Cheviot hoggs sold from 16s. to 22s., blackfaced hoggs from 18s. to 20s.; blackfaced ewes and lambs sold from 25s., blackfaced ewe hoggs from 18s. to 22s., and three-year-old wedders at 25s. The number of animals exposed for sale was 1,308.

TAUNTON FAIR, (Wednesday). — This annual fair attracted a large number of farmers and dealers. The supply of sheep and lambs was abundant, and horses and cattle about the average. Mr. Robert Farthing, of Farringdon, North Petherton, sent 20 longwooled rams for disposal at Mr. Maynard's auction stand, and they ran up to 6½ guineas. Prices showed a marked decline. Sheep averaged 6d. to 7½d. per lb., and lambs a halfpenny higher, about 26s. each. Cross-bred ewes realised 41s. 6d. Beasts sold from 70s. to 80s. per cwt Trade was active. The Devon longwool ram (the property o Mr. Richard Corner, Torweston), which obtained the first prize at the Bath and West of England Agricultural Show at Bristol, was let for the season, from September, to Mr. Blake, of Trull, for the sum of 85 guineas. The competition among bidders for the other rams at the auction mart did not come up to the anticipation of the breeder, nearly the whole of them being unsold. Great interest was taken in the wool trade, and prices ranged from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3½d. for some lots.

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Engraved by F. Hacker

The Colley Dog.

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PLATE II.

THE COLLEY.

The colley is a true Scot, about twenty-one inches in height, and in colour black and tan, or a sandy yellow, now and then enlivened by a bit of white. He takes to sheep as naturally as a duck does to water. He is very intelligent, and a faithful friend, and has been immortalized by the Ettrick Shepherd, and by Sir Edwin Landseer, as the shepherd's chief mourner. With the march of the iron-way his services are mostly confined to Scotland; through taking up with an eccentric swell or two some years back, and leading a town life, Sandy has become quite the rage, as he may be now seen, combed and brushed, caressed by beauteous females, or lounging along at the heels of west-end or city shepherds, who know not a Cotswold from a Cheviot. He attends his Club, and in coffee-rooms is looked up to as a connoisseur of highly-flavoured dishes, at which he smacks his chops or shakes his head. One or two we have seen brought up in the Catholic faith, which would not on any account touch meat when told it was Friday. As Sandy and his swell are inseparables, he may occasionally be seen in a private box looking grave over a tragedy, admiring the legs of the ladies of the ballet, or condescending to smile at a screaming farce; and as it is to be hoped his friend attends a place of worship, no doubt Sandy joins heartily in a psalm, as it is notorious that sacred music has the effect of making all dogs dismally jolly. But we have left our colley in the pure air of the Highlands, where she needs not raiment, and can rest on a bed of ever verdant turf, curtained by the blooming heather; where everything is wild, beautiful, and harmonious, and where the gentle shepherd can sit in the lap of content, and dance and sing, and say his prayers, and dream of bliss, his lithesome lass and faithful colley.

THE RESULTS AT BEDFORD.

Not so very long since there was some "talk" as to the necessity for, or the good policy of holding the great July meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society in the neighbourhood of London—say at least in every alternate year. Experience, however, does not go to support such a proposal. The Exhibition-year meeting in Battersea Park, notwithstanding the variety of attractions and the immediate vicinity of the show-ground, was financially a failure; the receipts at Stratford-le-Bow the other day fell wofully below the expectations of the Essex Committee, and London never rose to the shilling days at Bedford. In fact, encouraging as were the receipts on Monday and Tuesday, the absence of the town element was still very marked, as one missed the people which are met about everywhere—at the Derby, the Handel Festival, or the flower-shows. In a word, an essentially rural society will still have to depend much on a rural or quasi-rural class of visitors, as from one side it gathers but little the nearer the meeting approaches to London. The attendances, as tried by the receipts, were some thirty or forty thousand less than at Hull, but on the earlier days more money was taken than in 1873.

We are not inclined, however, to test the actual success of such a gathering by the mere money taken at the doors, as for years the Society has never had a more thorough or generally good show than that just held at Bedford. Our own very full reports will tell out the story of how this went, while in another page we call attention to the suggestions offered or more direct reforms proposed in the direction of a Society, which the very reformers themselves admitted in the outset to be one of the best-managed associations in the Kingdom. In a word, though there may be occasionally a weak place, there is no other body of a similar aim and character which does so much or does this so well as the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

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THE "ROYAL" JUDGES.

There can be no question but that Mr. Fawcett, in his speech at the general meeting at Bedford, touched upon a weak place in the arrangements of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Immediately, indeed, after the Hull show of last year we spoke through these columns to "the continual complaints of the Shropshire breeders as to a Shropshire man being never now put on to judge Shropshire sheep; for at Bury St. Edmund's, Leicester, Manchester, Oxford, Wolverhampton, Cardiff, and Hull these appointments were all made from other counties." And this remonstrance was not without its effect; for, as we intimated last week, at Bedford two judges were taken from the home district, being the first time in eight years that a Salopian has been appointed. Mr. Fawcett follows in the same direction when he suggests "that the judges ought to be changed every year; that no one should be allowed to act a second time, or oftener than once in six or ten years, under any pretence whatever; and that new blood should be continually brought forward." It may be well, however, to go a little closer into this, when we shall find that other breeders have quite as much cause to protest as the Shropshire men against the selection of judges resting with small parties or being monopolised by particular persons. Going back for five years, and taking a breed of sheep which vies in popularity with the Shropshire, we note that the judges of Southdowns have been carefully confined to one certain set. Thus, Mr. Henry Fookes, a very good man no doubt, acted as a judge in 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1874; as how much further back without a break we really do not know, for we have not taken the trouble to look. Again, Mr. J. S. Turner, of Chyngton, by Brighton, acted as a judge of Southdowns at the Royal meetings in 1871, 1872, and 1874, and of pigs in 1870 and 1873. In fact, in consideration of past services, it would seem that, like Von Joel at Evans', Messrs. Fookes and Turner "will always be retained on this establishment." Again, Mr. Hugh Aylmer has actually been three times appointed a judge of Shorthorns in five years, in 1870, in 1872, and in 1874; relieving the monotony by taking the pigs in 1871 and the Cotswolds in 1873; while Mr. R. J. Newton has also enjoyed, at least a five years' lease over Cotswolds, Oxfords, Hampshires, and other sorts of sheep, so that here we have two more deserving men "retained on the establishment." There are other cases almost as strong, if the series be interrupted by an occasional break or so; as over the implements we have in unvarying chorus for the last five years, or nobody knows how much longer, Kimber, Hicken, and Hemsley—Hemsley, Kimber, and Hicken—or Hicken, Kimber, and Hemsley—until the competing firms must know to a man who is coming and prepare accordingly. In truth, any one on receiving a copy of that complimentary invitation to act would be justified by asking in answer whether the office was to be looked upon as for life or only for a term of years?

On the face of it all this is very curious, as it requires no argument to demonstrate how unwholesome such a system must become. Are there really no judges of such famous breeds as Shorthorns or Southdowns to be found in this kingdom beyond Messrs. Aylmer, Fookes, and Turner? The thing is absurd, or as Mr. Fawcett puts it, "highly unsatisfactory to the great bulk of exhibitors;" as he says further, "these appointments are made in the most objectionable manner, through the influence of breeders and exhibitors who are members of the Council." Somebody said *No! no!* here, but surely it is an indisputable fact that the judges are appointed by a Committee selected from the Council; as we shall go on to say that no man who is an exhibitor, and that no man who is in the habit of acting as a judge, should sit on this Committee. Few people may have the nerve to object to the nomination of a man sitting side by side with them, although they might still see the impropriety of a member of Council so continually taking office; as the least sense of delicacy should prevent the presence of an exhibitor, who might thus abuse his power by nominating or voting for his own judges. As somebody said *No! No!* may we inquire if this business rests respectively with the Stock-Prizes and Implement Committees, and if not, to whom is it deputed?

Mr. Fawcett in the very outset recommends that the judges at the Royal Show ought not to have acted in a similar capacity at any previous meeting in the same year; as, of course, they should not. No Royal judge is eligible for Yorkshire, and latterly the same judge could not go on from Birmingham to Islington. With the same judges the thing gets into one groove; if in justice to Mr. Aylmer, we must say that at Cardiff and Bedford he helped to put the first last and the last first of Dorchester and Bristol with unintelligible impartiality. For a thrice Whittington in five years, such a line does not carry much weight.

So far reform is not only practicable, but for the good name of the Society must be speedily set about; though we question whether any rules for showing stock in breeding condition at a breeding show can be really enforced. Of course all thinking men have advocated the observance of such an enactment, but when the attempt was made more than twenty years since to uphold the rule the entry suffered so much that the good intention was of a necessity abandoned. Exhibitors will feed for show, and judges will follow the fashion; or as one of the draught-horse bench admitted the other day, "I think we did pretty well with the mules, and all right with the carriage horses, for there was only one shown, but we gave all the prizes for cart-horses to the fattest brutes we could find." The proposal that the animals should not be led into the ring by their herdsmen is supported with much point by Mr. Barnes in a letter which appears in another part of our paper, where he says "Mr. Fawcett would have the cattle led into the ring by proper men appointed by the Society, *that the judges should not know whose they were;* and the Council will not put catalogues into their hands *for the same reason.* The Royal Agricultural Society of England and Mr. Fawcett therefore agree that the judges ought not to know what or whose animals they are judging; and I am quite sure the public outside will say *Amen* to this." This outside public says a deal more than we have done here, although enough has been said to show that this business of judging has been suffered to drift away anywhere, and the Council and the Stewards must do their duty and bring it back quickly into the proper course. In fact, the eye of a Steward should be as keen as that of a detective in looking up abuse; and instead of periodically penning sugar-and-water reports full of mutual congratulation and great gratitude for favours received, the Stewards might dwell more advantageously on the duties associated with the offices which they undertake. Will the Stock Stewards as members of the Selection Committee ensure us any fresh blood at Taunton? and will the Stewards of pigs tell us of anything which happened at Bedford?

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—At the annual meeting of members of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Mr. Fawcett, as reported by *The Agricultural Gazette*, suggested, firstly, the judges who acted at the Royal show should not officiate in the same capacity at any other show in the same year. I think this goes too far, and I doubt its expressing what Mr. Fawcett meant. What difference can it make to the Royal whether they act or not? The animals exhibited there are, with very few exceptions, not likely to compete again in the same classes; and it is, of course, open to other large societies to inhibit Royal judges from acting at their shows. I would therefore suggest, "That any one having acted as a judge at any *previous* show should not judge at the Royal."

"At present the majority of the prizes were won by fat animals," &c. This every one will acknowledge; but why animals are shown in such a state is impossible to say, unless fat is like charity, and conceals a multitude of sins. Certain it is, however good an animal may be, if it is not fit for the Hall, it stands no chance at the Royal.

The third resolution refers to animals being led into the ring by men who are as well known to the judges as the animals themselves, and would seem to infer that the judges are not always to be trusted—that if they knew an animal *of their sort* by the man who led it in, they would give it a prize, or *vice versâ*. Speaking plainly, this is saying that the judges are not honest—not a pleasant thing to tell a man. But the Council do not allow them a catalogue during their sojourn in the ring; and what should they infer from that? If they know indirectly to whom the animals belong why keep the catalogues from them? Mr. Fawcett would have the cattle led into the ring by proper men appointed by the Society, *that the judges should not know whose they were*; and the Council will not put catalogues into their hands *for the same reason*. The Royal Agricultural Society of England and Mr. Fawcett therefore agree that the judges ought not to know what or whose animals they are judging; and I am quite sure the public outside will say "Amen" to this.

The Journal already referred to says: "Indeed, he would be a bold critic who should assume to himself the right to teach Shorthorn breeders of twenty years' standing how to judge Shorthorns." And a little further on it also states: "The reporter to an influential daily paper questions one of these honourable mentions, &c." Well, here's a plucky man! The reporter of a newspaper setting up his opinion against the Royal judges! But let me ask, Did he differ from *all* the judges? Were their decisions unanimous? Did they all agree in putting Lord Irwin before Telemachus, Rapid Rhone before Aachen and Charon, Rose of Wytham before Nectarine Bud, Robin's Rose before Seraphina Bella 2nd? and though last, not least, were they unanimous in giving Moorish Captive a prize at all? To us outsiders it seemed as if there were two against one all through; and when we see the summary of prizes won by Booth cattle at Bedford (which no doubt we shall very shortly) let it also be recorded that there were two Booth judges on the bench.

I quite agree with Mr. Fawcett that judges who are to act at the Royal should not officiate in that capacity at any previous show, because, if they have already decided in favour of a particular animal they are not likely to acknowledge that their decision was wrong. I think also that animals showing their faults in a natural breeding state at a breeding stock show should be preferred to Smithfield cattle.

Let men be appointed to lead the cattle into the ring for reasons already given, and have practical men appointed as judges—men who know nothing of Booth or Bates, but who do know what a good animal is without its being loaded with fat.

Lastly, let the animal's ages be dated from the 1st of January instead of the 1st of July, the hottest month in the year, and the most dangerous for calving. Let all these things be looked to, and I feel sure there will be quite as good stock shown at any future Royal as there has been, and not half the cavilling at the appointment and decisions of the judges.

Yours truly,

CHARLES A. BARNES.

Charleywood, July, 20th, 1874.

[A part of this letter is written under a misconception. If Mr. Barnes will turn to the report in *The Mark Lane Express* of last Monday, he will find that Mr. Fawcett's first recommendation runs thus: "The judges at the Royal Show ought not to act at any *previous* show in the same year."—EDITOR *M.L.E.*]

THE CIRENCESTER COLLEGE CLUB.

The Midsummer meeting was held at Bedford; but the rapid growth of the Club has made it a matter of increasing difficulty to obtain dining accommodation in county towns which are overwhelmed with visitors during the show week. The difficulty was this year overcome through the courtesy of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society, who gave up their own room in the show-yard to the Club for the occasion. The attendance of old students and of visitors was somewhat smaller than it would have been if a larger room could have been obtained; but in spite of this, the list of toasts drew out so many brief speeches upon agricultural matters connected with the Royal Agricultural Society, the College and the Club, that the chairman found it necessary to defer till the next winter meeting the subject proposed upon the cards of invitation, viz., "The best Means of Reducing the Cost of Labour on Farms." Professor Wrighton, the president of the year, occupied the chair, with Mr. C. G. Roberts, the honorary secretary, in the vice-chair. The President and several members of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society with some of its chief officers were among the guests. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, Dr. Voelcker proposed "Prosperity to the Royal Agricultural College," and coupled with it the name of Mr. E. Holland—its earliest and staunchest supporter—to whom he owned his own connexion with the Cirencester College. Mr. Holland, in reply, spoke of the great pleasure he derived from the steady progress of the institution, and the success achieved by those who left its walls—some for foreign and others for home appointments. "English and French Agriculture" was next received with acclamations, being proposed by Mons. Dutche, Director of the French Agricultural College at Grignon. Mr. E. P. Smith, an old student, and the official reporter for this year of the trial of implements, proposed "The Royal Agricultural Society of England." Mr. C. Randell responded. Mr. H. M. Jenkins gave "The Royal Agricultural College Club," and spoke of the valuable services rendered by many of its members as contributors to the Society's *Journal*, and as stewards, judges, and reporters in the show-yard. Professor Wrightson replied, remarking upon the pleasure it afforded him to see representatives present from every department of agricultural science and progress. The health of the visitors was proposed by Mr. Coleman, formerly Professor at Cirencester, and the first secretary to the Club. Dr. Gilbert replied on behalf of himself, Dr. Deherain, and Messrs. Bowley, Prout, Pratt, E. Rich, and others. A special train from the showyard-siding conveyed the party back to Bedford.

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THE JUMPING BUSINESS AT HORSE-SHOWS.

"The ring was then given up for a miscellaneous performance, in which all the horses entered for leaping prizes were permitted to take part and to do pretty much as they pleased." This notion of Pandemonium, of screws and roughriders let loose to follow their own wild fancies, is given by a writer for one of the daily papers in his report of the second Alexandra Park horse show; while he thus goes on to tell of the very natural consequences: "Some of the riders sent their horses out at speed, and positively raced over the hurdles. Between two of these the rivalry became so keen that the boy jockey of one, in attempting to cut down his opponent and taking more heed of the other horse than his own, failed to head him for the fence in time, and, to the horror of every onlooker the horse was seen to make straight for the white rails and the some deep bank of heads behind it. There was no time to get out of the way, only a sharp, half-stifled cry of terror, and with a terrific bound the horse was over the rail and cleaving the mass of people with a heavy *thud* that could be heard to the further end of the enclosure. Horse and rider went down among the struggling and mangled men and women, and before they could be got out the groans and shrieks told of the severe injuries that had been sustained. One man was taken up in appearance lifeless, with his face mangled and limbs apparently fractured, and it is feared he is even more seriously hurt internally. Four or five women and another man were also injured more or less severely;" and so on. This happened on the second day, or rather on the first day of the regular jumping business; while we learn from another morning journal that on the day following "a lady had done very well, though her horse, ridden on a snaffle, could not always be persuaded to go straight. Being forced by her at the water-jump, he came short, and, falling, hurled the lady to the ground. Bruised as she was, she actually ran after, caught, and remounted the animal, amid a tempest of cheers! Another courageous and practised horse-woman had a rather worse fall, and was for some time afterwards in serious pain. A boy, well known as a winner of prizes at the Agricultural Hall, got one of the worst falls of the day. The rider of Minstrel Boy also came to trouble." Precisely so: on one day the racing roughriders maim the visitors by dozens, and on the next gallantly essay to kill themselves or each other. Noticeably enough on the first occasion of this show being held, a horse, late in the week, being driven mad at the water jump by the shouts of the people, charged the rails and fortunately got clear of the two or three persons on the other side; and yet, strange to say, no attempt whatever was made this year to ensure more safety until "mangled men and women had been got out with groans and shrieks." The general "authorities of the Alexandra Park" probably know as much of a horse-show as they do of a grand concert, which they prudently hand over to the direction of Sir Michael Costa; as we are compelled to look a little further for any one in any way responsible for the riders racing at the hurdles or charging the people. The committee was, we believe, this season, raised to the Peerage, but according to *The Daily Telegraph*, "Colonel Luttrell is the acting steward in the ring, having never for ten minutes at a time been absent during any of the important trials." If, as it would so seem, the main responsibility rests on the shoulders of one sportsman, "the acting steward" has had a narrow escape of being tried for manslaughter.

That to this it will come sooner or later we have not the slightest possible doubt. The jumping for prizes under a fierce blazing sun and over hard jarring ground is a fool-hardy unsportsmanlike business, without a word to be said in its favour but that which has been said already by the manager of the Islington show—viz., that it "draws" the shillings and helps to pay his shareholders a dividend. On the other hand, the practice is as dangerous as it is cruel, and our only wonder is that the Prevention Society has not already interfered. Let the secretary only make it his duty to witness the terrible "bucketings" which the horses get in being ridden round and round in that close, stifling Islington Hall atmosphere, or the more direct punishment they receive from hand and heel at the Alexandra Park. The more cruelty, however, and the more danger proportionately the more shillings; as no doubt the graphic account of the racing horses and the groans and shrieks acted as a capital advertisement for the next day's "performances." But such successes are not legitimate; and the legislature, so soon as somebody is killed outright, or some horse ridden to death, will have to interfere and put down jumping prizes just as it must such fool-hardy displays as flying men or the greater abominations of man and dog-fights amongst the pitmen.

Our main regret is that these jumping prizes are coming to be so much identified with our agricultural meetings; and yet the finest shows in the kingdom, where there are by far the best entries of horses, are still free from such absurdities. At the great gathering during this week at Bedford there will be no jumping classes; at the great show of the All-Yorkshire Society at Sheffield in August there will be no jumping prizes; and at the meetings of the oldest agricultural society in the kingdom, as only second in importance to the Royal itself, and where Colonel Luttrell served his apprenticeship as an "acting steward," there are no jumping classes; and yet at no show has more money been taken. Still, at minor meetings, with a view to the shillings, jumping premiums prevail; as at Bishop's Stortford, a nobleman, who resides in the county and exhibited at the meeting, expressed his disgust at the jumping business; while one of the judges left the ring so soon as the jumping trials commenced. The thing is, in fact, growing into a serious nuisance, as the main objects of such exhibitions come to be neglected; but if this business must be continued, let it be put off to the shilling or second day, by when the really good horses, who of course never take any part in these proceedings, may be suffered to leave, and the mob be "amused" by the baiting of screws, while the stewards act as judges, and very properly become liable for the consequences.

THE BENGAL FAMINE.—The work undertaken by the Government has been done, and all the famine districts are "saved." The starving population will be better fed, probably, than they have ever been in their lives before; and Lord Salisbury and the English public will have nothing left to cavil at. Lord Northbrook has, in short, given full satisfaction to every one except the taxpayers of India, whose interests have, by some unaccountable oversight, never been taken into consideration by either the Secretary of State or the English press.—*The Bombay Gazette.* [We were enabled to announce some months since, on the authority of a private correspondent that the Bengal famine had been much exaggerated, as it would appear to suit certain purposes. Editor *M.L.E.*]

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LINCOLNSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT GRANTHAM.

With a nicely laid out show ground, capital sheddings for the horses and cattle, good rings for judging, and a nice stand, with prize cards, instead of ribbons as of old, posted over the winners after each verdict with commendable alacrity, the meeting still with all its improvements was not without its drawbacks. For instance, the grand stand instead of being open from end to end at a fee for the day like the Royal at Bedford, had the centre partitioned off and covered with red cloth for "other breeds," which was a nuisance, as it separated friends, as well as having the further effect of keeping the stand tolerably empty; while the catalogue was as tormenting a reiteration as ever, and always will be so long as owners are allowed the absurd privilege of entering their horses for one and the same fee in as many classes as they like. Then the stallions were under lock and key most part of the day, while those whose duty it was to have taken care that they could be seen by the public had the good taste to remain in the ring as faithful attendants on the judges, while their own horses were competing for prizes. The Ancient Briton girded his loins with the skin of a wild beast, but the improved man of the day not only clothes his hide in purple and fine linen, but that of his horse and his dog also, his bull and his cow, and verily sometimes his pig. In a word it is more difficult in these refined days to get a glimpse of a beast in his stall at an agricultural show unadorned than in days of yore it was a sight of the fair proportions of Queen Boadicea herself; while many of the improved breeds have been so crossed and recrossed that for distinctive character and genealogy they rival De Foe's "true born Englishman." Although there were very few first Royal winners in the catalogue, and the names of Linton, Outhwaite, Garne, Stratton, and many others were not to be found; still there was a very fair show of Shorthorns: Telemachus looking as fresh and "beautiful for ever" as the champion had neither Lord Irwin, Duke Aosta, Protector, Knight Templar, or Earl Warwickshire, the pick at the Royal, to oppose him in the seventeen entries, one of which, Earl Derwent, a bull of fair proportions, was afterwards declared the best of a small class of three-year-olds. In a nice class of two-year-old bulls, General Wharfdale, a useful animal, but only commended at the Royal beat those very taking-looking youngsters, Robert Stephenson, Prince of Cashmere, and Cymbeline, the second, fourth, and highly commended Royalists. Rapid Rhone, anything but a level beast, but a third Royal, beat a smaller and a much better-looking bull in Telemachus the 6th; while Cambridge Duke 6th took more after the cow in the head and neck. In the absence of Royal winners May King, a neat nice-backed youngster, and commended at Bedford, beat the lengthy even-made Cambridge Duke the 7th and the small, but very neat Bright Knight, while Messrs. Dudding and Bradburn each sent a couple. Victoria Victrix, one of the Princesses of fancy beef, was here made Queen of her class of cows; but in all her greatness, as she came waddling along, her eye told plainly enough that prize cattle as well as man are born to misery, as she was very near calving. Blooming Bride, alongside of the "Queen," looked a great-grown heifer; and though only the reserve number at Bedford, in the two-year-olds, beat Rose of Wytham placed before her there, and Mr. Hutchinson's nice-built kind-headed Lady Playful, who, with his good-looking ones, Dairy Girl and Lady Louisa, beat with the first two very nice ones in a small gathering, and with the latter five more, including Moll Gwynne and Rosebud 4th, a lengthy but not level heifer, which headed a fair but small class. There were four yearling heifers, some nice she calves under one year old, some capital pairs of bullocks, and good oxen and heifers for butchering purposes.

The show of Lincolns was great and good, with awards somewhat put about, but the Leicesters were not strong in numbers, although of first quality; Mr. Turner having it all his own way in the shearling rams, and again with his two-shear, beating Messrs. Marris, Borton, and Hutchinson's; while in ewes Messrs. Marris and Allen were the only entries, and Messrs. Turner and Borton the only competitors in gimmers. For the best shearling ram of the Lincoln breed there were forty-two competitors, and some very good sheep, with representatives from the flocks of Messrs. Hack, Sardeson, Garner, Wright, Clark, Garfit, Cartwright, Howard, Dudding, Morley, Pears, Close, Marshall, Dean, Lister, and Byron. Seventeen two-shear rams entered the lists, and made a very good class; while the three-shear rams were represented by nine, all told, from the flocks of Messrs. Johnson, Wright, Morley, Pears, and Swinger. A nice pen of five ewes from Kirby Green were unopposed, and Mr. Clarke with twenty-five very nice sorty good-backed ewes beat some very neat, but more delicate-looking entries from Colonel Grantham's flock. There were ten entries of shearling gimmers, one pen of ten lambs, and four of shearling wethers—all looking remarkably well, considering some of the grass we saw between Grantham and Peterborough looked about the colour and with as much bite on it as a pair of kerseymere breeches. The prospects of the farmer in that district, where the soil is on the rock, we are sorry to say look anything but golden. There was a good show of pigs, although many pens were empty.

Taking the situation of Grantham into consideration, we must say we were disappointed with the display of riding horses. Mr. Chaplin deserves the thanks of the county for the thoroughbred stallions he introduces into Lincolnshire; and Knowsley by Stockwell is really a grand looking horse, as none the worse for a heap of flesh taken off since we saw him at Oxford. The Dart by Lord Falconberg, his only rival, has neither substance nor character. Lady Decanter, a fresh-looking mare for twelve-year-old, and one that we have seen before, is very well built, with good limbs, and moves well. Not that we care so much about the moving in brood mares, but would rather go for points, as many a good one is not put to the stud until stumped up. In fact, the father of one of the finest fellows that ever stepped was put to bed with a wooden leg long before the son was thought of. There were several grand old mares in the class full of hunting form, and we think better than the second, or even the third, though she was very hunting like. The Baronet, a grey of Mr. Howard's, of Temple Bruer, was not the best in the five year olds to our mind, although a stiff-built, well-made horse, with the exception of his shoulders and not being a great mover. Shakespeare, though not perfect in his shoulders, was more to our mind as he could go, but not so well as Peacock, a compact, well-built horse, with good limbs; while another very nice one was Sea Breeze, a chesnut, with form, action, and quality. Rifleman, from Melton, was well-made, with good action; and Grenadier, a bay gelding, showed quality, and a little too much flourish with his feet, but this he may grow out of. Mr. Philip Hornsby had two or three nice

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horses—Moody Sam, a compact, powerful brown, showing breed, backed by White Stockings and Kingfisher, and Mr. Brady Nicholson brought a varmint-looking bay that could use his legs. For the next class the whole seventeen had been in the former one, with many of them in one or two more classes, so that we do not attempt to take them class by class, but make a puzzling jumble, like the managers do of the show year after year, instead of taking the Royal as a pattern, and one which they cannot beat. In the four-year-olds King of Diamonds, a horse which we were not desperately in love with when we described him at Bedford, was here, and can move; as can a black gelding of Mr. Lett's, and Mr. Spafford's Ashfield, a nicely bred well-made horse, with the exception of a thick neck, into which his head was stuck in anything but a pleasing way when he was set going. Mr. Paddison had a bay by Peon, of fair form, and Mr. Miller sent Singleton, by Carbineer, which showed blood, and could move. Then Mr. Coupland's Spoilt Child, by Canute, is a very nicely formed light hunter, and a capital goer, making use of his hind legs in style. The best three-year-old was a very compact built, powerful, good limbed bay, that could make use of his legs, and by a Harkaway, but not the great horse that we remember well as one of the quietest stallions ever at the stud. In fact, you might crawl under him and through his hind legs, and those who knew him would have insured your life for £1,000 for sixpence. He was a grand deep topped horse, with capital ends, but rather small arms. But why are we describing the sire of King Tom? Merely to say that grand horse as he was he would not have stood a chance in the show-ring alongside of some wretch with coaching action, and for his sake and the breed of horses we wish all such judges at the Cape, and so on to Calcutta, or some place warmer. Mr. Harvey Bayley bought the bay, while Newsmonger, which was in one of the classes, leaves the land of his birth for the King of the Belgians. The Banker, Jester, and Marshal MacMahon were entered, but not present. Mr. Miller's Victor is compact with breed, and Mr. Wood's Pottinger was also well put together, and could gallop, as could The Gem, a very neat chesnut filly, shown by Mr. Letts. Wellington wants time, or screwing up together a bit. The two-year-old hunting colt of Mr. Jackson Everett is of good form, and could move, but has not wearing-looking legs. The second to him, a roan, from Castle Bruer, is a nice gelding of very good form; and a brown, from the same stable, by Brother to Bird on the Wing, when he drops to his leg, will take the shine out of some across country. With a little more depth in the girth, and a trifle more goosey on the romp, he might grow into a likeness of old Lokery, famed for deeds with that really fine horseman, Jem Mason. And this by the bye reminds us of another fine horseman who was tittuping about the ring all the day, doing it so prettily.

The yearling hunting colts were a middling lot bar one or two, and the two-year-old hunting filly of Mr. Middleton's, a big lathy one, while the second had form but his joints wanted oiling. Then Mr. Goodliffe had a good looking one by Tom Tit. Mabel Grey is a pretty hackney brood mare, of which there were several in the lot, when she was put at the head. Mr. Hornsby's grand going old coaching mare came in for first honors, as she was third at Bedford, and the Hackney mares included Stella, Gipsy Queen, and Ballet Girl, which took our eye, together with Mr. Staples' Skylark, Colonel Reeves' brown gelding, Mr. Benson's Saucy Girl, and Mr. Stephenson's well-known chesnut Princess.

The agricultural horses made a fair show, but anything of great note was wanting, Le Bon being in the catalogue, but not in the flesh, although a namesake of his belonging to Mr. Bromby was, as was Honest Tom the 2nd and Mr. Cotton's grand three-year-old Boxer, a deep-bodied short-legged horse, which we fancied was a little light in his forelegs, and that he flourished them a bit too much in his walk. There were some fairly made two-year-old entire colts out of eight, and among a very good gathering of cart mares was Royal Duchess, but we did not see them out, as the judging did not take place till the morrow. This we think a mistake, as few people can spare the time to spend two days at a show like the Lincolnshire. We speak of business men, and not those out pleasuring, and who can face a pork pie in July and August. Ten or eleven two-year-olds stood in their stalls, and looked very promising. Mr. Vergette's Violet was among a few two-year-old cart fillies, and there were some excellent pairs of agricultural horses.

The show being this year held in their own town, Messrs. R. Hornsby and Sons made a great display. In the machinery in motion department they had four of their patent portable steam-engines of different powers, three of them being matched with steam thrashing machines. In reapers and mowers, a newer, but no less important branch, Messrs. Hornsby showed a large assortment, consisting of examples of their Governor, Progress, and spring-balance self-rakers; one and two-horse back-delivery reapers and mowers; and combined mowers and reapers. Six drills of various sizes and kinds were shown, backed by turnip-cutters, root pulpers, single and double furrow ploughs, dressing machines, blowers, and washing machinery. Carter and Co., of High Holborn, in some return for not showing at Bedford, had a capital as well as very extensive "museum" of seeds, roots, grasses, and Italian rye-grass, with which they took the first prize; while Sharpe and Co., of Sleaford, with another nice collection, were second.

Amongst the other exhibitors of implements were Tuxford and Sons, of Boston; Fowler and Co., of Leeds; Marshall and Sons, of Gainsborough; Robey and Co., Lincoln; Nicholson & Son, Newark; Foster & Co., Lincoln; Coultas, of Grantham; Coulson and Wear, of Stamford; Wright, of Sluice Ironworks, Boston; Hempstead and Co., Grantham; Ashby, Jeffery, and Luke, Stamford; Hett, Brigg; Felton, Grantham; Barford and Perkins, Peterborough; Jekyll and Co., Lincoln; Doughty and Son, Grantham; Penny and Co., Lincoln; Martin, Grantham; White, Spalding; Parkinson, Lincoln; Topham, Colsterworth, Grantham; Cooke, Lincoln; Perkins, Boston; Boyers, Grantham; Wiseman, Spalding; Anderson, Grantham; Simonds and Sons, Boston; Whitworth, Wyberton, Boston; Wholey, Alford; Slater and Padgett, Grantham; Hayes and Son, Stamford and Peterborough; Lewin, Ropsley, Grantham; Pearson Brothers, Gainsborough; T. Harrison, Lincoln; Rainforth and Son, Lincoln; Tong, Lincoln; Cheavin, Boston; Boyall, Grantham; Caborn, Grantham; Ashton, Horncastle; and Hughes, Market Harborough.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—SHORTHORNS: G. Drewry, Holker, Carke-in-Cartmel; G. Mann, Scawsby, Doncaster; Rev. L. C. Wood Singleton, Poulton-le-Fylde. LEICESTER SHEEP AND PIGS: W. Sanday, Ratcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham; G. Walmsley, Rudston House, Bridlington; L. Borman, Barnoldby-le-Beck, Grimsby. LONG-WOOL SHEEP: E. Davy, Worlaby House, Brigg; H. Mackinder, Langton Grange, Spilsby; T. Caswell, Pointon, Folkingham. HORSES—Hunters and Roadsters: H. D. Boulton, Putnoe, Bedford; J. Martin, Wainfleet, Boston; Colonel Luttrell, Badgworth Court, Axbridge. Agricultural Horses: W. Wood, Haborough, Ulceby; V. B. Watts, Melcombe Horsey, Dorchester; J. W. Rowland, Ville, Boston.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull.—Champion prize, £30, and challenge cup, value 20 gs., Marquis of Exeter, Burghley Park, Stamford (Telemachus).

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Bulls three years old or upwards.—First prize, £20, W. Handley, Greenhead, Milnthorpe; second, £7, C. Beart, Stow, Downham Market; third, £3, T. Pears, Hackthorn, Lincoln.

Two-year-old bulls.—First prize, £20, R. Moss, Whisby, Lincoln; second, £7, Messrs. Dudding, Panton, Wragby; third, £3, T. Willis, Carperby, Bedale.

Yearling bulls.—First prize, £20, Lady Pigot, Branches Park, Newmarket; second, £7, Marquis of Exeter; third, £3, J. J. Sharp, Broughton, Kettering.

Bull calves.—First prize, £15, Lady Pigot; second, £7, J. Lynn, Stroxton, Grantham; third, £3, T. Rose, Melton Magna, Wymondham.

Cows or heifers, in milk or in calf.—Champion prize, £25, Lady Pigot.

Cows above four years old, having had a calf at natural time within nine months of the time of showing.—First prize, £20, T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick; second, £7, J. J. Sharp; third, £3, O. Bennion, Cresswell, Stafford.

Cows not exceeding four years old, entered in Coate's Herd Book, for dairy properties combined with aptitude to fatten.—Silver Cup, £10, T. H. Hutchinson.

Heifers three years old, having had a calf.—First prize, £15, Messrs. Dudding; second, £7, F. Cartwright, Drakelow, Burton-on-Trent; third, £3, J. J. Sharp.

Two-year-old heifers.—First prize, £15, Messrs. Dudding; second, £7, Lady Pigot; third, £2, T. H. Hutchinson.

One-year-old heifers.—First prize, £15, Lady Pigot; second, £7, Lady Pigot; third, £3, T. H. Miller, Singleton Park, Poulton-le-Fylde.

She calves under one-year-old.—First prize, £10, C. R. Fieldsend, Kirmond, Market Rasen; second, £5, B. J. Ackers, Prinknash Park, Painswick; third, £2, Lady Pigot.

Pair of bullocks.—First prize, piece of plate or £10, T. and J. B. Freshney, Louth; second, £5, Earl of Zetland, Aske Hall, Richmond.

Oxen or heifers which from early maturity, quality, &c., appear to have brought the greatest profit to the exhibitor.—First prize, £10, R. Wright, Nocton Heath, Lincoln; third, £3, T. and J. B. Freshney.

Extra Stock.—First prize, £3, J. Codling, Whaplode, Spalding, for heifer; second, £1, J. E. Sandars, Gainsborough, for an Alderney bull.

SHEEP.

LEICESTERS.

Shearling rams.—First prize, £15, G. Turner, jun., Thorpelands, Northampton; second, £5, G. Turner, jun.

Two-shear or older rams.—First prize, £10, G. Turner, jun.; second, £5, T. Marris, Ulceby.

For the best ram in classes 16 or 17.—Additional prize, £10, G. Turner, jun.

Pen of five ewes.—First prize, £8, T. Morris, Ulceby; second, £4, T. Allen, Thurmaston, Leicester.

Pen of five shearling gimmers.—First prize, £8, G. Turner, jun.; second, £4, J. Borton.

LINCOLNSHIRE LONG-WOOLS.

Shearling rams.—First prize, £15, T. Cartwright, Dunston Pillar, Lincoln; second, £10, Messrs. Dudding; third, £5, J. Pears, Mere, Lincoln.

Two-shear rams.—First prize, £10, W. F. Marshall, Branston; second, £5, Messrs. Dudding.

Three-shear or older ram.—First prize, £10, J. Pears; second, £5, R. Wright.

For the best long-wool ram (not a Leicester).—Challenge Cup, value 15 gs., J. Pears.

Pen of five ewes.—Prize, £10, J. Byron, Kirkby Green, Sleaford.

Pen of twenty-five ewes of any age.—First prize, £15, C. Clarke, Ashby-de-la-Launde, Sleaford; second, £5, Lieutenant-Col. Grantham, West Keal Hall, Spilsby.

Pen of five shearling gimmers.—First prize, £10, J. Byron; second, £5, J. Pears.

Pen of ten she lambs.—First prize, £5, J. Byron.

Pen of five shearling wethers.—First prize, £10, C. Lister, Coleby Lodge, Lincoln; second, £5, T. Close, Barnack, Stamford.

Extra Stock.—Pen of five ewes of various ages: Prize, £3, J. H. Caswell, Laughton, Falkingham. Pen of six ewes of various ages: Prize, £2, S. E. Dean, Dowsby Hall, Falkingham. Long-wool ram: Prize, £1, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour.

HORSES.

Thoroughbred stallions for hunters.—First prize, £25, H. Chaplin, M.P., Blankney Hall, Lincoln (Knowsley); second, £10, J. B. and S. Slater, North Carlton, Lincoln (Dart).

Mares for breeding hunters.—First prize, £15, H. Watson, Newbegin, Filey; second, £7, J. Tomlinson, Lutton Marsh, Long Sutton; third, £3, R. G. F. Howard, Temple Bruer.

Hunting geldings or mares, five, six, or seven years old.—First prize, £30, R. G. F. Howard; second, £15, W. Staplee, Oxney, Peterborough; third, £5, T. L. Skipworth, Owmby House, Brigg.

Hunting geldings or mares, five years old, up to not less than 13 stone.—Prize, £10, J. Elson, Goadby, Marwood, Melton Mowbray.

Geldings or mares, four years old, calculated to make a hunter.—First prize, £50, C. C. Hayward, Southill, Biggleswade; second, £15, T. Darrell, West Ayton, York; third, £5, J. Lett, Scampston, York.

Hunters, four years old or upwards, up to not less than 13 stone.—First prize, £15, J. P. Oliver, Walcot, Falkingham; second, £5, P. Hornsby, Grantham.

Hunting geldings or fillies, three years old, by a thoroughbred horse.—First prize, £20, and a whip value £5, G. Hardy, Syston, Grantham; second, £10, C. C. Hayward.

Hunting colts, two years old.—First prize, £10, J. Everatt, Laughton, Gainsborough; second, £5, R. G. F. Howard.

Hunting colts, one-year-old.—First prize, £10, J. Potter, Wadworth, Doncaster; second, £5, T. H. Miller.

Hunting fillies, two years old.—First prize, £10, S. Middleton, Water Newton, Wansford; second, £5, R. G. F. Howard.

Hunting fillies, one-year-old.—First prize, £7, W. Hickson, Bettesford; second, £3, J. Goodliff, Huntingdon.

Hunting foals.—First prize, £12, H. Watson; second, £7, J. Tomlinson; second, £4, R. G. F. Howard; third, £2, R. G. F. Howard.

Stallions for roadsters.—First prize, £10, T. Upton, Gosberton, Spalding; second, £5, S. Alford, Friskney, Boston.

Mares for breeding roadsters.—First prize, £7, T. H. Miller, Singleton Park, Poulton-le-Fylde; second, £3, R. G. F. Howard.

Mares for breeding carriage horses.—First prize, £10, J. Hornsby; second, £5, J. Wood, jun., Selby.

Horses whose action in harness is best.—First prize, £10, J. Baker, Wisbech; second, £5, P. Hornsby.

Horses in harness with best park action.—First prize, £10, J. Baker; second, £5, J. Hornsby.

Weight-carrying cobs, mare, or geldings, not exceeding eight years old, and not being under 14 hands nor above 15 hands.—First prize, £10, W. Sadler, Vicar-lane, Leeds; second, £5, P. Hornsby.

Hackney mares or geldings, exceeding 14 hands and not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch.—First prize, £10, J. Benson, Sandtoft, Thorne; second, £5, W. Sadler.

Ponies not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, £7, J. Eaton, Grantham; second, £5, R. Brackenbury, Londonthorpe, Grantham; second, £3, W. Pinder, Ropsley, Grantham.

Mares for breeding draught horses.—First prizes, £15, C. Lister; second, £7, J. Tomlinson; third, £3, J. Tomlinson.

Cart-geldings, two years old.—First prize, £10, H. Smith, Cropwell Butler, Bingham; second, £4, R. Graves, Ashby-de-la-Launde, Sleaford.

Cart fillies, two years old.—First prize, £10, T. H. Vergette, Boro' Fen, Peterborough; second, £4, T. Morris, Welton.

Cart fillies, one-year-old. — Prize, £10, W. Chatterton, Belchford, Horncastle.

Cart foals.—First prize, £8, J. Tomlinson; second, £4, J Tomlinson; third, £2, T. Sills, Honington.

Cart foals bred by and the property of occupiers of not more than 50 acres of land.—First prize, £7, Mr. Farmer, Marston, Grantham; second, £3, Mr. Goodacre, Barkston, Grantham.

Pair of draught horses under eight years old.—First prize, £10, W. Cafferata, Newark; second, £5, Mr. Woodhouse, Wellingore.

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Stallions for draught horses, two years old.—First prize, £10, Mr. Greetham, Blankney Fen; second, £5, Mr. Colton, Newark.

PIGS.

Boars, large breed, not less than twelve months old.—First prize, £10, J. Dove, Bristol; second, £5, R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsey.

Boars not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £5, R. E. Duckering; second, £2, J. Dove.

Boars, small breed, not less than twelve months old.—First prize, £10, R. E. Duckering; second, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Littleborough, Manchester.

Boars not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £5, T. Rose, Melton Magna, Wymondham; second, £2, M. Walker, Stockley Park, Burton-on-Trent.

Berkshire boars.—First prize, £5, B. St. John Ackers, Prinknash Park, Painswick; second, £2, J. Wheeler.

Sows, large breed.—First prize, £5, R. E. Duckering; second, £3, R. E. Duckering.

Sows, small breed.—First prize, £5, R. E. Duckering; second, £3, G. P. Watson, Londonthorpe, Grantham.

Berkshire sows.—First prize, £5, M. Walker; second, £2, J. Wheeler.

Three breeding pigs of the same litter, not exceeding six months old, large breed.—Prize, £5, M. Walker.

Three breeding pigs of the same litter, not exceeding six months old, small breed.—Prize, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Three breeding pigs of the same litter, not exceeding six months old, Berkshire breed.—Prize, £5, Rev. G. F. Deedes, Heydour, Vicarage, Grantham.

Extra Stock.—Prize, £2, M. Walker, for two gilts, small breed.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Stand of agricultural implements exhibited by a maker.—First prize, £20, Hornsby and Son, Grantham; second, £10, Barford and Perkins, Peterborough.

Stand exhibited by an agent.—First prize, £20, Barford and Perkins; second, £10, J. Coultas, Grantham.

SEEDS AND ROOTS.

Collection of seeds and roots.—First prize, piece of plate or £10, Carter and Co., High Holborn, London; second, £5, C. Sharpe, Sleaford.

The President's Medal for the following articles: R. Hornsby and Sons' patent spring balance self-raker reaping machine; W. N. Nicholson and Sons, Trent Ironworks, Newark, new patent combined self-acting and manual delivery horserake; Ashby, Jeffery, and Luke, Stamford, chaff cutter; Barford and Perkins, Peterborough, elevator and stacking machine—also to their improved finishing thrashing machine; W. Walker and Son, Tithby, Bingham, Notts, 14-row corn and seed drill, with cogging gear, waterproof seed box, and seed conductors; J. Cooke, Lincoln, patent turnwrest or one-way plough, "The Climax"—also to his patent light one or two-horse plough; Head, Wrightson, and Co., Teesdale Ironworks, Stockton-on-Tees, patent pulley block, to lift three tons eight feet high; Hayes and Son, Stamford and Peterborough, Royal Society's first prize agricultural waggon.

NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

Beyond a few good Galloways there was nothing in the cattle classes of any note except the Shorthorns. There were seven Shorthorn winners from the late Bedford meeting, including four firsts. In the best class of bulls over two years old the three, the best known were Mr. Bruce's Lord Irwin, Duke of Aosta, and Sir Arthur Ingram. The three go all on to Inverness. Among the other bulls in the class were Mr. Fox's Leeman, Sir Baron Lawrie, 3rd, and Mr. Meadow's Ben Brace. Mr. Outhwaite's Lord Godolphin was easily in the front of the yearling class, and some fair bull calves competed. Mr. Outhwaite's Vivandière was first in the cow class and also gained the fifty-guinea cup given by the Corporation of Newcastle to the best cow or heifer; whilst the Queen's red five year-old cow, which was highly commended at Bedford, goes on from here to Inverness. The heifer classes were only fairly represented. There were 22 entries of Galloway cattle, including some specimens from the well-known herds of the Duke of Buccleuch, Mr. Graham, Parcelstown, and Mr. Cunningham, Tarbreoch. Several good Channel Islands and Ayrshire cows were exhibited. The collection of Border Leicester sheep is large and fine, including Mr. Forster's, Mr. Purves', and Mr. Tweedie's successful entries at the recent Royal show, and several others not much less meritorious. Shearling tups were a very good exhibition. In a pretty good turn out of Cheviots, Mr. Elliot, Hindhope, obtained the lion share of the honours. Black-faced sheep were not very numerous, but several of the lots possessed merit. There was a good display of agricultural horses, including some well-known animals in the showyard. Of hunters, ponies, and hacks there was also a creditable show, and the best prizes are mainly from far-famed exhibitors.

SHORTHORNS.

Judges.—G. Bland, Coleby, Lincoln.
W. Bowstead, Hackthorpe House, Penrith.
Mr. R. Smith, Storrs Farm, Windermere.

Bulls, above two and under seven years, £220 and a silver cup, value £50, for the best bull of all classes, first prize, R. Bruce, Newton, of Struthers, N.B. (Lord Irwin); second, £10, W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton (Sir Arthur Ingram); third, £5, G. Fox, Harefield, Winislow (Leeman). Highly commended: J. Meadows, Thornville, Wexford, Ireland (Ben Brace).

Bulls, above one and under two years, first prize, £15, J. Outhwaite, Bainesse, Catterick (Lord Godolphin); second, £6, The Duke of Northumberland, Alnwick Castle (Duke of Tyne); third, £3, A. H. Browne, Doxford Hall, Chathill (Rossario). Highly recommended: W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York (Sergeant Irwin). Commended: The Executors of the late W. Morley, Sweetwells, Stanhope (British Baron).

Bull calves, under twelve months old, first prize, £3, A. H. Browne (Marquis of Granby); second, £2, J. and G. Atkinson, Bywell Hall Farm, Stocksfield (Gay Duke).

Cows, first prize, £15, and silver cup, value £50, for the best heifer or cow competing in classes 4, 5, 6, 7, J. Outhwaite, (Vivandiere); second, £6, Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., Wallington, Newcastle (Lady-le-Moor); third, £3, J. and G. Atkinson, Bywell Hall Farm, Stocksfield (Bracelet). Highly commended: Her Majesty the Queen, Windsor Castle (Coldcream 4th); J. and G. Atkinson, (St. Crispin 2nd); J. Richardson, Lowther-street, Penrith (Rosebud). The class commended.

Heifers, above two and under three years old, first prize, £10, Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart. (Waterloo); second, £5, the Executors of the late. G Angus, Broomley, Stocksfield (Daisey Third). Highly commended: Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., Blagdon, Cramlington (Lady Flora).

Heifers, above one and under two years old, first prize, £7, J. and G. Atkinson (O. B. Justicia); second, £3, Her Majesty the Queen (Carolina Fourth). Highly commended: The Duke of Northumberland, Alnwick Castle (Modesty); R. Harrett, Kirkwhelpington, Newcastle (Lady Fusebox). The class commended.

Heifer calves, under twelve months old, first prize, £3, Sir W. G. Armstrong, C.B., Cragside, Rothbury (Fifth Princess of Oxford); second, £2, J. Wilson, Woodhorn Manor, Morpeth (Mountain Beauty). Highly commended: R. Harrett.

GALLOWAYS.

Judges.—T. Gibbons, Burnfoot, Eak, Longtown.
H. McLaren, Offerton Hall, Sunderland.
J. McCracken, Blackhall, Kirkwelpington.

Bulls, above two years old.—First prize, £10, and silver cup, value £25, M. and F. Teasdale, Bogg, Knaresdale, Alston

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(Gallant Graham); second, £5, G. Graham, Oakbank, Longtown (Forest King). Highly commended: W. Heslop, Denton Hall, Brampton (Bob); J. Cunningham, Tarbreoch, Dalbeattie (The Pretender).

Bulls, under two years old.—First prize, £10, J. Graham, Parcelstown, Longtown (Sim of Whitram); second, £5, R. Beattie, Howend, Longtown (Brewer).

Cows or heifers.—First prize, £8, J. Graham (Dame Margaret Douglas); second, £4, J. Cunningham (Maid Marion 4th). Highly commended: J. Graham (Hermione 5th).

Cows or heifers, three years old.—First prize, £8, and a silver cup, value £10, J. Cunningham (Mary 2nd of Tarbreoch); second, £4, J. Graham. Highly commended: J. Cunningham (Bridesmaid).

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JUDGES.—(As for Galloways.)

Cows or heifers of any age.—First prize, £6, Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., Flagdon, Cramlington; second, £3, Sir J. D. Marjoribanks, Bart., Lees, Coldstream (Josephine); third, Sir J. D. Marjoribanks (Blossom).

AYRSHIRES.

JUDGES.—(As for Channel Islands.)

Cows or heifers of any age.—First prize, £6, Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart.; second, £3, C. T. Reed, Newbiggin House, Newcastle; third, £1, O. Richardson, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

SHEEP.

BORDER LEICESTERS.

JUDGES.—J. C. Bolam, Stamford, Alnwick.
J. Clay, Kirchester, Kelso.
W. C. Thompson, Dilston, Cornbridge.

Rams of any age.—First prize, £10, and a silver cup, value £25, T. Forster, jun., Ellingham, Chathill (Royal Exchange); second, £5, T. Forster, jun. Highly commended: Rev. R. W. Bosanquet, Rock, Alnwick.

Shearling rams.—First prize, £10, G. Torrance, Sisterpath, Dunse; second, £5, and third, £2, J. Clarke, Oldhamstocks Mains, Cockburnspath. Highly commended: G. Torrance. Commended: J. Clarke.

Pens of five ewes.—First prize, £5, Rev. R. W. Bosanquet; second, £3, J. Niabit, Lambden, Greenlaw. Highly commended: T. Simson, Blainslie Lander, Berwick.

Pens of five gimmers.—First prize, £5, and a silver cup, value £10, G. Torrance; second, £3, Rev. R. W. Bosanquet.

CHEVIOTS.

JUDGES.—J. Hedley, Bewshaugh, Kielder.
J. Jardine, Arkleton, Langholm, N. B.
J. Penman, Bonally, Edinburgh.

Rams of any age above two shear.—First prize, £6, and second, £4, T. Elliot, Hindhope, Jedburgh. Highly commended: J. Johnstone, Capplegill, Moffat.

Two-shear rams.—First prize, £6, and a silver cup, value £10, and second, £4, T. Elliot.

Shearling rams.—First prize, £6, A. Thompson, Kirknewton, Wooler; second, £4, T. Elliot. Highly commended: T. Elliot.

Pens of five ewes.—First prize, £4, and second, £2, T. Elliot.

Pens of five gimmers.—First prize, £4, J. Robson, Byrness, Rochester; second, £2, T. Elliot.

BLACKFACED MOUNTAINS.

JUDGES.—(As for Cheviots.)

Rams of any age above two shear.—First prize, £6, C. Armstrong, Ashgillside, Alston (Mountain Heather); second, £4, J. Lowdon, White Lees, Blanchland. Highly commended: H. Philipson, Side House, Allenheads.

Two-shear rams.—First prize, £4, G. Gibson, Widdy Bank, Middleton-in-Teesdale (Champion); second, £2, T. Elliot.

Pens of five ewes or gimmers.—Prize, £4, C. Armstrong.

ANY OTHER DISTRICT BREED.

(Except Border Leicester, Cheviot, and Blackfaced Mountain Sheep.)

JUDGES: As for Cheviots and Blackfaced Mountain Sheep.

Rams of any age.—Prize, £5, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour (Cotswold).

Pens of five ewes or gimmers.—Prize, £5, F. T Turner, Armthorpe, Doncaster (Lincoln).

HORSES.

AGRICULTURAL.

JUDGES.—J. Blackstock, Hayton Castle, Cockermouth.
W. Owen, Norris Green, West Derby.
A. Turnbull, Thornington, Cornwall.

Brood mares with foal at foot.—First prize, £10, and a silver cup value £20 for the best brood mare competing in classes 28 and 29, and a silver cup value £56 for the best brood mare competing in classes 28 and 29 and the property of an exhibitor resident in the County of Northumberland only, Executors of the late G. Angus, Broomley, Stocksfield (Darling); second, £5, J. and G. Atkinson, Bywell Hall Farm, Stocksfield (Damsel). Highly commended: T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick (Jean).

Brood mares, in foal at time of show.—First prize, £10, and second, £4, A. H. Hunt, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Durham (Diamond and Polly). Commended: A. Elliott, Newhall, Galashields (Jean).

Three-year-old geldings or fillies for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £10, and silver cup value £10, for the best colt, gelding, or filly, competing in classes 30, 31, and 32, R. Lee, Tudhoe Farm, Spennymoor; second, £4, T. Elliott. Highly commended: S. Jack, Mersington, Coldstream. Commended: R. Tweedie, The Forest, Catterick (Turk).

Two-year-old geldings or fillies for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £8, R. Pyl, Burnthouse, North Shields (Prince); second, £4, J. Wilkinson, Cocklaw, Hexham.

Yearling colts, geldings, or fillies, for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £8, J. and G. Atkinson; second, £4, T. P. Kirton, East House, Usworth. Commended: G. Dodds, Encampment, Cow Hill.

Geldings of any age for agricultural purposes.—First prize, a silver cup value £10, for the best pair of geldings of any age, J. Thompson, Baillie Knowe, Kelso; second, £2, R. Gibbons, Mossband, Carlisle.

Pair of mares for agricultural purposes.—First prize, a silver cup value £10, J. Laycock, Gosforth, Newcastle; second, £2, J. Henderson, Horsley Hill, South Shields.

Pair of horses or mares suitable for dray or colliery purposes.—First prize, a silver cup value £10, Carver and Co., Victoria Park, Manchester; second, £5, the Earl of Tankerville, Chillingham Castle.

FOR THE FIELD.

JUDGES.—Captain A. Thomson, Charlston, Fifeshire.
Major Bell, Old Manor House, Bedale.
W. Smith, Melkington, Cornhill.

Brood mares with foal at foot or in foal at time of show, a silver cup value £25, and £10 in money.—L. C. Chrisp, Hawkhill, Alnwick (The Favourite); second, £5, J. Moffat, Kirklington Park, Carlisle (Lady Line); third, £2, E. Hornby, Flotmanby, Ganton (Lady Derwent). Highly commended: T. Bell, Whorlton, Newcastle.

Three-year-old geldings for the field.—First prize, £5 and a silver cup, value £10, for the best gelding or filly competing in classes 37 and 38, R. Dand, jun., Hauxley Hall, Acklington (Daybreak); second, £3, J. Brown, Wiggonby, Wigton. Highly commended: T. Graham, Branlands Park, Irthington (Derby). Commended: G. A. Potter, Heaton Hall, Newcastle (Derby).

Three-year-old fillies for the field.—First prize, £5, H. Elliot, Akeld, Wooler; second, £3, the Duke of Northumberland, Alnwick Castle. Highly commended: T. Bell (Lady Sarah).

Two-year-old geldings for the field.—First prize, £5, Mrs. Cadogan, Brinkburn Priory, Morpeth; second, £3, B. Spraggon, Nafferton, Stocksfield (Duke of Tyne). Highly commended: T. Graham, Brandland's Park, Irthington (Disraeli).

Two-year-old fillies for the field.—First prize, £5, J. D. Ogilvie, Mardon, Cornhill (Firefly); second, £3, J. G. Simpson, Mouldron, Richmond (May Queen). Highly commended: A. H. Browne, Doxford Hall, Chathill (Young Maid).

Yearling colts or geldings for the field.—First prize, £5, and a silver cup, value £10, Earl Percy, M.P., Alnwick Castle; second, £3, J. Rickerby, Wallhead, Crosby-on-Eden (Captain). Highly commended: J. Davison, jun., Tritlington Hall, Morpeth.

Yearling fillies for the field.—First prize, £5, J. Moffat, Kirklington Park, Carlisle; second, £3, J. Paterson, Terrona, Langholm, N.B. (Oatcake).

Hunters of any age, confined to the district comprising the county of Northumberland and Durham, and regularly hunted

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therein during the last season by the present owner.—First prize, a silver cup, value 25 guineas, and one-half of a sweepstakes of 10s. each, T. C. Coxon, Newcastle (The Cannibal); second, £5, and one-half of the sweepstakes, J. W. Annett, Ulgham, Morpeth (Magician). Highly commended: R. Dand, jun., Hauxley Hall, Acklington (Daylight).

Hunters, five years old and under ten, qualified to carry not less than 15 stones with hounds.—First prize, a silver cup, value £25, and one-half of a sweepstakes of 10s. each, J. Fearon, Corkickle, Whitehaven (Erl King); second, £5, and one-half of the sweepstakes, H. Jewison, Raisthorpe, York (Palmerston). Highly commended: J. W. Annett (Clayton).

Hunters, five years old and under ten, qualified to carry not less than 12 stones with hounds.—First prize, a silver cup, value £25, and one-half of a sweepstakes of 10s. each, and champion cup, value £40, for the best hunter competing in classes 43, 44, 45, and 46, T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick (Jester); second, £5, and one-half of the sweepstakes, J. W. Annett (Nunnykirk). Highly commended: J. Tate, Barnhill, Acklington (Markab).

Horses or mares, four years old.—First prize, a silver cup, value £25, and one-half of a sweepstakes of 10s. each, Sir G. Wombwell, Bart., Newburgh, York (Cawton); second, £5, and half the sweepstakes, Mrs. A. H. Browne, Doxford Hall, Chathill (Seabreeze). Highly commended, E. Liddell, Morris Hall, Norham (Maydew).

HACKNEYS.

JUDGES.—W. S. Atkinson, Barrowby Hall, Woodlesford, Leeds.
A. Calder, Yetholm Mains, Kelso.
J. Parrington, Brancepeth, Durham.

Horses or mares of any age, not exceeding 15·2 hands high, and equal to carry 14 stones.—First prize, a silver cup, value £25, C. G. Grey, Dilston, Corbridge (Jenny); second, £5, and a sweepstakes of 5s. each, C. J. Cunnngham, Tofts Morebattle, Kelso (Zampa). Highly commended: T. Pattison, Norwood, Gateshead (Duchess); B. Spraggon, Nafferton, Stocksfield-on-Tyne (Duchess of Tyne). Commended: A. Hornsey, Stittenham, Sheriff Hutton (Young Agnes).

Horses or mares of any age, not exceeding 14·2 hands high.—First prize, a silver cup, value £25, W. H. Blackman, Wressle, Howdon, York (Fairy); second, £5, and a sweepstakes of 10s. each, C. Stephenson, V.S., Newcastle (Gipsy). Highly commended: C. Stephenson (Lady Florence). Commended: The Duke of Northumberland; R. Jefferson, Todds' Nook, Newcastle (Sam).

PONIES.

JUDGES.—(As for Hackneys).

Horses or mares of any age, not exceeding 13 hands 2 inches high.—First prize, a silver cup, value £15, and a sweepstakes of 5s. each, C. W. Wilson, High Park, Kenda (Bobby); second, £4, J. C. Straker, Willington House Durham (Sprite); third, £2, E. Bell, Westgate-road, Newcastle (Jessy). Highly commended: C. W. C. Henderson Leazes House, Durham.

Horses or mares of any age, not exceeding 12 hands high.—First prize, a silver cup, value £10, R. Deuchar, Newcastle; second, £4, M. Nixon, Earsdon Moor, Morpeth; third, £2, H. F. Swan, North Jesmond, Newcastle (Kittie). Highly commended, Sir W. G. Armstrong, C.B., Cragside, Rothbury.

CARRIAGE HORSES.

JUDGES.—(As for Hackney Ponies).

Horses or mares, three or four years old.—First prize, £10, J. Johnson, Brigham, Driffield (Rob Roy); second, £5, H. A. Clarke, Prospect House, Aspatria (Emma). Highly commended, J. Wilson, Woodhorn Manor, Morpeth.

PIGS.

JUDGES.—J. B. Booth, Killerby Hall, Catterick.
J. Fisher, Carbead, Cross Hills, Leeds.
W. Goodrich, Dilston, Corbridge-on-Tyne.

Boars of the large white breed of any age.—First prize, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Littleborough, Manchester; second, £7, J. Dove, Hambrook House, Bristol (Lord Hambrook).

Boars of the small white breed of any age.—First prize, £5, and a silver cup value £10, for the best pig competing in classes 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, £2, J. Dove (King Thistle).

Boars of the Berkshire breed of any age.—First prize, £5, and highly commended, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour; second, £4, T. Wilson, Shotley Hall, Shotley-bridge.

Sows of the large white breed of any age.—First prize, £5, R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsey; second, £2, T. Hodgson, Newton Arlosh, Wigton. Highly commended, J. Bulman, Carleton Hill, Carlisle (Chicken-Eater).

Sows of the small white breed of any age.—First prize, £5, R. E. Duckering; second, £2, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds. Highly commended, J. Dove.

Sows of the Berkshire breed of any age.—First prize, £5, T. Wilson, Shotley Hall, Shotley-bridge; second, £2, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour. Highly commended, J. Ismay, Whickham, Gateshead.

Sows of a breed not eligible for the preceding classes, of any age.—First prize, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, £2, R. E. Duckering. Highly commended, J. J. Wheeler (Jenny). Highly commended and commended, J. Dove (Queen's Little Beauty) and (Shamrock).

Three Sow pigs of the large breed, of any colour, under 16 weeks old.—First prize, £2, J. Taylor, Ireby Mills, Wigton. Highly commended, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Three Sow pigs of the small breed, of any colour, under 16 weeks old.—First prize, £3, T. Wilson, Shotley Hall.

SHEPHERD'S DOGS.

JUDGES.—(As for Cheviots, black-faced mountain sheep, and sheep of any breed).

Rough-haired dogs of any age.—First prize, £3, and a silver cup, value £5 for the best dog or bitch competing in Classes 61, 62, and 63, T. R. Stephenson, West Keilder (Mos); second, £2, J. J. Turnbull, Hindhope, Jedburgh (Hemp); third, £1, A. Robson, Emmethaugh (Tom).

Rough-haired bitches of any age.—First prize, £3, A. Scott Byrness, Rochester; second, £2, F. Burn, Hardacres, Coldstream (Maria); third, £1, T. Brown, Alnham, Alnwick, (Gip). Highly commended, T. Purvis, Woodhorn, Morpeth (Moss).

Smooth-haired dogs or bitches of any age.—First prize, £3, A. Wilson, Clock Mill, Caphaeton (Meg); second, £2, R. S. Lamb, Acorn Bank, Bedlington (Fan); third, £1, R. Foggan, Bedlington, Morpeth (Lead); highly commended, J. Ryder, 9, Providence-place, Newcastle (Moss); T. Pringle, High Buston (Beauty); R. Smith, Preston, Chathill (Sweep); commended, R. Harrett, Kirkwhelpington, Newcastle (Keeper).

WOOL.

JUDGE.—Mr. Joseph Humble, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Five fleeces of Border Leicester Wool.—First prize, £2, and second, £1, G. Laing, Wark, Coldstream

Five fleeces of half-bred Wool.—First prize, £2, second £1, R. Donkin, Ingrams, Alnwick.

Five fleeces of Cheviot Wool.—First prize, £2, T. Elliot, Hindhope, Jedburgh; second, £1, R. Donkin.

Five fleeces of Black-faced Wool.—First prize, £2, and second, £1, the Earl of Tankerville, Chillingham Castle.

SALE OF SHOW STOCK AT BEDFORD.—Mr. Fowler's yearling Shorthorn bull, by Prince Regent, to Mr. Marcus Pool, for France; Mr. W. G. Garne's yearling Shorthorn, Aachen, to Mr. Herman Stedman, for Germany; Mr. C. J. Webb's Shorthorn bull-calf, Royal Oxford Gwynne, to Mr. Simon Beattie, for Canada, who also takes out Mr. G. Garne's Shorthorn cow, Butterfly's Duchess, and Mr. Outhwaite's two-year-old Shorthorn heifer, Baroness Conyers. Further, Mr. Downing's yearling Shorthorn heifer, and Mr. Mumford's two-year-old Shorthorn heifer, Edith Emily, go to Canada in charge of Mr. Craig; and Messrs. Dudding's Shorthorn calf, Pride of Beauty, to Chili. In consequence of the laws with regard to cattle disease, there can be no exportation of stock to Australia until 1875, but several offers were made for animals to be kept over until next summer. A bid of a thousand guineas for Mr. Bruce Kennard's famous Shorthorn heifer, Queen Mary, was quickly refused; while just previous to the show Colonel Loyd Lindsay sold Rob Roy to Mr. Richard Stratton. From amongst the Jerseys Mr. Simpson's famous Pretty Lass goes from Wray Park to Woburn Abbey, having been purchased for the Duke of Bedford. Two of Lord Walsingham's shearling Southdown rams go to Chili at high prices, and good offers were refused for other entries for the same flock; whilst there was also some trade for abroad amongst the Cotswolds.

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EAST OF ENGLAND HORSE SHOW.

MEETING AT SUDBURY.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—Riding Horses, Hunters, and Ponies: W. Lort, The Cotteridge, King's Norton; W. Cropper, Horncastle. Agricultural Horses: W. Baker, Atherstone; C. Hallaby, Bramscote Hall, Atherstone.

Weight-carrying hunters.—First prize, cup value £20 and £10 in money, J. Goodliff (Marahal McMahon); second, £10, T. Harper, Beverley. Commended: P. Fonnereau (Lucifer).

Light weight hunters.—First prize, cup value £10 and £10 in money, J. Grout (Bonner); second, £8, F. Lambarde (The Count). Highly commended: J. Goodliff (Lady Mary); F. Low (Theodore); A. Bullard (King of Trumps). Commended: J. T. Blott (Lothian Queen); F. Low (Quick Step).

Hunters not exceeding four years.—Prize, cup value 15 gs., J. Goodliff (Lady Mary). Highly commended: A. S. Andrews, Walthamstow (Romeo). Commended: J. W. Wakelin, Braintree (Challenger).

Thoroughbred stallion.—First prize, cup value 15 gs., W. Wilson (Hotshot); second, £5, the Duke of Hamilton (The Beadel). Commended: J. Grout (Ashantee).

Hackney or roadster stallion.—First prize, cup value 12 gs., W. Giddens (Great Gun); second, £5, J. Grout (Quicksilver). Highly commended: F. Branwhite (Defiance). Commended: Phillips, Smith, and Co., and Special Prize (Condiment).

Hackney or roadster mare or gelding.—First prize, cup value £10 and £5 in money, T. Banyard (Princess); second, £5, T. Hudson (Peter). Highly commended: W. Giddens (Giddy Girl). Commended: Rev. J. Foster, Foxearth (Madge).

Park hacks or ladies' horses.—First prize, cup value £10 and £5 in money (if won by a lady a riding whip will be presented), R. Cooke; second, £5, T. D. Taylor, The Grange, Bury St. Edmund's (Perfection). Highly commended: P. Fonnereau (Eagle Eye); W. S. Postle (Lady Jane Grey); C. R. Harvey (Alice).

Cobs not exceeding 14 hands 3 in.—First prize, cup value £10 and £5 in money, T. Mitchell (Bosco); second, J. R. Vaizey, Attwoods, Halsted (Marquis). Highly commended: T. D. Taylor (Perfection). Commended: H. Skingsley, Wakes Hall (Tommy).

Saddle or harness filly or colt, under four years.—Prize, £6, Rev. J. Foster (Tommy). Commended: C. Scott (Pretty Girl).

Ponies not exceeding 13 hands 3 in.—First prize, cup value £5 and £3 in money, T. Mitchell, Bradford (Bosco); second, £4, C. Gates, Hepworth, Scoles (Lord Tom Noddy). Highly commended: C. H. Daking, Bower House, Boxford (Sweep); S. C. Roper (Rocket); the Duchess of Hamilton (Ambitious); T. D. Taylor (Black Bess).

Agricultural or cart stallion, any age.—First prize, cup value 12 gs., T. Briggs (Heart of Oak); second, £5, J. Ketley (Talbot). Highly commended: W. Byford (The Statesman).

Agricultural or cart colt, under four years.—First prize, £6, T. Briggs (Heart of Oak); second, £3, W. Byford (The Statesman). Highly commended: W. G. Walford.

Agricultural or cart mare, over four years.—Prize, £6, R. Makins, Barking (Moggy). Highly commended: W. Byford (Bragg). Commended: W. Byford (Pride).

Agricultural or cart filly, under four years.—Prize, cup value 5 gs., W. Cross (Kathleen). Highly commended: W. Byford.

Special prize of £5 for the best foal by The Beadle.—F. J. Rackham.

Special prize of £5 for the best foal by Chaucer.—J. Humphreys. Commended: A. Smith.

Special prize of 3 gs. for the best yearling colt or filly by Little Pippin.—T. Kilburn. Commended: Rev. R. H. Longden (Pippin).

Special prize of 3 gs. for the best foal by Little Pippin.—W. Oakey.

Special prize of 5 gs. for the best foal by Defiance.—F. Branwhite.

Special prize of £3 for the best foal by Volunteer.—First prize, £3, W. Byford; second, £2, W. Byford.

Jumping over single and double hurdles.—First prize, cup value 6 gs., C. H. Daking (Sweep); second, £3, E. Payne, Brockley (Peter). Commended: W. Cross, Toy Lodge, Frating.

Jumping over fence and water.—First prize, cup value 8 gs., T. Alston, jun., Stansted Hall, Sudbury (Telegraph); second, £4, E. Faux, Heybridge Hall. Highly commended: Mrs. Kate Radcliff (Kwei). Commended: G. A. Coulson, Fingrinhoe (Peggy); E. Payne (Peter); F. C. Payne (Sailor).

JUDGING BY "POINTS."

At the show of the Scotch Midland Agricultural Society at Kinross, a feature which had been looked forward to with some degree of interest was the competition for Lord Kinnaird's prize of £10 for Shorthorns, cows or heifers, judged by points. His Lordship solicited the services of three well-known judges of stock, who, believing themselves in the system, agreed to act. These were Mr. James Whyte, Clintarty, Aberdeenshire; Mr. Robert Bruce, Newton of Strathers, Forres; and Mr. George Hedley, Newcastle-on-Tyne. They met Lord Kinnaird at Rossie Priory on Wednesday, the day before the show, and, after a full discussion, agreed upon a code and scale of 26 points, with an aggregate of numbers amounting to 200. The difficulty in fixing the scale arose from the fact of Mr. Hedley, who had written at some length on the subject, having given a scale at 25. The Scotch gentlemen desired a greater extension of numbers, but, ultimately coming to a mutual understanding, they fixed as mentioned. With a view to arrive at a clear operative conception of the plan laid out in their award paper they adjourned to Castlehill, the Home Farm, and there each independently and separately, took to judging three of Lord Kinnaird's cows on the principle agreed on. They differed a very little on one cow, but as a whole they arrived at a pretty close approximation to each other, being within four numbers. Although Mr. Hedley was not confident as to the scale adopted, they were firmly decided on the justice of judging by points. In this spirit they went to the showyard, and entered on their duties without hesitation. An award paper was printed with the points and scale; and fifteen or sixteen animals were entered. Four of these were entered direct for the special competition, while the others were entered from other classes. Whatever was the reason, only eight of the number were brought before the judges, and of these one was disqualified at the outset, as its age was not given. After the seven had been carefully examined the prize was awarded to Bonny Belle, aged four years and a month, bred by the exhibitor, Mr. Thomas M. Tod, West Brackly, Kinross, which had also won in the off-hand judging the second prize. The second in order was a heifer, aged three years and twenty-five days, bred by Mr. Copland, and owned by Mr. Alexander Reid, Cruivie; and the third was a cow, aged 3 years, bred by exhibitor, Mr. Robert Husband, Gillot, Dunfermline. The cow belonging to Mr. A. Bethune, Blebo, which was selected for first honours by the previous judges, was rejected on account of her very uneven form and patchy hindquarters.

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THE POWER OF THE LABOURERS.

By an East Essex Farmer.

Under the above heading an article from the pen of one of the strongest, though it may be added one of the fairest of the partizans of the Labourers' Union is published in the current number of the *Fortnightly Review*. We entirely agree with the writer in his remarks upon the impolicy of the lock-out, which from the first we have unequivocally condemned. The lock-out is a movement against the very life of unionism, and not, as its advocates plead, simply an opposition to the abuses of the existing Unions. The obstinate refusal of the Farmers' Association to sanction a conference which would have taken into consideration not only the disputed question of wages, but the rules and tactics of the Unions also is, sufficient evidence in proof of this statement. Piece-meal strikes, strikes without notice, and abrupt and uncourteous ultimata sent in by Union delegates might have been opposed without resorting to an onslaught upon the Union as an organization. By resorting to such an attempt to force the men out of an association which is perfectly legitimate, and which might be conducted in a spirit of fairness and courtesy, we have repeatedly urged that the farmers have been fighting against their own interests. One inevitable result has been, as we from the first declared that it would be, to diminish the number of men in the lock-out districts, and thus to give them an advantage in accordance with the principle of supply and demand that they had not previously enjoyed. Even if the masters should succeed in driving the men temporarily out of the Union, the "armed peace" which would ensue would be nothing better than "veiled rebellion," and there would be nothing to prevent a recurrence to the real or supposed advantages of unionism, with an accession of energy and bitterness as soon as a favourable opportunity offered. The men might be temporarily discouraged by defeat, but they would soon see that the result of the contest had really been a gain to them by the removal of many competitors from the labour market. As this must inevitably be the result of every lock-out, it requires no extraordinary discrimination to enable anyone who thinks at all to see that such an apparent victory as has been supposed would in reality be a defeat, or a preparation for it. Like the hero who, often stricken to the earth, acquired increased vigour at each contact, the labourers will emerge from every lock-out with an increased power in the wage market, and, consequently, in the ability to contribute to the funds of their unions.

But whilst we go so far with Mr. Cox, we cannot agree with him in his exoneration of the leaders of the Unions from all blame on account of the language and tactics which they at first chose to adopt, but which have been considerably moderated, with some exceptions, under the pressure of the strong power of opposition manifested by the farmers. Especially we part company with him in his attempt to whitewash *The Labourers' Union Chronicle*, which most unprejudiced people regard as the *bête noir* of the labourers' movement. Nothing has done so much to inflame the passions of the two parties to the contest that has been so long going on as the immoderate abuse, gross misrepresentation, and the slightly veiled threats of violent resolution that have appeared almost every week in the journal of the National Agricultual Labourers' Association. From the first publication of the paper—long previous to the appearance of the famous "beacon fires" and "midnight surprises" article, which even the staunchest adherents of the Union protested against, down to the implied threat of a possible massacre *à la* Nero of monopolist landowners in *The Chronicle* of July 4th—the leading columns of that paper have been filled with the most gross vituperation of "brutal" and "bloody" farmers, lying editors, fibbing ladies (or rather a fibbing lady), and landlord robbers. Editors of papers friendly to the movement, or impartial and amicable, have been abused by name, and in one case at least have been accused of the "lie direct," simply because they could not go all fours with the wild schemer who in most eccentric English rages weekly in the first page of *The Chronicle*. The smallest spark is sufficient to ignite his excessively inflammable tinder, and we can only imagine that he is one of those unfortunately constituted persons who can only write when their pens are dipped in fire and brimstone. We could give extracts enough to fill two or three numbers of this Journal in justification of the conclusion, arrived at from no preconceived prejudice, that *The Labourers' Union Chronicle* is a discredit to the Labourers' Union and to the modern Press. To plead its independence of the Union is idle as long as it is not disowned as the special journal of the association, which it claims to be, and as long as its editor is a treasurer of the Union. It is better to be one of those whom Mr. Cox condemns as "lukewarm friends of the Union," than to be such a red-hot partizan as to condone vulgar abuse, gross exaggeration, and suggestions of agrarian outrage on the "don't put him in the horse-pond" principle.

As to the Union delegates, they have no doubt had a great deal to irritate them. From the first they have been assailed with abuse, and, in some instances, with calumny. But we cannot agree with Mr. Cox in thinking that they have generally shown a "marvellous self-restraint," or that their demands and their conduct have been characterized by a "general tone of fairness and moderation." With the object of exciting the feelings of the men and obtaining fresh members, they have often given way to culpable exaggeration and misrepresentation. They have systematically underrated the earnings of the labourers, most unfairly refusing to take into account any extras beyond the ordinary weekly wages, whether in the form of money payment or perquisites and exemptions. This has been done with the object of enlisting the sympathy of the public; but now that the world has been informed that the labourers in the Newmarket and Bury districts (probably a fair average as to wages of the whole of England) earn 17s. per week more or less throughout the year, with cottages and gardens at low rents and other advantages, they can no longer remain under the false impression that the countay labourer is worse off then the unskilled workman of our provincial towns and many of our chief cities. A rural labourer, paid so much as stated, is better off than a town workman who gets a guinea a week, and there are thousands of town workmen who get considerably less than that amount. In making these remarks it is not our object to urge that the farm labourers should not try to improve their position, but only to show that much public sympathy has been obtained for the men by the leaders and officials of the Unions by means of a systematic misrepresentation and suppression of the truth.

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One demand made by the leaders of the Union, accompanied by the threat that, if it were not acceded to, England should be drained of her agricultural labourers, has done not a little to strengthen the resistance of the farmers to the Unions. We refer to the demand for three or four acres of land for every farm labourer. Probably Mr. Cox, and many other Union partizans who know little or nothing of the exigences of practical agriculture, consider this to be a perfectly reasonable demand, and one that should be acceded to by landowners and farmers. But every farmer knows that a labourer with so much land to cultivate on his own account would be almost useless as a hired workman. His services would, to a very small extent, if at all, be available to the farmer in the busy agricultural seasons; and it would only be in slack times, when his labour was but little needed, that he would be willing to engage in regular work for hire. If the Unions and their friends had turned their attention to the development of agricultural co-operation, instead of to this impracticable scheme, some good might have resulted. As Mr. Brassey, in a thoughtful and suggestive article on "Co-operative Production," in the current number of the *Contemporary Review*, has observed, co-operation, if successful, would not only benefit directly those concerned in it, but would also afford to other labourers a correct idea as to a fair division of profits between capitalists and labourers, and would thus stimulate just, and discourage extravagent demands.

In deprecating the expatriation of our farm labourers, Mr. Cox insists that they are by no means too numerous to cultivate the land of this country as it should be cultivated. Here he is probably correct; but before it will be safe for the tenant-farmer to increase his investments by adopting a more liberal system of tillage, including an increased expenditure for labour, he must have that legal security for his capital which is at present so unjustly and mischievously denied to him.

THE FARMERS' FRIENDS IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—It may be said to have been a settled arrangement with the English farmers previous to the late general election that when the time came they would endeavour to turn out the Gladstone Ministry, and permit of a Conservative Ministry coming in. The election arrived, and the thing was done. Everywhere over England the counties returned Conservative representatives, and, generally speaking, they were either returned unpledged, or only pledged to attend to farmers' interests in the most slipshod manner. There were general rejoicings among farmers at the Conservative success. The Conservatives in Opposition had been urgent for Malt-Tax repeal, for Local-Taxation reform, and their leader, Mr. Disraeli, at the last moment almost, had stated that the priceless boon of a two- years' notice to quit ought, in all fairness and justice to tenants, to be conceded. On the other hand, Mr. Clare Sewell Read, the all-England tenant-farmers' representative, had pronounced in favour of protection to his class in contracting with their landlords.

This was the situation when the Conservative Budget was introduced. On the Local Taxation difficulty it offered a composition of almost eleven-pence three-farthings in the pound, and in the matter of Malt-Tax repeal, it—but let a veil be now drawn over this part of the subject.

Then there intervened Mr. Ward Hunt's big speech about rotten ships, and what he was resolved to do for the honour and the glory of the navy of England, followed by the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which he quietly snuffed out Mr. Ward Hunt, rotten ships, and all the rest of it. By this the farmers were given time to recover their equanimity, and they did recover it somewhat. Mr. Clare Sewell Read, too, had become connected with the Ministry, and every Conservative tenant in England believed in Mr. Read. The hope now lay in Mr. Seely's motion, "That outgoing tenants should be compensated for unexhausted improvements." The proposition appeared so just, and moreover, so entirely in consonance with Conservative landlord professions, that no opposition, far less any *dodge* against the proposal on the part of the "farmers' friends," was anticipated. In the best informed circles, therefore, it was believed there would be an overwhelming majority in its favour; and oh! how every farmer congratulated his neighbour on the intelligence and the foresight which had put Messrs. Disraeli and Co. into power.

Amid these jubilations, Mr. Seely's motion was introduced, and, *O tempora! O mores!* what then happened? First, there was all but a general *stampede* among the farmers' representatives, and the narrowest possible escape made from a Parliamentary "count out!" And—tell it not in Gath, whisper it not in the streets of Askalon—in the second place, Mr. Disraeli, while conceding to outgoing tenants the right to compensation, declared in favour of "free contracts," as a necessary accompaniment of the concession. What, he exclaimed, "force men into contracts from which human nature recoils!" And so Mr. Clare Sewell Read was snuffed out, as Mr. Ward Hunt was snuffed out—the only consolation left to Mr. Read being, that it had taken a greater personage to snuff him out than it had taken to snuff Mr. Ward Hunt out!

Seriously, what does this enunciation of Mr. Disraeli in regard to "contracts from which human nature recoils," mean? Evidently this—that landlords are to be allowed to remain virtually in the position in which they are in at present—free to preserve game upon their tenants' crops; free to exercise the law of distress upon their tenants' goods; free to evict their tenants and to seize upon and confiscate their property in their improvements on their farm; and free, under the pressure of the notice to quit, to enforce penal and feudal and arbitrary contracts upon the farmers upon their estates. There will, in every probability, be legislation upon the subject of Mr. Seely's motion. The "mountain will go into labour and bring forth a mouse"—a *permission* Act. The Irish tenants got their *permission* Land Act four years ago, and the Duke of Leinster and others have been enforcing arbitrary, penal, and confiscatory contracts upon their tenants, under its provisions, ever since. The English tenants will be given a similar bauble. There will be a great blowing of Conservative and landlord trumpets, a session of Parliament in great part wasted, as in the Irish case, and the upshot of all will be that the English farmers will be presented by the aristocratic representatives whom they had the unaccountable folly to elect—with the shadow for the substance!

But all this criticism comes from an Irish tenant, you or your readers might object. And why not from an Irish tenant? For nigh thirty years, to my knowledge, Irish tenants, and more particularly those of the Irish provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, have been sending representatives to Parliament who, in

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almost every instance in which an opportunity was afforded them, voted to emancipate the English tenants and the English people from the bane of landlord power and feudal oppression. And what has been the return? The election, year after year, by English tenants, during that long period, of Conservatives and landlords as their representatives—of men who never yet willingly yielded a single concession to tenants, whether English or Irish—of men who have so governed as to have all but ruined Ireland—of men who have sat still and seen the Irish population reduced by nigh three millions—of men who have never proposed a thorough remedial measure with the view of arresting the depopulation process, and of men who, when a Land Act (1870) was introduced into Parliament, with the intention of doing at least something in the way of giving security to the Irish tenant, and thereby inducing him to improve in the cultivation of the soil, did everything which men could do to emasculate that Act and make it what it now is, and what the promised English Land Act will be when it is passed, a sham, a delusion, and a snare! And hence, therefore, why I, an Irish tenant, dare to criticise as above and to point out to English tenants that they, by the representatives which they elect, are not only acting to their own detriment and in the way of obstruction to their own interests, but by the number of Conservative members which they return—of men trained in arbitrary principles and accustomed to high-handed conduct, are swamping the Irish popular representation, and thus rendering futile all the efforts of the Irish tenants to obtain laws which would tend to their emancipation from feudal oppression and confiscation—which would give them security in their homes and in the possession there of any property created by them in the improvement of their farms, and which would stimulate them to double the annual produce from the soil, and so annually double the present income of the country.

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS ROBERTSON.

Narraghmore, Athy, 8th July.

THE IMPLEMENTS IN THE WEST.

At a meeting of the council of the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association, at Truro, the following report on the implements and machines in motion at the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Exhibition held at St. Austell, in June last, was presented:

1st. The exhibition of implements and machines was larger than on any former occasion, and our attention was called by exhibitors to sundry improvements, particularly in reaping and mowing machines, too numerous to mention in this brief report. 2nd. Seven mowers were tried—viz., Wood's, Samuelson's, Hornsby's, Picksley and Sims', Kirby's, Brenton's, and Oatey's. All worked well considering the rough surface of the land and the nature of the grass. 3rd. The stewards do not feel justified in giving anything more than a general report of such limited trials, which are simply calculated to give the public an opportunity of seeing such machines at work, and judging for themselves; but both the exhibitors and the public were much disappointed in not finding means either in rye, winter oats, and some such crops for testing the reapers, and more especially the self-delivery, which they are of opinion only requires to be seen at work to be appreciated, and will eventually become the machine of the day, and strongly recommend that some such crop as named be provided at the time of the exhibition, and likewise grass forced by artificial manure or other means, to make the test more effectual, it being generally known that all machines will cut ordinary crops; or, otherwise, that an extensive periodical trial of mowing and reaping machines, with liberal prizes, be held in the early part of the harvest, as it would stimulate improvements in this important class of machinery, and also give inexperienced persons opportunities of learning now to work them properly, a matter of very great importance. 4th. Mr. Davey's patent climax double-furrow, turn-wrest plough did its work admirably, and it surprised most people to see two small horses pulling it through a dry, stiff piece of land overgrown with couch grass, rest harrow, and other kinds of weeds. The easy manner in which it is made to plough two furrows down the hill and one up, cannot fail to recommend itself to any practical agriculturist, as being superior to other implements of the class. 5th. Recent improvements in Marsden's stone-breaking machine, which was at work in the show-yard, appeared to have rendered it almost perfect, by reducing the material to a uniform size and reducing waste to a minimum, and in consequence of the excited state of the labour market, we think its introduction would be a very important auxiliary for all highway districts. 6th. We particularly noticed two sets of six-horse power steam thrashing-machines in motion on the ground by Marshall, Sons, and Co., of Gainsborough, which appeared to possess almost all recent improvements, while any part getting out of order can easily be repaired. And we are of opinion that they are taking a fair and good stand in the county of Cornwall, which, from the many recent improvements adapted to this county, they are justly entitled to. 7th. There was likewise the washing, wringing, and maagling machine combined, from Messrs. Thos. Bradford and Co., High Holborn, London, and also from the Domestic Washing Machine Co., Ackrington, in full work, and appeared to give general satisfaction to the domestic part of the visitors.—THOMAS OLVER, T. BARON, Stewards.

The meeting of the Association for 1875, when the Prince of Wales is President, will be held at Truro.

THE STOCK YARDS AND TRANSIT HOUSE OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Some three or four years ago I gave you a description of these extensive yards, and the amount of stock they contained. Since then they have very much increased, and there are now upwards of 160 acres under plank and in sheds, while the new building now called the Exchange is one of magnificence, and the green lawn, with its shady trees fenced round with substantial iron railing, in the centre of the yard, has a picturesque appearance. The bank occupies a portion of this building, offices for the company, and separate offices for individual stockmen and packers. I think I can say that there is not such another institution as this in the world. When I wrote you previously, the best cattle were more of the "native" character than now; great improvement has been made during that time, many of the pens of to-day and yesterday are half-breds and higher grades of the improved breeds, the greater majority being Shorthorns, but few of them of Duke or Duchess descent, as they are too expensive for beef and too scarce to be profitable. The Texas cattle are very much improved since I wrote you, although most of them are *still pure* in their native state; their feeders have learnt to put much more beef upon them. They are now sent into Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, and Illinois, to be made up for market, by which they are wonderfully improved in character, and if *feed* should still add more to their bloom in the future, there may

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yet be a sale of such thoroughbreds. The following is a table of the weekly record:

WEEKLY RECORD OF TEXAN CATTLE SOLD AT UNION STOCK YARDS IN 1873.

Date.	No.	Extreme Range.		Average.
		dols. cts.	dols. cts.	dols. cts.
January 4	1,013	3 00 to	4 50	3 68
" 11	1,696	3 00	4 75	3 83¾
" 18	1,227	2 62	4 32	3 61¾
" 25	1,626	2 25	4 75	3 59¾
February 1	1,529	2 35	4 75	3 48½
" 8	1,312	1 50	4 35	3 24½
" 15	943	2 00	4 62	3 45¾
" 22	1,302	2 45	4 50	3 76⅜
March 1	1,536	2 75	5 00	3 83
" 8	1,460	3 25	4 75	3 96
" 15	1,240	2 95	5 00	3 92
" 22	1,655	3 00	5 12	4 23
" 29	1,829	3 37	5 75	4 65
April 5	1,353	4 30	5 65	4 87
" 12	2,248	3 00	5 25	4 44
" 19	1,510	3 85	5 25	4 25
" 26	2,441	3 62	5 40	4 73
May 3	1,906	3 50	5 25	4 56
" 10	2,074	3 25	5 50	4 56
" 17	1,837	3 50	5 20	4 63
" 24	1,642	3 75	5 12	4 71
" 31	2,893	3 37	5 50	4 78¾
June 7	2,807	3 30	5 25	4 60
" 14	3,040	2 50	5 25	4 09
" 21	4,329	2 25	5 20	4 15
" 28	3,977	2 12	5 00	3 90¾
July 5	2,447	2 62	4 87	4 01
" 12	3,661	2 40	5 50	4 07
" 19	4,456	2 00	4 90	3 45
" 26	3,221	2 25	5 50	3 62
August 2	3,078	2 00	4 75	3 38
" 9	6,238	2 00	5 25	3 48
" 16	5,512	1 80	4 50	3 02½
" 23	5,181	1 25	4 60	2 91
" 30	4,100	1 60	5 00	2 83
September ... 6	5,591	1 62	4 90	2 92
" ... 13	4,169	1 75	4 40	3 24
" ... 20	6,809	1 85	4 62	3 10
" ... 27	4,947	1 25	4 50	2 49
October 4	4,443	1 85	5 62	2 65
" 11	3,789	1 50	5 15	2 83
" 18	8,923	1 50	5 10	2 47
" 25	5,609	1 65	4 90	2 58
November 1	6,018	1 50	4 15	2 61
" 8	3,467	1 50	3 87	2 43
" 15	2,031	1 40	3 60	2 58
" 22	1,966	1 60	4 50	3 01
" 29	960	1 50	4 75	2 90⅜
December ... 6	2,448	1 75	4 55	2 83
" ... 13	4,456	1 55	4 40	2 82
" ... 20	1,444	1 75	4 00	2 85
" ... 27	960	2 00	4 25	3 30
" ... 31	611	2 25	4 30	3 51
Total...	156,990	2 34	4 86	3 58

Some of the stock in the yards to-day are first-class beef; thick in flesh. The sheep market is not so extensive as cattle and hogs, of which the following will give you some idea as to the extent: A friend of mine, Mr. John Soams, buys upwards of five thousand hogs per week during the year for the firm of John P. Squires and Co., East Cambridge, Mass. These are principally shipped to the English market in the shape of bacon, hams, and lard. This is one of the best business men in the country; his judgment is excellent, not only in stock, but in the spot selected for his house, which he has built in the most substantial manner; it is a mansion fit for a prince. The material in wood is of black walnut, and the interior corresponds with the exterior. I have been through many of the first-class houses in Chicago, but none that has pleased me more. It is ample to receive his many friends, and it is their own fault if they do not feel at home, for his desire is to make them so, supported by his better half. I spent the past two evenings there, and never met a more happy family, for the whole house is kept in order. Not only this, his eldest daughter, Mrs. G. W. Dean, came from New York to spend part of the summer with her parents, and I was delighted to hear her play and sing. This was cheering to me in my seventy-first year, and I shall embrace the kind invitation of another visit.

The whole establishment is under the superintendence of Mr. John B. Sherman, and, though so extensive, everything is done with the regularity of clockwork. The Transit House is kept by Messrs. Tucker and Sherman, and it corresponds with the whole—viands substantial and good, waiters attentive and good, and charges very moderate.

In connection with this establishment is the race-course, called Dexter Park, where are two tracks for running and trotting equal to any in this country. The running races have been held here this week, affording much sport; the trotting to be held on the 21st inst., and three following days, when some of the fastest horses in the country are expected.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

Transit House Stock Yards, WM. H. SOTHAM.
Chicago, July 4th, 1874.

THE SHORTHORN HERD BOOK.

At a meeting of the Committee at the house of Lord Penrhyn, on July 23rd, there were present: The Earl of Dunmore, Lord Penrhyn, Col. Kingscote, the Rev. J. Storer, Mr. Chandos Pole Gell, Mr. Hugh Aylmer, and Mr. T. C. Booth.

The formation and constitution of the Society was fully discussed, and it was decided to enlarge the number of the Committee to thirty; Mr. Harward, as Honorary Secretary, being directed to communicate with the gentlemen proposed to be added to the Committee. It was decided to form the Society (under the provisions of the Act) on the basis of a company formed for the purpose of carrying out a specific object without profit, and not as an ordinary trading Company. The articles of association were fully discussed, and the leading principles adopted.

A draft of the proposed agreement with Mr. Strafford was also fully discussed and adopted, and this has since been sent to Mr. Strafford for his approval.

Circulars are to be sent to all Shorthorn breeders, briefly detailing the purposes of the Society, and inviting them to become members.

The Committee decided not to entertain any question as to the appointment of editor or other officers for the present.

In nominating these new members, the Committee were desirous of having the various districts in which Shorthorns are bred, and the breeders of different families adequately represented.

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THE OUTGOING TENANT.

NISI PRIUS COURT, TUESDAY.—Before Lord Chief Justice COLERIDGE and a Special Jury.

Atkinson v. *Minet.*

Mr. Cole and Mr. Collins were counsel for the plaintiff, and Mr. Lopes and Mr. Murch for the defendant.

Mr. Collins opened the pleadings, the action being to recover the value of an outgoing crop of wheat of ten acres.—Mr. Cole said the plaintiff in this case, Mr. Atkinson, was a farmer, and he had brought an action against his landlord, Mr. Minet, who had since died, so that the action was now brought against his eldest daughter as executrix. The facts of the case were very simple. In 1842 the plaintiff entered into an agreement with Mr. Minet to grant him the lease of Revel's Farm, the tenant at that time being Mrs. Kinsman. The tenancy was to commence on Lady-day, and it was arranged that the plaintiff should pay the outgoing tenant for the crop of wheat which had been sown—about £130—and it was stated in the agreement that when the plaintiff went out of possession he was to be entitled to take off a crop of wheat not exceeding ten acres. The parties acted upon this agreement for seven years, but at the end of that time no fresh agreement was made, and the tenancy was afterwards yearly until 1855, when a fresh lease was drawn up for another term. This expired in 1869, and from that time until 1872 the plaintiff went on a yearly tenancy, paying his rent from year to year. The tenancy expired at Lady-day, 1872, and then, of course, when the plaintiff was about to leave he looked to be paid for his outgoing crop of wheat in the same manner as he had paid when he entered on the farm. It appeared the landlord, Mr. Minet, had the notion that because there had been no intermediate lease granted, and nothing had been said about his being entitled to take off the outgoing crop, that plaintiff was not entitled to anything when he went out. The law, however, provided that where the custom of a county was that a person going out of a farm was to be entitled to the same terms as he came in, although there might be a lease, he was entitled to claim the custom in respect to his outgoing crop.—Mr. Lopes contended it was not the custom of the county for tenants to take away outgoing crops.—Mr. Cole stated that the defendant had paid into court £26 for the value of the wheat crop of 10 acres, which he considered was sufficient to pay for the labour and tillage. In that respect he was wrong, as the cost of tillage and 36 bushels of seed-wheat cost £29 6s. 6d. If the law was against his client, he (Mr. Cole) must say it was a very hard law, as the plaintiff had paid for the wheat crop when he went on the farm, and he expected of course to be treated on the same terms when he went out.—His lordship remarked he could not see the law was very hard, as an agreement might easily have been made.—Mr. Cole then read some correspondence which had passed between the plaintiff and the defendant, in which the latter addressed the former as plain "Atkinson," and in his first letter said "that the lease must be our guide." Unless he gave up his "hollow claim" he (the defendant) should proceed against him, and his opposition would only lead him to expense. The defendant further stated that this was the last letter and the last "piece of advice plaintiff would receive from his landlord and well-wisher." Owing to Mr. Atkinson being ill, Mr. Symonds replied to this letter, stating that plaintiff would quit on the same terms as he entered. To this the defendant wrote another letter, saying for the last time he cautioned Atkinson that there was a lease, which he should act upon, and if he did not give up possession of the farm he should eject him. In another letter defendant warned him "for the last time," stating that he wanted his rent paid and his farm given up. To this Mr. Giles Symonds replied that Mr. Atkinson would not be prepared to pay any rent whilst defendant disputed as to the outgrowing crop of wheat. If defendant wanted possession of the farm plaintiff was willing to leave the matter to a valuer.—The plaintiff, in the course of his evidence, said the custom with respect to a Lady-day tenancy was for the incoming tenant to take off the outgoing wheat crop. In cross-examination he said he knew such was the custom in Warwickshire and Surrey, and he knew how tenants came out in his own neighbourhood, although they held in various ways. He tilled ten acres of wheat and sowed seed for it.—Mr. Giles Symonds, auctioneer and valuer, said in most cases in this neighbourhood a tenant having a Lady-day tenancy was entitled to take off the outgrowing crop of wheat.—His lordship said before a person could swear as to custom he must know in what respect a farm was held. There were many difficulties in proving custom. He did not see there was any hardship in this case; it was simply a question of law on both sides. The planitiff in this case bought, when he went into the farm, the outgoing crop. He took the land on lease, in which it was provided that he should be paid for his outgoing crop. Another lease was then granted him containing no such provisions, yet in the face of this the plaintiff sowed his land when he had no outgoing crop, and the defendant in order to settle matters said he was willing to pay a certain sum, when in point of law he was not bound to do so.—On the recommendation of the learned judge, as the parties concerned could not come to terms, the plaintiff's counsel agreed to a nonsuit, which was accordingly entered.

EAST ANGLIAN FARMERS' CENTRAL BOARD OF CONSULTATION.

The members of the several Farmers' Defence Associations in the Eastern District met the Consultation Committee of the West Suffolk Association, by invitation, at the residence of its Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. Stanley, of Bury St. Edmund's, to consider the constitution of a Central Board of Consultation for the discussion of questions of policy affecting such associations, without prejudice to the independent action of each. The proposal for the formation of a Board of this kind had emanated from the Committee sitting at Bury St. Edmund's and had already gained the approval of all the associations consulted. The chair was taken by Mr. B. B. Hunter Rodwell, Q.C., Chairman of the West Suffolk Farmers' Defence Association, which was also represented by the Marquis of Bristol, P. Huddleston, Esq., Mr. Henry Stanley, Mr. Walton Burrell (Fornham St. Martin), Mr. G. Gayford (Barrow), Mr. W. Harvey (Timworth), Mr. W. Harvey (Wattisham), Mr. W. N. King (Great Barton), Mr. J. H. Turner (Horringer), and Mr. Salmon (Solicitor to the Association). The following were also present as representatives of other Defence Associations: Mr. Martin Slater, of Cheveley, and Mr. George Robins, of Isleham, for the Newmarket Association; Mr. T. J. Gayford, of Hargham, for the Norfolk Association; Mr. Chas. Mainprice and Mr. Wm. Mainprice, of Ely, for the Isle of Ely Association; Mr. R. Attenborough, of Sawtry, and Mr. C. P. Tebbutt, of Huntingdon, for the Huntingdon Association; Mr. J. S. Gardiner, of Borley Lodge, Sudbury, for the Essex and Suffolk Association; Mr. Richardson, for the Colchester and East Essex Association; Mr. John Burrell, of Littlebury, for the Saffron Walden Association; Mr. W. Johnson, of Hancheston, for the Wilford Hundred Association; and Mr. J. Sherwood of Leiston, for the Saxmundham District. The aggregate assessment of the members of these Associations may be taken at an average of at least £50,000 each association. The Chairman having opened the proceedings, the meeting proceeded to discuss the rules, which were unanimously agreed to in the following form:

1. That this Board be called "The East Anglian Farmers' Central Board of Consultation," and be composed of representatives of the several Farmers' Defence Associations in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, the Isle of Ely, and Huntingdonshire.

2. That the Board shall have power to admit representatives from other similar associations.

3. That the object of the Board shall be to discuss and advise on all questions affecting the interests of such associations without prejudice to the independent action of each, but with a view to secure one uniform course of policy as far as practicable.

4. That each association shall in the first instance be entitled to send not more than two representatives to the Board, but that the Board shall have power to give additional representatives to each district association if it shall be deemed expedient.

5. That in cases of emergency, or upon the requisition of any association, the chairman of the Board may call a special meeting of the Board at such time and place as he may appoint.

6. That the first general meeting of the Board should be held in the month of September next, at Bury St. Edmund's, the day to be fixed by the Chairman, and that the subsequent annual meetings shall be held in the month of June, the day and place to be fixed by the Board at its previous meetings.

7. That the expenses of the Board shall be borne in equal proportions by its members.

Mr. W. N. KING proposed the appointment of Mr. Hunter Rodwell as Chairman of the Board, and as the motion met with unanimous concurrence, Mr. Rodwell consented to take the office. Mr. Francis Ford was appointed secretary.

THE EDUCATION OF THE FARMER.

At the half-yearly general meeting of the members of the Cheshire Chamber of Agriculture at Knutsford, the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton, M.P., presided over a very meagre attendance.

The CHAIRMAN said he wished particularly to call attention to the outbreak again of foot-and-mouth disease in the county. It was with great regret he did so, because he had hoped when that disease disappeared last autumn the county would have been clear of it for some years to come. They now found, however, that the disease was spreading throughout the county, and that the local authority, who previously had some power to control the disease by the inspection of farms, were at present unable to do so, as the power was withdrawn by the Privy Council. In reference to this matter it was felt that Cheshire was exceptionally situated. It was close to one or two of the large seaports at which Irish cattle were constantly landed, and therefore such animals were exposed in the fairs of this county; and the fact of the cattle having undergone a sea passage predisposed them to affection by foot-and-mouth disease after reaching land. It might be said it was impossible to stamp out the disease except by slaughtering, which would not be tolerated by agriculturists generally and the evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons confirmed that. But he must observe that there was a great difference between stamping it out and limiting the centres of disease. The former probably the local authority could not do. He thought, however, it was quite possible if some power were conferred upon the local authority they could prevent the centres of disease being increased, inasmuch as they might prohibit the exposure of animals which had been recently in contact with the disease, or the removal of such cattle from one part of the country to another. The Orders in council were repealed last year on account of the report of the committee which sat upon the subject of contagious diseases, and the Privy Council were not likely to renew those orders unless there were some expression of opinion by agriculturists, now that the disease had broken out afresh. The committee who sat upon the question only contained 6 English county members—representing Huntingdon, Norfolk, Leicester, Essex, Sussex, and Northumberland—and in considering the evidence given by that committee it should be remembered that the two great dairy counties, Cheshire and Somersetshire, were not represented on the committee. Besides, out of 47 witnesses examined there were only eight or nine who were English farmers, while the rest consisted of veterinary surgeons, scientific gentlemen connected with different counties or with the Privy Council, and a good number of those interested in the Irish cattle trade; consequently, he thought it could hardly be said that the agricultural witnesses were so numerous as to influence the decision of the committee. There was not a single agricultural witness in favour of the repeal of the Orders in Council, and the only witness who spoke in favour of the removal of the restrictions was Mr. Verdon, a cattle salesman, of Liverpool. Under these circumstances, he thought it was desirable that the chamber should memorialise the Privy Council to give the local authority some power, and if that power were given it would be for the local authority to decide how it should be used. He did not wish other counties to be forced to carry out these regulations against their will. Therefore the orders should be permissive.

Mr. CARTER—Would it include this county only?

The CHAIRMAN said the regulations might be adopted in any county, but other counties should not be forced to adopt them against their will.

Mr. CARTER thought it would be useless unless the regulations were observed in Lancashire.

Mr. G. SLATER moved that a memorial be sent to the Privy Council according to the suggestion in the report.

Mr. FAIR having seconded the motion,

Mr. DUTTON said that he did not rise to oppose it, but he thought that more depended upon the care exercised by farmers in the purchase of stock than upon any enactments of the law. Foot-and-mouth was very different from pleuro-pneumonia, and he thought it was very desirable to check it, and strongly objected to anything like the system in operation last year. It was utterly impossible to prevent the movement of cattle unless they could in some way control the importation of cattle from Ireland. When a lot of Irish stock was brought into the market there was a strong temptation to purchase for a pound or thirty shillings a head less if it could be done instead of paying a proper price and getting cattle free from disease. They purchased at a low price, and that was the foundation of a large portion of the disease.

Mr. G. SLATER; I suppose that if the disease broke out in Mr. Dutton's stock he would wish to have the liberty to sell those which he considered healthy, say 49 out of 50 to different customers.

Mr. DUTTON: I said nothing of the kind. I deny it. What I said was this, that the Legislature had no right to prohibit me from selling a portion of my stock.

Mr. G. SLATER: Exactly; that is what I mean.

Mr. DUTTON: Why didn't you say it.

Mr. SLATER: I hope I shall not misrepresent you. I was trying to give the logical result of your argument. If a man is left at liberty to sell his stock, there is many a scoundrel who would do it, and Mr. Dutton thinks be cause you cannot carry out the law in all its details that you should do nothing.

Mr. DUTTON: Not at all.

Mr. SLATER: Well, I understand you to say you would let things remain as they are.

Mr. G. W. LATHAM read a paper on "The Education of the Agriculturists." In commencing he said: The education of the agriculturait means, practically, the education of a large part of the people of England, and that a scattered population, distributed up and down the country, and seldom collected in one town. It means the education of those who, from weather, distance, and the necessities of the seasons, are least able to attend school regularly. It means the education of those who, from their parentage and their associations, have less perhaps than any other class, any influences to awaken their imagination, and rouse their intellect. It means the education of a class who have few opportunities when the age is come at which they cease to go to school, to keep up their learning or go on with their knowledge. In many cases, alas, it means a struggle against indecency and immorality found in wretched homes; against corrupt and evil communications of companions; against bad influences and cold indifference of all who ought to warn or encourage. But more than this. The education of the agriculturist implies the early teaching of another class—of the future employer as well as the future employed. It implies the education of the landlord as well as the farmer, of the farmer as well as the labourer, and of these three classes I believe, at present, the education is imperfect. Can we doubt that if these classes had known more, had been trained better, had learnt some of the doctrines, if not of political economy, at all events of Christian charity, that wretched struggle we have seen lately in the East of England would have been more easily re-adjusted? Can we doubt that if there was a more general education those twin curses of English life, pauperism and crime, would sensibly diminish? After giving some statistics to show that ignorance was the fruitful source of crime and pauperism, he proceeded to argue that it was the duty of Government to protect society against these evils, and to do so by enforcing education. He went on to say that this obligation the Legislature had at all events partially acknowledged, and speaking of the Education Act, he expressed his regret that the present authorities of the Council of Education should have thought it necessary or expedient to alter the standard of education which the children of pauper parents were obliged to reach before they could be exempted from attendance at school. But by a further Act of last session a more general measure for indirect compulsion in the case of children employed in agriculture became law. No child between eight and twelve can be employed in any agricultural labour—exception being made for hay harvest, corn harvest, and hop picking, or in cases where the justices of the division may for a period of not more than eight weeks suspend the Act—unless, being under ten, he has made 250 school attendances, or being above ten he has made 150 school attendances, during the preceding year, or can produce a certificate showing that he has passed a certain standard of education; and the employer is liable to a penalty

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of £5 if he wilfully employs a child without such a certificate either of attendance or of proficiency. The standard is miserably low, and indeed the Committee of Council have been obliged to lower it, from the discovery that it was impossible to expect more. But, at all events, it is obligatory that every child employed in agricultural labour should have had an opportunity of learning something. Take our own class, take a child reared up in an intelligent home, sent early to school, kept there from 12 to 18, spending its holidays among educated people; and how often does that education turn out to be a sham and a delusion? I remember a young squire in Cheshire, owner of a good many thousands a-year, being reproached with some mistakes in spelling after he had been at Eton for a term, turning round and saying, "Well, at all events I am better than my uncles, for they can neither read nor write;" and if with all advantages this is sometimes the case, what must be the case when education at school ends probably at 12 and certainly at 14? Is there no way in which we can contrive to enable that education to be continued? It is a question rather for the practical agriculturist than for myself to consider; but I cannot but believe that there are times and seasons when a boy might be spared from farm work, and as a condition of his engagement be sent to school during some part of the day. I believe, too, that a system which our late President, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, tried at Tatton, of having one set of boys one week and another for another, might, with certain modifications to suit the tenant-farmers, work successfully. I confess that I do not see how in purely agricultural and scattered populations the night-school can work, when the pupil tired with labour, and by an extra walk to the school, can hardly be expected to have his mind very fresh or his faculties very clear. He advocated lending libraries, because, he said, agricultural labourers as a class seem not to know what to do with their spare time in the winter evenings, and it is fortunate if the hero-worship of some older farm-servant, the desire to be thought bold men before they have ceased to be weak children, and the love of adventure, do not lead them into the public-house and even into crime. On this point, then, I will sum up my opinions by saying that the Legislature has done something—not, perhaps, all it should, but all it dares. The gap it has left is for you, as employer, to fill up. By your example and by your advice try to persuade the agricultural labourer to carry on the education he has begun at school. One of our present statesmen told us, "We must educate our masters." I tell you that by educating our servants alone can we hope to remain masters, for else the world, the flesh, and the devil will be masters, and the labourer will serve them and neglect us. After drawing a very flattering picture of the state of education in Scotland, where the shepherd on the hillside is to be found reading his Greek Testament, Mr. Latham continued: But if I am sometimes inclined to despair of any great advance in the education of the agricultural labourer, until, as in Scotland, the nation is as a rule educated, and parents have begun to recognise the necessity of making sacrifices of present comfort and additional wages earned by their children, in order to secure to them the advantages of education, the case is far different when I come to the second branch of my subject—the education of agricultural employers. I believe that in this case we have first the desire for education, and secondly the means of supplying it, and all that is wanted is organisation, and the application of means to an end. No one who knows the tenant-farmer of Cheshire can doubt that of late years he has improved in many ways. I do not speak of my present hearers They are, doubtless, the aristocracy of intellect among their brotherhood, they desire to learn, and are in most cases capable of teaching, or else they would not be members of this Chamber; but I speak of the general class of farmers, large and small, scattered up and down the several divisions of this county. Perhaps, in many cases, they are both timid and obstinate. Afraid of introducing new-fangled improvements, wedded to a fault to their old-fashioned ways, disposed somewhat to hesitation in an expenditure of capital, too much in awe of the landlord or the agents, and sometimes, spite of all their caution and cunning, apt to be taken in by the humbug of a clever rascal. In some classes, doubtless, they are far from intellectual or refined; the temptations of a rent-day or a market-day are too much for their sobriety. But, on the whole, I believe that as a class they are sensibly improved and improving. Yet who can doubt that if they had the opportunities of a thorough education, the benefits they would receive thereby must lift them up even more rapidly. And if the employé is to be educated, in the same proportion at least so should be the employed. Now, up to this time what has been the usual education of the future employer of labour? He has been sent to the national school, and stayed there probably a year or two years longer than the sons of his father's labourers. If he has lived near a town, he has been sent to some private or old-fashioned grammar-school. In the holidays he has done some work on the farm, and frequently if there was a horse to drive or an odd job to do he has been kept at home, sometimes even, in a busy time of the year, saving the quarter's fees and the employment of an extra hand, by staying away from school altogether. His education has as a rule been desultory, superficial, and unsystematic. He has been taught no one thing specially useful to him as a farmer, and been so imperfectly grounded as to have small power of acquiring future knowledge. He has picked up some reading, some power of writing, some arithmetic, but has had little encouragement at home to advance his studies, and every temptation that a boy can have to be idle and amuse himself when the few hours of school are over. He is regarded as a hero by the labourers, flattered into self-conceit by his father's workmen, has no accurate knowledge of any one subject, no intellectual training by which he can pursue any definite study. Is not the wonder greater that so many turn out well, spite of all these disadvantages, than that a proportion go to the bad under the system? Of course a boy educated in this way gets a sort of technical training. He knows by observation what is a fair day's work, what a pig or a calf ought to weigh. He can learn by experience the results of feeding and cropping, and may fight his way up to being a good and money-making farmer. But is this all we want of our great rural middle class? Is this enough—I was going to say for the safety of society, but I will put it even lower—for man's great at happiness? Some knowledge of chemistry, of botany, of geology, would be useful to him in his profession, as well as increase his every-day's pleasures, whilst power to read, to appreciate the history of the past, to compare it with the possibilities of the future, would make him a better citizen, more fit to exercise influence himself, less subject to the undue influence of passion, prejudice, or fear, that are occasionally exercised upon him. How, without casting a burden upon the parents greater than can be borne, are we to conceive that the opportunities of a thoroughly good education can be offered to every farmer's son? Doubtless there will be cases where such opportunities will not be accepted, or, if accepted, appreciated, but the first thing is to find how they can be offered. Now, in the first place, I say that I distrust all education when it is carried on at home, and that home an average farm-house. I believe that a boy requires far more than the few hours' intellectual teaching that he gets by going to school, when he is resident at home, and that home is not one where, by the tuition of parents or relatives, his training can be carried on so as to supplement the school teaching. A boy wants the constant training of the playground as well as of the school. He wants to be taught temper and forbearance. He wants to find his level among his fellow-boys, who some day will be his fellow-men. He ought to be rid of the temptation to put by his book from school-time to school-time, to be rid of the flattery and subservience of his father's servants. His intellect will be freer in an atmosphere which all day is full of learning, and when he finds those associated with him at school are also his companions in play. I say therefore that the education to be preferred for a farmer's son is one which is carried on away from home with the usual interval of rest for master and pupil. I say, too, that to obtain this it is worth any father's while to make sacrifices greater than any which I believe to be necessary for this object. I do not ask for the sacrifices that a Scotch crofter or a small Welsh farmer will make to give his sons a college education—an education which from age answers somewhat to that of our grammer schools. I ask only that from the age of 13 to 16 the mothers should be contented to see their sons at rare intervals, and that a sum something beyond the cost of the boy's maintenance at home shall be bestowed on his better education at a middle-class school. Mr. Latham then went on to say that, as a starting-point for our middle-class school, he could not help looking at the old foundations of grammar-schools which existed in Cheshire. Primary education was cared for out of the public purse. They had therefore the whole amount of these old endowments available

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either for middle-class education directly or indirectly by a system of exhibitions from our national schools to the middle-class schools for boys who had shown talent and power of rising. If they could avail themselves in some measure of these old foundations, if they could utilise the buildings and masters, a payment of £33 or £35 per annum per head would provide food and teaching for schools of 100 boys each. If they could not do this, then as in Suffolk, in Surrey, and Devonshire, they might make an effort—build plain and simple buildings for their own use, raise the money by shares taken either by landlords or by the larger tenant-farmers, manage the establishment by a council of the wisest and most discreet among them, sure that the improvement of the rising generation would recompense them a hundredfold for the outlay. He gave an illustration of a school in the county which had aimed too high, and to show that what the sons of Cheshire farmers and Cheshire tradesmen wanted was an education to suit them for the now more difficult battle of life, he quoted a passage from the report of Mr. Wright on the Endowed Grammer Schools of Cheshire, which, he said, proves two things—first, that there are middle-class schools in this county, but not enough for the population if they are to be used simply as day-schools; secondly, that though these schools exist, they are not used to their full extent. I would propose to do away with the first evil by making one, two, three, or four of them into boarding-schools, as we might find the numbers required; and the second evil by shaping the instruction to the wants of the pupils, and thereby making the schools useful and popular. As far as I can see, there are endowments for schools in agricultural districts, excluding Macclesfield and Stockport, of some £1,500 per annum. In some places, as I have told you, there is accommodation ready, and I believe it would be well worth the effort before we embarked on any scheme of building a central school to see if, with the help of the Endowed Schools Commissioners, and with the goodwill of the trustees of these schools, we could not shape out some satisfactory plan. I can conceive no object more worthy of the attention of a Chamber of Agriculture than to promote the education of agriculturists; and I trust that before we part this day the Chamber will appoint a committee, or request its council to consider the whole subject, with powers to consult the Endowed School Commissioners if they think it desirable. I have hitherto said nothing about technical education; not that I undervalue it, as any who know me can testify, but because I think that in the education of our labourers employers the first step is to get a good general education, and to leave the technical education to follow in cases where it is necessary. Doubtless the best technical education for the farm labourer is to be found in work on the farm, and the discipline of hand and eye that follows practice in agricultural work. Doubtless, too, for their future employers a year or two at Cirencester College, or on some farm other than his father's, is a great advantage; and the early teaching of botany and the rudiments of chemistry may be given at our proposed middle-class school. But in the third branch of the subject—the education of the landowner—I shall speak only of technical education. The education of the sons of our large landowners is to be found in half-a-dozen famous schools—Oxford, Cambridge, the army and navy, and certain posts in the public service—supposed to be fit for gentlemen. These are the schools, all or any of which give a training, a stamp, a cast of ideas, which make a sort of association of those who share them, and the association is the upper class. This cast of ideas has both its good and its bad side; but I think that one may say, as a result of the teaching as a whole, that the class is characterised by a high spirit, by dignity, and by governing qualities. On the other hand it is wanting in an indisposition and incapacity for systematic knowledge and scientific learning. But be the education what it may, I believe that much technical and special learning is necessary before a man can become a good landlord. He may be a good-natured landlord; he may be an improving landlord, but unless he understands something of the science of agriculture—what land should do and what a tenant ought to do—he can never be a good landlord. He may, at considerable expense to himself, learn, by the experience of a home-farm, something of the difficulties of agriculture; or he may by study at Cirencester or elsewhere, arrive at some idea of practice and science; or, as our great landowners wisely do, he may abrogate his functions and entrust his duties to a part-professional adviser, called an agent. Speaking merely of the education of a landowner in his relation to his tenants and to the land he holds, I believe that he is the wisest man who has the least confidence in himself, who trusts mainly to professional advice, and who joins a knowledge of human nature and a power of finding out a man whom he can trust, with a thorough disbelief in his own power—unless he has received a professional training for the purpose—to manage his own estates. But a landowner has, to my mind, another training which is requisite to enable him to perform the ordinary duties of his calling, to go through. A landlord, be he large or be he small, is likely to have more time to spare than an occupier of land; and from that circumstance, as well as from his social position, will frequently be called upon to fill a position to which his neighbours have elected him, and to take part in the local government of the country. Is it possible that he can do this without some knowledge of the truths of political economy, without some acquaintance with social science, without some ideas of natural science, and without in many cases, some training to interpret an Act of Parliament? Now, great and good as I consider the training of our schools and colleges to be, much as I value the army and navy as schools for practical knowledge of men and manners—and in this county we ought never to forget that to the training of the army we owe the many reforms which, aided by his strong practical common sense and active mind, our late chairman of quarter sessions was able to carry out—I think that just in these points does their teaching fail utterly. I confess that week after week, meeting after meeting, am I shocked to find that educated men, for whose opinion on many things I have the highest respect, can ignore the first principle of political economy, can ruthlessly ride over the easiest teaching of social science. They are led away by their compassion, by some idea of economy, some fear of infringing the liberty of the subject, and in consequence what they intend by compassion is really cruelty, their professed economy ultimate extravagance, their so-called liberty of the subject slavery to the worst prejudices and habits of mankind. The blind lead the blind, and those who should be in advance of others, able to combat with the prejudices of those less educated than themselves, are really on these topics as little educated as those who follow and look up to them. But how can we hope to remedy this, to me, the greatest evil of our faults is education? It is not so much a want of education as of special training in certain matters. Much may, and I trust will be done by the future responsibilities which enlarged local government will throw on individuals. Men will educate themselves for the occasion. Much could be done if our universities would make such subjects a special object in their training. But I feel that, after all, as long as property alone gives position and influence, as long as riches are able to overpower all other aristocracy, we must be at the mercy of those who can educate themselves, or not, as they choose, and must trust to the good sense of our rulers and to the influence of public opinion to prevent their meddling in matters of which they are positively ignorant. In this case, alas! where it is most needed we can have no compulsory education. I have spoken so far, of what can be done for the education of the agriculturist—to the employed, employer, or landowner, by voluntary effort. But before I conclude I should be cowardly to conceal from you my opinion that such efforts, unsystematic and ill-regulated as they must necessarily be, can never cover the whole ground of secondary education. Of primary education I need no longer speak, for I think that the ground will by and by, when the country is better prepared for it, be fairly covered by a national system. It strikes me that in our middle-class and upper class education, we have an easy-going absence of system, a powerlessness and indifference of the state, a fatal independence in single institutions, a free course for abuse, a waste of power, and a poverty of result, which is mainly owing to our disregarding the laws which rule modern society. In France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland, education exists by having the commune and the municipal government as its foundation, and could not exist without them. Here in our country districts we have at present only the ecclesiastical organisation of the middle ages. The real preliminary to an effective system of education is to provide the counties with effective local government, to allow the means of education therein, to be utilized for a common object, to do away with all parochialism, and to throw revenues together under a system which will at once both benefit individual parishes and promote the good of the

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county. If we could in each county provide a local organization which, trusted as it would be with the home rule of that county, would among its other duties direct the education; if those chosen to rule the country were, as I take it they would be, those who possessed the confidence of their constituents, we should see the endowments, at present hardly utilised, if not, indeed, wasted, turned to some good purpose. We should have a system by which the boy might rise from the National school to the County-school, from the County school to a Central school, from the Central school to the University. We should have an assurance that talent and industry would meet with their rewards. Our education would cease to be a quackery, but become real and efficient, and the education of the agriculturist would be assured, as the best that could be given to him under the ever-varying circumstances—as must happen in each county—of the position he is to occupy in his after life.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure he was only giving expression to the feeling of the Chamber when he said that their thanks were due to Mr. George Latham for his very able paper. The paper was really more comprehensive than the heading of it—The Education of Agriculturists—would have led them to expect. It was really an essay on the present state of education in this country as it affected all classes, and there were few classes which were not in some way or other connected with land interests. The paper touched upon the education of the labourer, the farmer and the landowner, and many of the suggestions which had been made were well worthy of their consideration; but still, what they had more especially to look to in that Chamber, was the education of the middle classes, and that was the point to which Mr. Latham attached the most importance. He had justly said that the education of the labourer was to a certain extent provided for by the Elementary Education Act, nor did he expect that the Chamber would attempt to interfere with the education of those in our great public schools, who would compose the land-holding class. Public opinion had already done much to improve the education of the higher classes of this country, and no doubt would do more, and he (the chairman) did not think that any recommendation which they might make would be likely to have any effect in inducing people to qualify themselves in a better manner than they did at present for the position of the landowner; but he agreed with Mr. Latham that the Chamber might do something to further the education of the middle class or farming class of this county. It seemed to him (the chairman) that this county stood in a position different from that of other counties, for many of the farmers were very little above the agricultural labourers. Many of them went to school until they reached the age of thirteen or fourteen and obtained some education, but went to work on the farm, and so long as that was the case—as it not be expected that they could would spend three or four more years at school in order to get a technical or scientific knowledge of agriculture—so long there would be no amendment in their education. Much might be done, however, by having agricultural schools, at which some special training could be given to the sons of farmers up to the ages of thirteen or fourteen. To show them that agriculturists were not altogether unmindful of the question of technical education in regard to agriculture, he stated what had been done by the Royal Agricultural Society as shown in their report. This was the framing of a scheme by the head masters of certain schools for the systematic study of agricultural chemistry, applied mechanics, &c., and competitive examinations in the same, the most successful students being rewarded by scholarships. He was sorry to find that there was no school in this county at which the scholars could study and compete with those of other schools. and he hoped before long there would be such.

Sir HARRY MAINWARING did not quite agree with Mr. Latham. He (Sir Harry) thought the education of the eyes was worth a great deal more than the education of the head. Therefore he would suggest now what he suggested thirty years ago, that every farmer should send his son into another county at the age of thirteen, and when he came back in two years' time he would turn out better than if he had been to a school where they taught German, geology, the pianoforte, and all the rest of the accomplishments. He did not like that, and he hoped there would never be such schools for farmers' sons. Send a boy into Sussex, where he would see very fferent things to what he saw here.

Mr. CARTER endorsed what Mr. Latham had said, and it was then decided to adjourn the discussion till the next general meeting.

THE RABBIT AS AN ELECTIONEERING AGENT.—Mr. Justice Mellor reports that it was proved that at Launceston Colonel James Henry Deakin was guilty of a corrupt practice within the true intent and meaning of the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act, 1854: "I was perfectly satisfied by the evidence that Mr. Deakin had endeavoured to remove all serious cause of complaint on the part of his tenants, in respect to damages by rabbits by employing trappers, and by urging upon his bailiff and gamekeeper his great desire that the rabbits should be kept down; and it appeared from a correspondence between Mr. Cowlard, his solicitor and agent, and himself, that in the month of December previous to the election he was informed that the rent audit was just over, and that the only discordant element was 'the rabbit damage,' and Mr. Cowlard proposed to Mr. Deakin that, with reference to certain of the tenants who had strongly urged their complaints, for the future the money arising from the sale of the rabbits should be divided into three parts, and, assuming the price of a rabbit to be 9d., that one-third should be assigned to the trapper, another third to the keepers, and the remaining third divided between the tenants who might have sustained damage. Mr. Deakin at once agreed to the suggestion, and I am satisfied that he did not desire or intend to keep any part of the proceeds of the sale of the rabbits for his own use, although he did intend to keep the control of the fund in his own power. I think that he was not aware of the extent of the excitement from the rabbit question until his arrival on the 28th of January, and that his resolution to make the promise which he did make on the 29th with regard to the killing and appropriation of the rabbits by the tenants was made on the spur of the moment without reflection, and without considering that what might have been a very reasonable and even laudable proceeding on his part at another time, when disconnected with the election, was an illegal proceeding during a contest for the representation of the borough, at which he was a candidate. Unfortunately, the report of his speech on the 29th of January was printed and circulated the next day by his agents, and his proposal and promise was commented on and approved by his solicitor and agent at the meeting held on the 30th of January, after the nomination and before the poll. Still, I think that neither he nor his agents were at all aware of the extent and effect of the provisions of the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act. This may be accounted for by the fact, stated to me at the hearing, that only one contest has taken place for the borough of Launceston during the last two hundred years, and that such contest occurred at the time of the passing of the first Reform Act, and I think that, inasmuch as the representation of Launceston had always followed the ownership of the estate which Mr. Deakin had purchased in the year 1872, he and his agents were entirely taken by surprise at there being a serious contest at the last election. In the result, although I am quite satisfied that the facts of the case properly avoided the election, I regret the serious disqualifications which flow personally to Mr. Deakin from my decision, and which, as I think, should be reserved for the baser forms of bribery."—[Of course the question which at once arises here is why should the trapper or keeper claim any share in the money for which the rabbits are sold? They might almost as reasonably claim a share in the sheep or any other stock kept on the farm.—EDITOR.]

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, CIRENCESTER.—Diploma awarded to (full marks 1,800) Monckton, John Henry, Breswood, Staffordshire—1,418. Brewitt, George William, Old Gauldaloupe, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire—1,415. Way, Henry, Dodpitts, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight—1,375. Drewry, Frank Holker, Cark-in-Carkmel, Lancashire—1,341. Rouse, Martin Luther, Balham House, Balham, London, S.W.—1,200. Holland Medal.—John Henry Monckton. Scholarships.—First scholarship to Brewitt, Wilson, Moconchy. Second scholarship to Burn Murdoch, Ward, Mahony.

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THE SOIL—ITS ORIGIN AND GEOLOGICAL RELATIONS.

A LECTURE BY MR. JAMIESON, THE FORDYCE LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE AT MARISCHAL COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.

Seeing that the mineral matter of the soil has been derived from the rocks and strata of which the crust of the earth is composed, we may expect to find that the character of the soil will vary with the geological nature of the rock on which it rests, and will depend a good deal upon it, and that if we had a geological map before us we could trace out the boundaries of different classes of soil by the colours which indicate the distribution of the various kinds of rock. In this expectation, however, we should find ourselves often much deceived. It would doubtless be the case that a close connection would be observed between the nature of the soil and the strata beneath it if the soil had resulted from direct decomposition of the subjacent rock. But this is seldom the case, for it is not often that we find the substance of the rock to have gradually mouldered down into a soil, and to have remained undisturbed in the same spot. The wasted matter is generally carried off to some distance—often to a very great distance—from the locality that furnished it. The various agencies I have already alluded to—the rivers, and glaciers, and ocean currents—bear off the material and carry it far away, so that we frequently find the mineral matter of the soil bears no relation whatever to the actual rock on which it reposes. Take, for example, the soil of Egypt. The fine alluvial loam of that country has been brought down hundreds of miles from the far interior of Africa by the river Nile, and has nothingto do with the rock which immediately underlies it. Its source is far away among the mountains, beside the great lakes at the head of the river. And in our own country we find that the boulders and pebbles of the soil of any particular field have often come from remote localities, and that even the mass of earthy matter in which they are embedded may also have been transported from a distance. The glaciers in htis instance have probably been the means of transport, or floating ice, when the country was under water. The geological map, therefore, requires to be used with discrimination, and it becomes necessary to bear in mind the way in which Nature goes to work on these matters. The maps show the distribution of the various classes of rock, but we have none as yet that show the distribution of different soils; and the barren or fertile nature of a farm cannot often be inferred from the nature of the rock that lies below it. The character of the soil depends more upon the loose, superficial, earthy matter that covers the rock than upon the solid strata themselves, and these superficial deposits have not been sufficiently studied as yet to enable us to map them with any degree of accuracy. It is true they have been derived originally from the rocks, but they have been carried in various directions, and drifted hither and thither, so that in many cases they do not lie upon the rocks from which they have proceeded. This is one reason why we cannot get the information from a geological map in regard to the soils of a country that we might have at first expected. Although, therefore, we cannot draw any nice distinctions, nor tell whether a farm will be a good one or not, merely because it lies on this or that kind of rock, yet taking a broader view of the matter, we can perceive some connection between the two sets of facts, and, without asking you to follow me into a long disquisition on the various geological formations (which I think would be out of place here), I shall touch briefly on a few points that seem to me to be worthy of notice, and, in doing so, I shall confine myself to the rocks and soils of our own country. The greater part of the North of Scotland, what we are accustomed to term the Highlands, consists of the older crystalline rocks, the gneiss, mica-slate, quartz-rock, clay slate, and granite. These rocks are generally of a hard solid nature, and do not yield readily to the weather, and when they do moulder down, they give rise to soils which are commonly not very difficult to work, and are well adapted for the cultivation of oats and turnips, being of a light, free, or friable texture, unlike the heavy clays of England, some of which can scarcely be ploughed by a pair of horses. These rocks of our Scottish Highlands have been the source from whence a great part of the superficial deposits have been derived that overspread the lower grounds of the surrounding districts, the glaciers and rivers having both flowed downwards from the mountain chains and great watersheds of the Highlands. Now, the mineral nature of these rocks explains some of the peculiarities of our Scottish soils, especially in the northern counties. There is a great deficiency of phosphates and of lime in all these rocks, and consequently we find that our Scottish soils, as a rule, are very much wanting in these ingredients. No doubt there are some beds of limestone here and there among our Highland mountains, but they are too local and of too limited extent to affect the general character of the district; and consequently we find our Scottish rivers contain far less lime than those of England. This gives the water a softer character, and makes it more suitable for washing with. The analyses of our Scottish soils, also, as a rule, exhibit a much smaller per-centage of lime than those of England, and those of the North of Scotland are poorer in this ingredient than even the soils of the Midland and Southern Counties. The same remark applies to the phosphoric acid. In all the soils derived from these old rocks, the gneiss, granite, &c., there is a marked deficiency of phosphoric acid, and hence the great demand for bone-dust, superphosphate, and all those manures which contain this ingredient. It is this poverty in lime and phosphates that constitutes the weak point in the soils of the North of Scotland, and has helped to stamp them with that aspect of barrenness which only the industry of the inhabitants has been able to efface. It is this which makes Scotland so much a land of heather. Wherever you find a hill of limestone, there you have grass and verdure, and, in order to banish the heather effectually from a newly reclaimed soil, there is nothing better than a good dose of lime. Lime discourages the growth of heaths in general, and also fir-trees (Lindley). We see, therefore, that the heather-clad surface of our Scottish hills—this land of brown heath and shaggy wood—arises in some measure from the want of lime in the rocks. The poverty of lime in our Northern hills and soils is also a reason why Scotland is so much a land of oats. Of all our grain crops, the oat is the one that does with the least lime. Barley loves a calcareous soil, and so does wheat, but an extra dose of lime will in many cases spoil a field of growing oats if it be of a thin, light texture, and good crops may be grown on land in which there is very little of this element. Although the rocks of our Scottish Highlands are weak in lime and phosphoric acid, there is generally no lack of potash and magnesia, and this is so far favourable for the growth of the turnip crop, which draws largely upon the potash of the soil, as also does the potato and the straw of the grain crops in general. Accordingly, it is found that potash manures have seldom much influence on the crops with us. Iron also is generally present, and often in so large quantities as to be injurious, forming a pan or hard stratum between the soil and subsoil. The heather is a plant that takes in a good deal of iron, and this is another reason why the hills of Scotland are so favourable for its growth. We see then that the granite and gneiss rocks of Scotland give rise to soils which are characterised by a deficiency of lime and phosphoric acid, and by a richness in potash and iron, and I should also add of the element called silica, which, however, is one that few soils want. Owing to the great poverty in lime and phosphoric acid, turnips can seldom be grown on such soils to advantage until these two substances be added, and indeed in the case of newly-reclaimed ground, a dose of lime is almost always required before crops of any kind will thrive well. Another serious disadvantage in regard to the soils of the Highlands and northern regions of Scotland, which I must not omit to notice, is the rugged, stony nature of the ground, more especially in its natural unimproved state. Large boulders and great blocks of stone abound in most districts, and form troublesome impediments to the plough and to some of the improved class of implements. They will also be found an obstacle to the introduction of steam cultivation in many localities which are otherwise well adapted for it. This rugged and rocky aspect of the soil is a characteristic feature of the older crystalline and granitic rocks, not only in Scotland, but in other countries where they occur, and is due in a

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great measure to their hard, indestructible nature, which yields slowly to the weather.

THE OLD RED SANDSTONE.—A considerable part of Scotland is occupied by the old red sandstone formation, which we find stretching across the country from Stonehaven to the Firth of Clyde, in a broad belt along the south-eastern border of the Highlands. It also forms a large tract around the Moray Firth, extending from the mouth of the River Spey along by Elgin, Nairn, Inverness, and Easter-Ross, and likewise spreads over much of Caithnes and the Orkney Islands. This geological formation comprises an extensive series of beds. Part of it is composed of conglomerate or puddingstone, which is a mass of coarse gravel and pebbles, cemented together and consolidated into a hard, stony condition. Part of it is a sandstone more or less fine-grained, and often intermixed with beds of conglomerate. Other beds consist of flags and shales, such as are split up for paving floors of kitchens and cellars. These are very much developed in Caithness, and are well known in commerce as Caithness pavement. There are also some beds of limestone, but generally of no great extent. Owing to this diversity of character, the old red formation gives rise to variety of soils, but generally speaking, it forms a much better agricultural subject than the gneiss and granite, and some of the most fertile districts of Scotland are situated upon it. For example, the fine farms of Easter-Ross and of the Morayshire district, the How of the Mearns, and the best parts of Forfar and Perth, all lie on the old red sandstone. When the rough conglomarate comes to the surface, we have some barren tracts, and the flaggy beds of Caithness also form an inferior subject; but with these exceptions the character of the formation is decidedly good. The sandstone beds moulder down into a free, loamy soil, which is easily cultivated, and well adapted for most kinds of crops. The porous nature of the rock is favourable for drainage, and generally forms a dry, warm bottom. The outlines of the country are softer and less rugged than in the tracts of gneiss and mica-slate; and unless where the boulders from the Highlands have been drifted over it, the surface is not much encumbered with heavy stones. Owing, however, to its proximity to these mountainous regions, the old red sandstone has in many cases been deeply covered with drifted matter full of large blocks of granite and other crystalline rocks. In the midland counties, the old red sandstone is much penetrated by veins and masses of volcanic rocks. Sometimes these assume the form of narrow dykes, cutting through it, but at other times they occupy large areas, and form considerable hills, as in the Ochils and Sidlaw ranges. Geologists seem inclined to think that these intrusive masses have been due to old volcanic action, contemporaneous in some cases with the formation of the sandstone beds, and that they represent the lava, ashes, and other igneous products of the eruptions. However that may be, there is no doubt that they contribute in some degree to the fertility of the soils that have been derived from the rocks in which they occur, for they impart a greater richness of mineral elements, and afford not only a considerable amount of lime, but also traces of phosphoric acid.

THE VOLCANIC AND IGNEOUS ROCKS.—These volcanic and igneous rocks, I ought to mention, are not peculiar to one set of geological strata, but are met with more or less in all the formations, from the oldest to the most recent; for, although we have nothing of the kind in our country in recent times, yet in many other regions rocks of this nature are still in course of production. In Scotland, as I have already mentioned, they occur very plentifully in the red sandstone district of the midland and southern counties. Almost a continuous chain of hills, composed in a great measure of these igneous beds, stretches from the neighbourhood of Glasgow in a north-eastern direction across Scotland to near Montrose, forming the Campsie Hills, the Ochils, and the Sidlaw range. They are also largely developed in the county of Fife and the Lothians, and throughout the Scottish coal field generally. Another district where they occur in large quantity is in the West Coast of Scotland. A large part of the Isle of Skye, the Isle of Mull, Staffa, and many of the other islets of the Hebrides consist of volcanic rocks. This western group is of later date than those I have mentioned as occurring in the old red sandstone, and belongs to the same period as the basaltic beds of the Giant's Causeway, or in the North of Ireland. However, I shall here class them altogether, as we have only to contemplate them from an agricultural point of view. In this aspect, they deserve attention, from the fertility of the soils to which they give rise. This fertility seems owing to the richness in mineral elements which characterises them. This is a feature that may be remarked in many of the products of modern volcanoes. For example, the sheets of volcanic ashes that clothe the flanks of Vesuvius form a soil of extraordinary fertility in many places, affording some of the finest vineyards in the world, and supporting good crops of wheat also. But the mineral character of the eruptions varies a great deal, and some are much less favourable to vegetation than others. One lava stream may continue barren and destitute of plants for centuries, while another will soon clothe itself with luxuriant vegetation. And so it, no doubt, is with the lavas and igneous products of former ages; some of them will give rise to more fertile soils than others. But looking at these rocks generally, we must pronounce them as a whole favourable to vegetation. In the Isle of Skye, the hills of volcanic rock are in many cases covered with a beautiful sweet grass, forming excellent sheep pasture; although the ground is so rugged and rocky that little of it can be brought under the plough. The fertile character of the Lothians and much of Fife also appears to be due in no small degree to the numerous beds of volcanic rock which occur among the strata of that quarter. The hill called Arthur's Seat, beside Edinburgh, is thought to have been the site of an old volcano in the times of the old red sandstone and coal beds. This theory was first promulgated by the late Mr. M'Laren, formerly editor of the *Scotsman*, and an accomplished geologist, and it is now the one adopted by the Geological Survey. But it is in the islands along the West Coast of Scotland that the grandest display of volcanic rocks is to be found. Many of the hills and elevated plains of the Hebrides, which form the picturesque scenery of that region, are, in fact, nothing else than the remains of old lava streams poured out from the volcanoes that raged furiously there during the tertiary period. Mr. Judd, who has been recently exploring the geology of that quarter, tells us there were no less than five notable vents in the West Highlands from which the fiery matter issued, viz.: Mull, Skye, Rum, St. Kilda, and Ardnamurchan. Mr. Judd says that Skye and Mull were the sites of volcanoes of far greater magnitude than Etna, and the others were of dimensions not much inferior. These fiery mountains poured out their lavas at intervals during a vast length of time, and patches of old soils, trees, river gravels, and lake beds are entangled among the products of the eruptions, showing that terrestrial conditions prevailed. Two kinds of lava are observable in these regions, distinguished by their ultimate chemical composition. One the acid, the other the basic series. The acid series is of a felspathic, the basic of a basaltic nature. The felspathic lavas were erupted first, Judd thinks, probably during Eocene times, and the basaltic at a later date, during the Meocene period.

THE COAL MEASURES.—The next great geological formation which occupies an important area of our country is that which is generally known as the coal measures. These comprise an extensive and highly diversified series of beds, composed of shales, sandstone, limestone, and seams of coal. Shale is a geological term applied to beds composed of indurated clay. Clay itself consists of mineral matter which has been reduced to a very fine powder, and has been accumulated at the bottom of still quiet water. In its original condition, it was just a fine soft mud or ooze, such as we often see at the bottom of a sheltered harbour. When this mud is laid dry, it forms clay, more or less tenacious, according to the fineness and purity of the sediment which subsided. When this clay has been subjected to great pressure and consolidation, and also to a certain amount of chemical change, as has happened in the course of ages to all the older beds of this nature, in consequence of the great weight of the strata lying above them and and other causes, it assumes the character of shale; and when shale is still more altered by similar agencies on a greater scale, it becomes still harder and of a more crystalline and rocky nature, and assumes the character of slate or flagstone, as we see in the more ancient series of rocks. All these varieties of strata—viz., clay, shale, and slate or flagstone—are merely different phases of the same material assuming a different complexion and appearance, according to the degree of consolidation in which it is met with. In the same way beds of sand and silty matter vary in character owing to the same causes, and may present themselves as loose sand—sandstone or grit—or as hard quartz rock and gneiss, and in general the more ancient the strata are, the harder and more consoli-

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dated in the state in which we find them. The coal measures, then, consist of a great series of beds, composed of shale or fire-clay—grit or sandstone—with much limestone and coal, often rich in iron ore. In Scotland and Britain generally the limestone beds lie beneath the coal, and are often associated and interstratified with sandstone and grit, the useful coal seams lying at the top of the series. In Scotland, these coal measures stretch across the narrowest part of the country from the shores of the Firth of Forth on the east coast to the Firth of Clyde on the west, occupying the greater part of Fife, the three Lothians, Lanark, Ayr, and Renfrew. In England, they commence at the northern extremity, and stretch through Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire, and York, into the very centre of the Kingdom as far as Derby and Stafford, and also occupy a considerable tract in the South of Wales. In Ireland they extend over by much the larger part of the country, the great central area of that island being formed of the lower beds of the formations, the upper or true coal strata being chiefly developed in the south-western district, near the mouth of the Shannon and in the neighbourhood of Kilkenny. In these coal measures the great limestone beds lie beneath the coal. This limestone, together with the associated beds of sandstone, is a marine deposit, and has been formed chiefly by the growth of great beds of stone lilies, together with masses of coral and sea shells. Just a sort of great coral reef. All these grew and flourished at the bottom of the sea, absorbing lime from the water in which it had previously been dissolved, and by their decay formed extensive reefs of calcareous matter, which now present themselves as beds of limestone. The coal, on the other hand, was formed at a later period, and has arisen from the decay of beds of vegetable matter, which grew in vast swamps and marshes, somewhat like our peat mosses, but on a far more extensive scale. The vegetation of that period consisted of plants allied to our ferns and mosses, but instead of being small and diminutive like them, they grew to the dimensions of trees, and must have formed thick forests which, owing to a peculiar climate and state of the atmosphere, sprang up with marvellous rapidity and luxuriance. These wide-spreading jungles grew and fell, and were covered up by sheets of mud and sand thrown down by the river floods of that period. On these a second forest sprang up, decayed, and was buried in a similar manner, and so the process went on. And it is evident that the conditions of the earth at that period were specially adapted for the purpose of making and preserving fuel for future ages, and thus we have it laid past for us in pits and cellars waiting the age of steam, which has now arrived, and threatens to consume these coal-beds far faster than they were originally made. Owing to the variety of character which the different members of the coal measures present, they give rise to soils which are equally diversified in their nature. The limestone forms the best soil, and the regions where it comes to the surface are often of a very fertile character. The great limestone plain of Ireland abounds in beautiful pastures, and, favoured as it is by a mild and moist climate, its grass and herbage are ever green, and therefore Erin has been called the Emerald Isle from the constant verdure of its vegetation. Again, some of our best land in Scotland is situated upon the limestone beds of the coal measures. I have only to mention Fife and the Lothians as evidence of this. In Scotland, however, the limestone and coal-beds generally are much invaded by masses of trap or volcanic rocks, and these, in many cases, no doubt help to give a character to the soils around them. This is very much the case in Fife, and also in East Lothian. In England the volcanic rocks do not occur so often, and a great part of the carboniferous limestone and millstone grit forms elevated hilly ground at too great an altitude for wheat. Where it descends to lower levels, it of course proves a more favourable subject. It was a favourite saying of Thomas Bates that there was no place for rearing Shorthorns equal to the valley of the Wharfe. Now, the Wharfe takes its rise in the carboniferous limestone, and flows the greater part of its course through it and the millstone grit of the coal measures. Perhaps this may have something to do with the character that Bates has given this valley, for this limestone forms some of the best pastures in England. In the North Riding of Yorkshire (according to Mr. Milburn, of Thirsk, *Roy. Ag. Soc. Jour.* ix., 496) the grass land in the valleys and hill-sides of the carboniferous limestone lets for as much as £4 an acre. The millstone grit and shale, lying to the eastward of the limestone, form a more ungenial belt of land. And taking the whole of North Riding, he tells us that the character of the soil and the style of farming are very much regulated by the geological nature of the strata on which the soil reposes. Although the limestone, then, forms a good agricultural subject, we cannot speak so favourably of the other members of the coal measures. The shales, fire-clays, ironstone beds, &c., have all an inferior character, and form soils which are often low in the scale of fertility. This arises partly from their frequent tenacity and wetness, and, probably, also in part from their impregnation with sulphur and metallic substances.

The Glacial Beds.—In the northern parts of both Europe and America, and indeed over a large part of the polar and temperate regions of the globe, there is a very widely-spread mass of coarse earth or clay mixed with stones, which generally lies as a covering upon the more solid strata, and which, geologists are now of opinion, has been formed by the action of ice, at a time when a colder climate prevailed over most of the globe. This phase of the earth's history is generally known as the glacial period, and immediately preceded the occupation of the earth by the human race. During this glacial period an arctic climate reigned over the north of Europe, and a great part of the surface of our present continent was covered by snow and ice, much like what Greenland is at the present day, and it was owing to the action of the ice upon the rocky framework of the country that this mass of coarse earthy matter was produced, and spread over the surface of the rocks. It has been derived from the waste of the rocks by the ice, which, moving over them with great friction, ground them down to a state like mud, this earthy mud being at the same time mixed with stones and boulders carried along by the ice. In many parts of Scotland these boulders are thickly scattered over the surface, and form a great impediment to the improvement and proper cultivation of the soil, being frequently of great size, and requiring to be blown to pieces by gunpowder before they can be got rid of. Such is the case also in many parts of the North of Europe and in Canada and the U.S. of America. These large boulders are generally met with in great numbers along the sides of the Highland valleys, and over the low ground adjoining the hills and mountain ranges, and have frequently been transported to immense distances from the rocks from which they were derived. In many parts of Scotland they have proved a source of much expense in the reclamation of the soil. The boulder clay, or coarse earth in which they are imbedded, varies a good deal in its character, according to the nature of the rocky strata from which it has been derived. It generally consists of a mixture of fine impalpable mud, mixed with coarse sand, pebbles, and stones of many kinds and sizes, forming a stiff, tenacious paste. In Aberdeenshire and most of the North of Scotland it has been derived from the waste of the Grampian hills, and its materials consist of the granite, gneiss, and other crystalline rocks of the Highlands and hilly grounds reduced to powder. When it rests upon a dry bottom, and is not much infested with large boulders, it often forms a tolerably good subsoil; but, owing to its tenacity, it is frequently of a retentive nature, and requires drainage. It also abounds frequently in springs of water, and its agricultural value with us depends chiefly upon its dryness and freedom from large boulders, and also upon the circumstance of its being not too much impregnated with oxide of iron. In those districts, when the rock on which it reposes is of an open, porous nature, it forms a good warm subsoil; but, when the rock supporting it is of a close texture or full of springs, then the water, diffusing itself through the overlying mass of earth, renders it cold and wet. In Scotland this boulder clay is generally deficient in lime, and is often too much impregnated with oxide of iron, which occasionally forms a hard stratum or pan, very unfavourable to vegetation. In the districts of the old red sandstone the glacial beds partake of the character of that formation, and are of a redder, sandier, and more porous nature—are generally less infested with heavy boulders, except in the neighbourhood of the Grampians, when the drift from the gneiss mountains has partially overspread the sandstone strata.

The Glacial Marine Clays.—Along the low grounds adjoining the coast, we find in many places beds of a very pure retentive clay, which consists of the fine muddy sediment deposited at the bottom of the sea during part of the glacial period when much of the country was under water. These clays occur along the eastern parishes of Aberdeenshire, and here and there along all the low coast districts of Scotland, and over part of England and Ireland. They vary in colour

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according to the hue of the rocks from which the sediment has been derived. Along the Banffshire coast, and round by Fraserburgh to the neighbourhood of Peterhead, the clay is generally of an indigo or dark leaden blue colour. From Peterhead along the east coast to Fife it is mostly red. These clays are used for making bricks and tiles. They form a very heavy and difficult soil to work. Turnips don't thrive upon them, except in unusually favourable seasons, and they are difficult to drain. Clover and vetches, beans and wheat, are the crops for which they are naturally adapted. In some quarters there are beds and seams of fine sand interstratified with the clay, and these form a better subject for the agriculturist, but the tracts of pure clay form some of the worst soils we have, and are more adapted for steam cultivation than horse labour. The large boulders that occasionally occur in them are supposed to have been drifted by the agency of floating ice. There is a good deal of this clay in the parishes of St. Fergus, Peterhead, Cruden, Slains, Logie-Buchan, and some parts of Ellon, Foveran, and Belhelvie. We do not meet with it in the interior of the county, and there is none of it in Deeside, Donside, and very little along the valley of the Ythan.

Valley Gravel and Moraines.—Along the banks of all the rivers we find a good deal of gravelly ground, the extent of which is generally in proportion to the size of the valleys. These beds of gravel have been formed at the close of the glacial period, when the snow and ice gradually melted, and their origin is to be sought in the heavy floods which took place every season when great thaws occurred, and gave rise to volumes of water flowing down the valleys much greater than anything we now see even in the rainiest seasons. They mark the time when the ice was disappearing gradually by reason of the return of a more genial climate. We find a great deal of this gravel along the side of the Dee, the Don, the Spey, the Findhorn, the Tay, and all our larger rivers; and a proportionally less amount of it on the banks of the smaller streams. It forms a dry, warm subsoil, on which we have light porous soils that grow good crops in moist seasons, well adapted for bere and barley, turnips and potatoes. In the Highlands valley we often find large mounds of coarse gravel and stoney rubbish, which are old moraines formed along the margin of the beds of ice that filled the valleys in the latter part of the glacial period, similar to what are to be seen among the Alps of Switzerland at the present day. The greater number of our towns and villages are built on this valley gravel. Aberdeen, Banchory, Aboyne, Ballater, and Braemar, Kintore, Inverurie, Huntly, Ellon, &c. It forms a favourite site for mansions and country seats by reason of its dry healthy character; Balmoral, Taymouth Castle, and most of the houses of the nobility are upon it. When the gravel is coarse and pebbly, it forms a poor, hungry soil, which in a dry summer grows almost nothing, but when the sand is finer, and covered by a good depth of loam, it forms one of the most valuable soils we have, easy to work, and adapted for almost every kind of crop.

The Carse Lands.—Another geological deposit different in character from any of those I have been describing is the carse ground. The Carse of Gowrie and the Carse of Falkirk are two well known tracts of very level land, which have been formed after the glacial period had passed away, and are composed of masses of old estuary mud formed along the Firths of Tay and Forth at a time when the coast was depressed about 25 feet beneath its present level, so that the tides reached higher up the river valleys than they do now. The soil of the carse consists of a fine muddy sediment, quite free from stones, and very similar to the ooze which we find at the bottom of any of our sheltered harbours. Several skeletons of large whales have been got imbedded in the soil of the carse, and beds of cockles and oysters also attest the nature of the conditions under which it was accumulated. Although the Carses of Falkirk and Gowrie are the most extensive and well known of these deposits, yet ground of the same kind, although of less extent, occurs round the Montrose basin, at the mouth of the Clyde, at Beauly, Spynie, Tain, and other similarly situated places. There are also large tracts of the same nature in England, in the Fen districts, and along the mouths of most large rivers. These carse lands are often extremely fertile, and form some of the most valuable wheat-soil we have, but although this is often so, it is not always the case. Some of it is a poor tenacious clay, difficult to work, and from its flat nature not easily drained. It is remarkably well adapted for steam cultivation, owing to its uniform character and entire freedom from stones. It generally forms level plains of rich bluish mud, rising in a sort of low platform along the sides of the present estuaries.

Alluvial Soils.—Along the banks of every large river we find some extent of alluvial soil, consisting of the fine sediment thrown down from the water in time of floods, and which forms meadows and flats along the sides of the stream; in Scotland they are generally called *haughs*. The extent of these alluvial soils depends of course upon the size and nature of the river. In Britain, where the rivers are small, they are of comparatively little extent, but in other countries they are of immense area. The fertile land of Egypt is nothing else than the meadow of the River Nile, and in the valleys of the Mississippi, the Amazon, and other large Continental streams this fluviatile sediment forms some of the most important and fertile tracts in the world. A large part of China consists of the alluvium of its great rivers. Although this class of soil is generally of a very fertile character, yet its value is often impaired by the difficulty that occurs in keeping the water off. It is often subject to be flooded, and lying generally little above the level of the rivers, a proper outfall cannot be got for drains. These meadows form excellent grass land, from the great depth and richness of the soil, which permits the roots of the plants to go deep down, so that they do not suffer in dry weather. The finest pastures in England are in some of these alluvial grounds, as, for example, in Somersetshire, where there is a flat of about 1,000 acres which lets annually for grazing at about £6 an acre all over.

Peat Soils.—Another kind of soil or superficial covering which is still in course of formation is peat, which in some places occupies a large extent of surface, and furnishes fuel to much of our rural population. These beds of peat are of very variable depth, and occur not only in low swampy hollows where the drainage is obstructed, but also cover with a less degree of thickness the surface of many of our hills, even the very tops of some of them, up to heights exceeding 2,000 feet above the level of the sea. In the Highland districts peaty turf forms a very large proportion of the surface; while in Ireland, so great is the area it occupies, that the Commissioners appointed by Parliament to inquire into the subject, reported that the extent of peat soil in that county amounts to nearly three million acres, of which rather more than half consists of flat red bog, and the remainder forms the covering of mountains. These Irish bogs are often of immense depth, 30 to 40 feet being not uncommon in some of them; and, in one instance, 47 feet was reached. In Scotland, their depth and dimensions are much less. One of the largest peat mosses is the Flanders Moss, in the district of the Forth, which covers about 10,000 acres. We have a good deal of it in Aberdeenshire, and in the Buchan district there are extensive peat mosses to the E. and W. of the Hill of Mormond, occupying much of the parishes of Crimond, Lonmay, St Fergus, Strichen, and New Deer. In St Fergus some of the peat is said to exceed 20 feet in depth, but it is not often that it reaches ten feet with us, so far as my observation goes. Peat is a substance formed in cold and humid climates by the gradual decay of those plants which flourish in moist and swampy places. In warm and tropical countries the decomposition of the dead plants goes on too rapidly and completely, so that peat is not formed. A moist, temperate, or coldish climate, and a wet soil, seem to be the conditions most favourable for its accumulation. In many peat mosses we find remains of trees, such as hazel, birch, oak, alder, and fir, but in others we find none, and many of the most extensive bogs in Ireland contain no trees, the whole mass of peat from top to bottom being formed of mosses, sedge, and other aquatic plants, which have flourished and decayed season after season, each year's crop forming by its decomposition a film of vegetable matter. Towards the bottom of these deep Irish bogs, the fibres of the dead plants cease to be visible, the colour of the stuff, becomes blacker, and its texture more compact, forming a very valuable fuel, and having, when dry, some resemblance to pitch or bituminous coal. Peat itself forms a very poor soil, but when it is well drained, and mixed with a proportion of earthy matter, it is greatly improved, and will grow good crops of oats, turnips, and potatoes.

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A NORTH COUNTRY VILLAGE.

[Report by H. Franklyn Parsons, M.D., Medical Officer of Health, for the Goole and Selby Rural Sanitary Districts.]

As the first instalment of my sanitary work, I beg to present the following report on the sanitary condition of Luddington, based upon personal observations made there in company with Mr. Tudor, on January 10th and 23rd. My reason for beginning with Luddington was that I was informed that it was in the worst sanitary condition of any township in the union, and indeed for the credit of the union I hope this is the case; for in spite of what has been already done for its amelioration the state of Luddington is still filthy and unhealthy in the extreme. The village of Luddington consists almost entirely of a single long serpentine street, which formerly skirted the right or Lincolnshire bank of the river Don. When, however, the "Dutch river" was cut, about 250 years ago, the waters of the Don forsook their old course, which in consequence became silted up. At present the course of the old Don is for the most part marked only by a scarcely perceptible depression, but in some portions a ditch still remains, into which water finds its way, but can escape only by evaporation or soaking into the soil, and these portions form convenient receptacles for refuse of various kinds. Owing to the newness of the ground, the walls of several houses built on the margin of the old river bed have sunk and cracked to a greater or less extent. The country around Luddington is treeless, and very flat, there being only a very slight fall to the east, where a watercourse, called the Mere Dyke, pursues its sluggish way towards the Trent. The geologic formation is alluvial, and consists of a sandy loam or "warp" with beds of sand or clay in places; and at a depth of about thirty feet a hard bed of sandstone known as "pan-sand" is met with. The population of Luddington according to the last census was 775. In 1873 thirteen deaths occurred there, including one each from typhoid and scarlet fevers. The population is entirely an agricultural one, and consists to a considerable extent of Irish; wages appear to be low for this part of England; and the scanty furniture, and ragged children in many houses bore witness to the poverty of the inmates. Overcrowding is said to prevail among the Irish in summer and harvest to a dangerous degree, and some instances came under our notice, although owing to the free ventilation afforded by the dilapidated houses, its evil effects were not always so obvious to the senses as might have been expected. In one case we found a man with his wife and nine children sleeping in a room only five feet three inches in height, and of only 955 cubic feet capacity; each person would, therefore, have on an average less than eighty-seven cubic feet of space—240 cubic feet being the minimum allowance fixed for each person in the regulations for metropolitan lodging-houses, while authors on hygiene insist on a much larger amount. The room had no ceiling, but only a sloping tilted roof, partly concealed by a few mats of flax-waste; there was a large gaping crack in the wall at the end, and the floor was of "grouting," upon which the whole family slept without a bedstead. In several other houses we found no ceiling, the only covering being the tiles. Such houses are hot in summer and bitterly cold in winter. Many of the cottages are in a very ruinous state; of one a large portion of the roof had been blown off: it was, nevertheless, occupied by a family. The walls and floors are generally constructed of an inferior kind of brick, which decays in the course of time; from this cause, combined with the absence of drainage and neglect of necessary repairs, many of the cottages are very damp—a condition most injurious to health. There is no main drainage in Luddington. The houses on the west side of the road are mostly furnished with drains of common porous pipes, which run across the old Don into the adjoining field and terminate in blind extremities, their contents soaking into the soil. Some of the houses on the opposite side of the street have drains which lead into stagnant foul ditches, a short distance from the houses, and the remainder have no drainage at all; the liquid refuse from the houses being thrown into the ashpits, or anywhere handy. The evils resulting from this state of things are—1, Dampness of the houses from the ground around being sodden with slops; 2, Nuisances arising from the stagnation near the houses of runnings from pigsties, and other foul liquids; and 3, Pollution of the wells by these liquids percolating through the soil. To remedy these evils a proper system of sewerage is urgently called for. The principal street would require to be sewered in two portions, one of them discharging into a sewer leading down Mere Dyke-lane, the other into one down Church-lane; both should be covered for some distance beyond the last houses. For the details, however, I will refer you to your able surveyor, Mr. Tudor. As it is important for the prevention of phthisis, rheumatism, and other diseases, that the subsoil on which dwellings are built should be dry, and as this drying cannot be effected by the impervious pipes which it is necessary to use when sewage has to be conveyed, I would recommend that a row of ordinary agricultural drain-pipes be laid alongside of or underneath the sewer-pipes; the extra cost of this if done at the same time would be small, as no additional excavations would need to be made. A cheaper expedient would be to use unglazed socket-pipes, the lower half embedded in clay, so as to retain the sewage, and the upper part surrounded by porous materials to allow the passage of the subsoil water into the sewer. The farmyards should be drained into water-tight covered cesspools, with pumps for the liquid manure, for owing to the oft repeated removal of soil with manure from their surface, their level is too low for any other outfall to be obtained. Another great defect in many of the poorer houses is the absence of a staircase, access being gained to the bed-rooms up a ladder in the corner of the room, and through a hole in the floor above. In one case, where the height that had to be ascended in this way was as much as 10 feet, the tenant told me that she and her children had frequently met with accidents from falls. Other houses are without adequate means of ventilation. On the whole, the state of the cottage property in Luddington is disgraceful, and there are about eight houses which, in my opinion, ought to be closed as soon as practicable, unless the necessary alterations are made, which would probably cost nearly as much as rebuilding. The water of Luddington is one of the most unsatisfactory features of the place; the quantity being deficient, and the wells almost invariably polluted. Indeed the inhabitants seem to have got to consider that the water of a well was never meant, and can never be fit, to be drunk by human beings, and that as it is therefore useless to protect the water from contamination, the most convenient place for the pump is in the fold-yard. For drinking and culinary purposes they always use rain-water, which those who have no facilities for catching it, are compelled to purchase at from 0½d. to 1½d., or even 2d. a bucketful. In dry seasons the supply of rain-water is very inadequate for the wants of the people, and the wells often run dry; and when to this it is added that some of the people have to fetch water a quarter of a mile or more, it will be readily imagined that cleanliness must be a rare virtue among the poorer classes. As a proof of the scarcity of water I may mention that the rain-water butts were kept locked, and that the hard water pumps were almost always out of order, the buckets being leaky so that the pump ran dry, and had to be primed by pouring water down the top, it being preferred to let the pump remain in this condition, to prevent the neighbours taking the water. The rainwater is collected either in barrels or cylindrical zinc cisterns, and in the better class of houses in underground tanks of masonry, or in cisterns of stone or lead. I consider stone or slate the best material for the purpose; the use of leaden cisterns to hold rainwater used for drinking is fraught with much danger. I was informed of some cases of lead poisoning from this cause that occurred in Luddington some years ago. The rainwater is generally drunk unfiltered, yet no care seems to be taken to ensure its purity; before entering the butt it usually has to wash the lid, which in some instances I noticed to be covered with excrement of birds and animals. Still, I should prefer drinking even this, to the water of most of the wells, which in colour, smell, and taste resembles—as in fact it is—a somewhat dilute infusion of farm and other manure. Chemical tests show it to be loaded with organic impurities, and a foul scum rises to the surface on boiling. Nevertheless, there does not appear to be any absolute necessity for this disgusting state of affairs. No doubt there is but little water, and that of a poor quality, to be obtained from wells that do not penetrate below the "warp," but I am informed that on boring through the

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stratum known as "pan sand," to which I have before alluded, an abundant supply of good water may be obtained at a depth of some 30 feet. In order to preserve this from pollution, the upper part of the well mustbe made water-tight, which may be done by clay puddle outside the brickwork, or better still by substituting for the latter large-sized glazed stoneware pipes. It is usual in this neighbourhood, instead of sinking a well until a sufficient supply of water is reached, to stop when a depth has been attained somewhat below the level to which it is thought that the water will rise, and to bore the remaining distance. If this be done, a flag-stone should be placed at the bottom of the well for the brickwork or casing to rest on. This flag should have a hole in the centre through which an iron pipe should pass down the bore-hole as far as the nature of the ground may render it necessary, the upper end of the iron pipe being left projecting a foot or more above the stone bottom of the well. If this be done there will be no fear of the bore-hole getting closed up, and the well thus ceasing to yield. One or two good public wells in convenient situations and furnished with pumps, would be an immense boon to the people of Luddington. I may mention that there is a well close to the Primitive Methodist Chapel, the water of which appears good, no source of pollution being present within some distance. Where rain-water is used for drinking it should always be filtered, the roofs and pipes by which it is collected should be kept clean, the tank or butt covered, but ventilated, and in a cool shady place. The privies and pig-styes are often placed too near the houses: this is especially the case with those on the side of the street towards the old Dam, the back premises to which are inconveniently small and cramped; those on the other side have generally gardens. The privy arrangements are almost universally on the faulty plan. The excrement is allowed to accumulate until the privy is full, by which time it has become an offensive nuisance; it is then raked out and mixed up with ashes. Instead of this it would be far better to cover the excrement with ashes day by day. The deodorizing power of dry ashes is so great that nearly all smell would thus be prevented; and for the greater convenience of emptying (which of course under these circumstances would require to be more frequently done), I recommend the adoption of box closets. These are in use to some extent in the town of Goole, and have been found to answer well. They are, no doubt, familiar to you, so that I need not stop to describe them, but I may remark that the box should be made watertight with pitch, and carried well under the front of the seat. One modification I would suggest in order to facilitate the removal of the box when full, viz., a pair of small wheels at the end of the box farthest from the door by which it is drawn, and sockets on either side at the nearer end, into which wooden handles might be thrust. The whole box might then be wheeled, wheel-barrow fashion, to any required place, and its contents applied at once to the soil. It is in vain to expect any plan to succeed among the poor, however great its sanitary advantages, if it entail more labour than that to which they have been accustomed. I do not propose that the adoption of this plan should be at once enforced in every case, but that when nuisances arise, as under the old arrangement they are nearly certain to do, and a notice for their abatement is necessary, the inspector be instructed to require the adaptation of the privy to the box form.

THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.

The general meeting was held in the Society's Hall, Captain Tod, of Howden, senior director, in the absence of the president or any of the vice-presidents, in the chair.

Christian Holst, Chamberlain to his Majesty King Oscar II., and Norwegian Court Paymaster, and Ferdinand August Dahl, Director of the Royal Higher Agricultural School at Aas, Christiana, were elected honorary associates; and 135 gentlemen were balloted for and admitted as ordinary members.

Mr. G. Auldjo Jamieson, C.A., on behalf of Mr. Irvine, of Drum, read the following addition proposed to be made to the bye-laws: "The Secretary shall, 30 days before the meeting of directors at which the list of ordinary and extraordinary directors for the ensuing year is to be made up, intimate by advertisement in any two or more of the Edinburgh newspapers that the directors are prepared to receive from members of the Society, within eight days from the date of such intimation, the names of such members as they may desire to suggest for the consideration of the directors in making up the list to be recommended for the adoption of the Society at the general meeting in January."

The Chairman said it must be borne in mind that this proposed alteration would not come into operation till next general meeting, as all alterations must be approved by two general meetings.

Mr. Walker (Bowland), read the reply from her Majesty's Office of Works to the memorial adopted at the general meeting of the Society on the 21st January upon an Ordnance Survey of Scotland. The memorial has already been published. It may be remembered that the First Commissioner stated that it seemed to him that the only mode of expediting the survey of Scotland was by increasing the annual Parliamentary grant for the service. Mr. Walker went on to say that he believed that a deputation which had been appointed for the purpose had not yet had a conference with the Government, but he hoped it would soon take place. He trusted they would impress on the Government the necessity of a larger outlay on this great work. It was clear that the obstacle in the way was financial; and it was also clear to him that if they did not proceed more rapidly than hitherto, none of the present members of the Society would live to see it completed, and when it would be completed the earlier portions of it would be found to be out of date. He thought it was a disgrace that the Government of the country had not provided funds to complete this great national work within a reasonable time,

The directors' proceedings in these matters were approved of.

Mr. Campbell Swinton (Kimmerghame) stated that in February last the Baroness Burdett Coutts made some suggestions to the directors as to the Society exerting its influence for the promotion of the humane treatment of animals. Her ladyship's letter was referred to special committees, and these committees afterwards reported, when the directors agreed that to the medals in aid of premiums given by local societies there should, as already reported, be added a class for men in charge of stock, and one for women having charge of dairies and poultry. The directors had also under consideration the subject of aiding the cause of humane education, and circulars were sent out on the 31st March to above 970 school boards in Scotland. It was gratifying to know that all the answers received stated that the subject had been favourably entertained by the school boards; and he could personally state that that was the case in several school boards to which the circulars had been addressed. These boards looked upon this as a matter of great interest and importance.

Mr. Murray (Dollerie) stated that he could say the same thing. The circular had been very favourably considered by the school boards with which he was connected.

The report was approved of.

Mr. Gillon (Wallhouse) reported that the entries for the show to be held at Inverness were: Cattle 380, horses 150, sheep 500, swine 55, poultry 500, collie dogs 12, implements 1,000.

The following gentlemen, holders of the Society's diploma, Forbes Burn, Hardacres, Coldstream; Henry Erskine, Dalladies, Brechin; Richard Henderson, Coldstream, were also elected.

Mr. Murray (Dollerie) moved the proposed alteration of the bye-laws, to enable the members to recommend gentlemen as directors, and providing that the four vice-presidents and ten extraordinary directors shall retire annually, instead of one-half the number each of two successive years, and this was approved of.

Previous to the reports on agricultural education being given in,

The Chairman said that he wished to make a few remarks. It was always best to tell the truth, and he confessed he was a little sorry to have to say that the directors could not come to one mind regarding agricultural education and the chemical department. He therefore hoped that they would not be too

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hurried in coming to any decision on the matter. The fact was that the public generally thought that the Highland Society was rolling in wealth; and the true state of the case was that they had very little wealth. From a statement which they might hear by-and-by from the chairman of the Finance Committee, they had only £550 at their disposal as a surplus to spend in any way. That was all that there was to spend in promoting either agricultural education or in paying the expenses of the chemist. Now, agricultural education was so very much mixed up with the chemical department, that he wished to state these things before they entered upon the discussion of the subjects connected with the educational department, and to show that they must not be too hurried in coming to any decision regarding even what they as directors had proposed. The meeting would hear in a short time that it was proposed to give bursaries to encourage agricultural education, but that was agreed to at a time before the directors had a clear understanding about their finances. They decided to give as much as £300 a year in bursaries, and it was very doubtful now whether that could be carried out. He wished to make these remarks, so that in the discussion which would subsequently take place nothing, as he had said, should be hurriedly done. It was quite a mistake for the public to think that the Highland Society was so wealthy. Their expenses had enormously increased within the last few years. A great deal was said about the small premiums and paltry medals which they provided. These were all now largely increased, and instead of having money at their disposal, they would have hard work to make ends meet at the end of this year. With these remarks, he called upon Professor Balfour for his report on agricultural education.

Professor BALFOUR reported that the annual examination of candidates for the diploma and certificate in agriculture granted by the Society took place on the 24th and 25th of March, when the following gentlemen passed: For diploma—Forbes Burn, Hardacres, Berwickshire, who obtained the certificate in 1872; for certificate and diploma—Henry Erskine, Dalladies, Brechin, and Richard Henderson, Coldstream; for certificate—William Kennedy, 89, Marine Parade, Brighton, who is, in terms of the bye-laws, entitled to present himself next year for the diploma. It was stated that the prizes given by the Society to the class of agriculture of the Edinburgh University had this year been awarded by Professor Wilson to John Bramwell, Blackaddie, Sanquhar, and Robert W. E. Murray, Housebyres, Galashiels. The papers of these two gentlemen being of equal merit, the amount, £10, was divided equally.

Mr. MENZIES then read the following report by the Council: The Council on Education having received the report of their sub-committee, adopted it as follows: 1. That the Society should establish ten bursaries of £20 each, and ten of £10 each—at schools, to be approved of by the directors, which include or are willing to introduce the teaching of chemistry, and the following branches of natural science—physical geography, botany, and geology—into their curriculum. 2. That the bursaries should be determined by examination in the usual manner by the Society's examiners. 3. That the £20 bursaries should be tenable for one year at the Universities, for the purpose of enabling the holders to take the classes necessary to qualify for the Society's certificate or diploma; and the £10 bursaries to be tenable for the same period, to enable the holders to receive another year's preparation at school. 4. That the age of candidates for the bursaries at the Universities should not be less than 17, and at schools not less than 16 years. 5. That the present scheme of the Society's examinations should be modified so as to admit of a lower award, or second-class certificate. 6. That the awards in future should consist of a diploma, first-class certificate, and second-class certificate. 7. That the examination for the second-class certificate should comprise the principle and practice of agriculture, agricultural chemistry, surveying and farm engineering, and farm accounts. The examination for the first-class certificate should include the compulsory subjects of the second-class certificate, and any three of the following optional subjects—botany, geology, physics or mechanics, meteorology or climate, natural history, and veterinary practice; and that the examination for the diploma should remain as at present. 8. That a standing acting committee of the Council on Agricultural Education should be appointed by the directors.

The CHAIRMAN said he hoped the meeting quite clearly understood that the £300 which the Council of Education proposed to give annually must be paid out of the sum of £550 which he had said was available. It was mentioned on page 11 of the premium list, clause viii.—"That a sum not exceeding £100 per annum shall be placed at the disposal of the examiners, to be applied in prizes to candidates who pass with distinguished merit, and on a standard exceeding that required for the diploma." He might explain that that sum had also to be taken out of the £550.

Mr. WALKER (Bowland) suggested that it might be convenient to the members of the Society who were not generally conversant with the subject that this report should be passed from, and that the discussion should take place after they had heard the reports on both subjects.

This was approved of.

Sir THOMAS HEPBURN read the following resolution: 'That the Highland and Agricultural Society accepts with regret Professor Anderson's resignation of the appointment of chemist to the Society which he has held since 1849. That the Society convey to Dr. Anderson its expression of deep regret that the state of his health has compelled him to abandon his important duties both in the Society and in the University of Glasgow. That the Society in the fullest manner recognises the importance of the services which Dr. Anderson has rendered to the science of chemistry by his original researches, and to the Highland Society's chemical department by the fidelity and accuracy of the work executed on its behalf by him. That the Society convey to Dr. Anderson its cordial wishes for the enjoyment of ease and comfort in the retirement which the state of his health has compelled him to seek. That the above resolutions be recorded in the minutes of the Society, and that an extract thereof be communicated to Dr. Anderson by the secretary." The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Professor DEWAR read the following report:

"Chemical Laboratory, Clyde Street Hall,
June 16, 1874.

"During the past six months, the work of the Chemical Department has been greatly increased. The substances analysed have included simple and compound manures, guanos, volatile waters, refuse substances, and stomachs of animals suspected to have died from the action of poisons. No grave cases of adulteration have come under my observation, and I believe the plan now adopted by many agriculturists of buying the essential ingredients of plant food, and mixing them according to the requirements of the soil and the crop, is tending greatly to diminish the system of vending defective manures. At the same time that this plan of applying manures is most advantageous to the farmer, it is more satisfactory to the Society's chemist, as he can recommend the mixture that ought (as far as experiments have been made) to be most likely to yield good results. Farther, the adoption of this course by the farmers generally would greatly diminish the difficulties that are apt to arise in the estimation of the values of complex manures, and also to shorten the time and labour of the analytical processes. I have learned from various agriculturists that a feeling exists that the fees for analyses are in some cases too high, and that something ought to be done to lower them. This, I believe, may be effected through the Society favouring the prosecution of original investigations in the laboratory; so that well-educated young men might be induced, from the quality of the scientific instruction they would receive, to become, after some time, useful assistants in the discharge of the Society's work."

The CHAIRMAN then stated that, from what he had already said, he dared say that the meeting did not expect that any report should now be brought forward. They had had a great many proposals before them, which were all on the table; but if it was thought necessary, they could all be read. To do so would occupy a great deal of time; and perhaps the best plan would be to read the last proposal, which had been drawn up by a small committee.

Mr. MENZIES read the report of the sub-committee on the chemical department, which was in the following terms: "The secretary read a memorandum detailing the various schemes suggested for the re-adjustment of the chemical department, and the chairman summitted a view of the income and expenditure of the Society. Your committee have considered the various proposals for the appointment of a chemist, and find

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the amounts proposed to be more than the Society can afford. From the financial statement your committee find that no greater sum than £550 is available for the schemes suggested, both chemical and educational. This sum is made up as follows: (1) Professor Anderson's salary, £300; (2) Professor Dewar's salary, £150; (3) Vote to chair of cattle pathology which has expired, £100—total, £550. Your committee therefore recommend the appointment of a chemist at a salary of—say £500 a year, who shall be restricted from making analyses for manufacturers of manures, feeding stuffs, and other substances, for the purpose of trade advertisements. With reference to his general duties in carrying on field experiments, analyses, original investigations in agricultural chemistry, &c., it should be referred to the chemical committee to draw up regulations, stating what assistance he should be provided with. The chemist to be entitled to the fees for analyses, and to be at the entire expense of keeping up a laboratory."

Mr Murray Graham (Murrayshall) stated that before the more important discussion commenced on the reports they had just heard, he might perhaps be permitted to say a word with reference to a request made to him by several agriculturists in the neighbourhood of Perth as regarded the inspection of their purchases of artificial manures. The use of these had increased very much of late, and the agriculturists to whom he had referred found that the chemist in Edinburgh was hardly enough, so far as their convenience went, for the whole work. They would much desire to have trustworthy men appointed in the central towns in which the various shows of the Society were held, to whom they could have recourse. They might appoint a chemist of their own by subscription, but from various circumstances which had occurred recently, they were much more desirous that the matter should be left in the hands of the Society. The long purses and fees given by agricultural companies had rather an injurious effect as compared with the smaller resources of the farmers.

Mr. Murray stated that several years ago they were able to fund some money, but in consequence of the expressed desire of the members to enlarge their expenses, they for the last two or three years had funded nothing. It was perfectly true that they had, by desire of the society, invested £1,500 for what was called the building fund, it being the desire of many to remove from their present building to another. Nothing, however, had been added to it since last year.

Mr. Hunter (Blackness) stated that in one of the last reports he found that the funds of the Society were something like £56,000. He thought the Society was too rich already, because it was getting quite independent of public opinion. Lord Kinnaird lately wrote a letter in which he stated that the expenses were something like £1,500, and that statement was never corrected. He thought that a statement of the accounts should be presented to every member of the Society twice in the year.

Mr. Harvey (Whittingham Maine) thought they must get on to business. They had been a long time at this chemical department. They had already the services of Mr. Dewar, who had read a very able paper, and, in the meantime, he thought the best course for them to adopt was to instruct the Secretary to advertise for a first-class chemist at a salary of not less than £500 a-year. He remarked that it was very heartless to see so few farmers present. He thought, from what he heard out of doors, that greater interest would have been taken in this appointment. The chemist they appointed might analyse what the members sent to him, and keep a register; and, if necessary, an increase might be given to the £500. Who was the great ornament of the English Society but Dr. Voelcker? He thought that if the Scotch Society were to get such a man it would resuscitate its energies, and add to its popularity. Out of doors they heard nothing but despondency, and that they were going on like a lot of old wives. He had been told that a hundred times. They ought to have the best chemist for agricultural purposes in Europe if possible, and they could get that if they took the proper means of doing so.

Mr. D. Milne Home (Wedderburn) said that they had before the meeting two documents, one of which recommended certain bursaries to be approved of by the society. The other document was not a report from the directors at all. It was a report from a sub-committee with regard to the chemical department; and it appeared from the statement that there were only two gentlemen who attended on that occasion, and drew out this report.

The Secretary: They were all present.

Mr. Milne Home: There were three—Mr. Murray, Sir Thomas Hepburn, and Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker (Bowland): Allow me to correct a misapprehension. The sub-committee were present at a meeting at which the whole subject was fully discussed. They were appointed to draw up a report for the information of this meeting on the resolution which the chemical committee, or rather the directors, after hearing the report of the chemical committee, had come to. Therefore, the conclusions in that report are not the conclusions of the sub-committee, but an embodiment of the conclusions of a larger meeting.

Mr. Milne Home said he was still right that the directors had not approved of the report of the sub-committee, and they had only that report as to the appointment of a chemist. It also appeared that £550 was all that was available both for the chemical and educational departments. They had a report from the Council, at which the Lord Justice-General, Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, presided, and approved of by the directors, submitted to this meeting, and therefore they had a distinct and definite plan with reference to the educational question, while they had only that short report in regard to the chemical one. They had now considered the suggestion of Mr. Walker, of Bowland, that it was desirable that the meeting should go into the educational question and the chemical question together, or whether the whole of these questions were to be shelved and delayed for consideration. It would be an unfortunate thing if they were not to come to some resolution on these questions at this meeting. They had spent six months in considering them, and both of them had undergone great consideration by the directors, who had, especially on the educational one, the benefit of the assistance of the Council on Education. He begged leave to say that twenty-five years ago the Society considered the matter of such importance that they were at the expense of going to the Crown and getting a charter to enable them to commence the work of agricultural education. They felt that it was of great importance that the farmers who raised stock and used implements should have the knowledge to enable them to use these implements and raise that stock; and they understood that a knowledge of science, mechanics, chemistry, and so forth, was necessary to carry on agriculture on a proper footing. He did not approve of the method which the Society at that time adopted for communicating agricultural science. What they said was this—"We will grant a diploma and also a certificate to any who will stand a difficult examination in chemistry and other branches." What had been the result during the last twenty-five years? How many gentlemen did they think had gained the diploma of those who had been induced to go on with the subject of agricultural instruction? According to a blue-book published the other day, the whole number was just twenty-six, or about one individual for each year during the time that this society had had its charter. That of itself would show how insufficient the means were which the directors had adopted for agricultural instruction. Then, if they looked at the names of these twenty-six persons, they found that twenty-three of them obtained their education in England. They got it at the College of Cirencester, and other places where such instruction was given. Only three Scotchmen had the instruction necessary for the diploma, and perhaps these gentlemen got their instruction in England also. If they asked the Professor of Agriculture whether he was satisfied or not with the means existing in this country for enabling young men to come to his classes, he stated that a large number of these young men were unable to understand his lectures, because they had not received the necessary instruction in chemistry and other branches. Therefore it was that this proposal had been brought forward to encourage agricultural education more in schools. This committee, with the Lord Justice-General at its head, recommended them to give bursaries to encourage young men to come to the agricultural classes in the Universities, and to encourage middle-class schools to teach those branches necessary prepare young farmers to come to the university for further instruction. They had ascertained that most of the schoolmasters throughout the country, not merely in the middle-class schools, but likewise in the primary schools, were quite ready to begin this if they were only encouraged to do so by resolutions passed by the Highland Society inviting and encouraging them to give that instruction. Colonel Lanes, of Learney, who was present, would tell them that in Aberdeen,

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shire there was a large number of schools where chemistry was being taught; and he (Mr. Milne Home) had personal knowledge that there were seven or eight middle-class schools, such as Dollar Institution, prepared to give such instruction if the scheme of the directors was adopted. The bursaries were of two classes—£20 and £10. The former were for those able to attend the university classes—those who showed such knowledge and proficiency in the middle-class schools as to be able to understand Professor Wilson's lectures; and the £10 bursaries were for those not quite up to the mark, but sufficiently up in it as to show that they were making fair progress. They were to receive these to enable them to continue their education in these middle-class schools. Here, therefore, was a distinct and intelligibe plan—the plan adopted by the Royal English Agricultural Society, who had set aside £500 a year for bursaries in order to encourage young men to attend the middle-class schools or the colleges in England, Scotland, or Ireland. The people of England saw and acknowledged the necessity of encouraging agricultural instruction, and now, when circumstances required more scientific education than thirty or forty years ago—education implying a knowledge of chemistry, mechanics, and things of that kind—would it be said that the Highland Society felt so little interest in encouraging this as to let it go to the ground, and, that having a charter, it was not to do anything to put itself on a right footing? Their past efforts had been an entire failure, and had not encouraged that education in Scotland that it was desirable to encourage. When they had this definite place and this £550 of surplus, they had the means of encouraging that most important object, and they should approve of what was laid on the table by the directors. In concluding, Mr. Milne Home said it was ridiculous to suppose that a chemist could be obtained and his laboratory kept up for £550 a year. The Finance Committee made a very important suggestion to the directors. At present they spent £440 a year in giving gratuitous copies of the Transactions to all the members of the Society. He thought that that was unnecessary. Let those who wished to read the Transactions pay their 4s. or 5s. for the Transactions, and then the Society would be in funds. He moved that the Education Council's report be adopted, and the chemical matter remitted back again to the directors for further consideration.

Mr. Handyside (Edinburgh) said he thought that the meeting might have received from the directors a little more than a bundle of reports, and that it would have been far better if matters had been brought before them in a more adjusted manner. In regard to the two proposals he thought they were bound to do something for those who had bourne the brunt of the matter, and that perhaps the best thing, in the first place, was to look after the chemical department. He did not think that the farmers reposed that confidence in the chemical department which they ought to do, but the directors should see that it was made of real advantage to the members.

The Chairman said that the directors were divided in opinion in regard to the chemical department, and that was where the difficulty lay. If they could have come to a decision as to what was best for the members, no doubt there would have been a report.

Mr. Hope said he agreed with almost all that Mr. Milne Home had said. He was most anxious for the education of the young, but the benefit of the farmers was also most important. He would second the motion that it be remitted to the directors to appoint a chemist at as high a salary as possible. They could not get a first-rate chemist for the money; but if they went to Germany, from which Voelcker came, he had no doubt they would get a very good man.

Mr. Goodlet (Bolshan) seconded Mr. Milne Home's motion. It was stated that there was a sum of only £550 at disposal. Now he thought that, in order to make a thorough inquiry into the state of the funds, they would require to go deeper into it than the length they seemed to have gone. There were many outlays on the part of the Society which might be turned to proper account; and he believed if a committee were to go over the expenditure of the Society, instead of £550 they would get a couple of thousands of pounds. If they got that sum, then they would be enabled to adopt Mr. Harvey's proposal as to the appointment of a chemist, and also Mr. Milne Home's as to education. Both things were necessary. It was necessary that they should have a chemist employed solely by the farmers, so that there would be no suspicion in regard to him as there might be regarding one employed by those who sold manures. It surprised him to hear that the Society was poverty-struck, whose funds amounted to £56,000. If the Society had such a large sum of money, surely it would be possible to give a thousand or two to carry out the two proposals. He thought it would be well that there should be an examination of the books to see what really could be saved out of the present expense. Mr. Milne Home had spoken about the expense of supplying the Transactions to the members. He himself had read them, and he thought there was an immense mass of rubbish published. Then he thought they might save a good deal of money that was now given towards local societies, as he thought that these local societies should raise sufficient money for their own purposes. Then there was money that might be saved from premiums given for essays that were not worth it. They gave out subjects which, if properly written about, would require a high education. They had really no results from these essays, or if there were any results they were not worth having. He hoped that an inquiry would be made, so as to let them see whether they could not save more money than the paltry £550.

Mr. Melvin said that if Mr. Goodlet would propose a resolution to investigate the expenditure of the Society, he would second the motion. He would like neither to oppose Mr. Milne Home's motion nor to curt and weaken the proposal to appoint a chemist. If they voted in favour of Mr. Milne Home's motion without knowing what funds there were they might not be able to appoint a chemist, which would be a pity. The question of education was the thing that many years ago broke up the chemical association. He thought it would be extremely desirable that a motion such as that proposed by Mr. Goodlet should be made, and that both questions should be postponed till there was a report from the committee, which should consist of several influential persons, of whom some should be farmers.

Mr. Walker (Bowland) said he entirely agreed with what Mr. Melvin had said, and the light in which the matter had occurred to that gentleman showed the reason why the directors did not come forward with a more distinct statement The difficulties he felt were those which the directors had to encounter, and could not overcome. They had received from the convener of the Finance Committee a statement of their income and expenditure. They found that the present expenditure of the Society, including the £550, amounted to £4,022, while the average income of the Society, on an average of five years, amounted to £4,081. Now, it was out of the power of the directors to increase the expenditure for education or the chemistry department. Various suggestions had been made. The directors had no power to alter the destination of the funded money. It must be done under the rules of the charter, which required due notice and the sanction of certain meetings. Another proposition was made with regard to the publication of the Transactions, which cost £445. It was thought that that expense might be diminished, or altogether abandoned. Now, the arrangement as to the Transactions was agreed to by a distinct expression at a meeting that the system of selling the reports should be given up, and so it was not in the power of the directors to alter it. It was under these circumstances that it was proposed that a chemist should be appointed, who should devote his whole time to the Society, and keep up a laboratory—the estimated expense of which would be about £1,200, while the Committee on Education recommended a grant of £300. The directors could not recommend any one of these schemes.

A Member: They did.

Mr. Walker: They proposed one involving a cost of £550. These were organic changes, and he thought they should be carefully considered, and not entered into rashly. If they involved themselves either in pecuniary difficulties or in a system that was not thoroughly satisfactory, they would have very great difficulty in afterwards getting out of it. The moment they diminished their capital sum, the more their annual income would be diminished; and he thought if they retained the other objects of the Society, they should be very careful not to reduce the capital sum. It had arisen to a large extent from life subscriptions, and that ought to be divided over a number of years.

Mr. Hope: But if you have got a capital of £56,000?

Mr. Walker: We are not accumulating now.

Mr. Scot Skirving said he thought it would clear the way so far if they were to come to a conclusion whether they

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would have one first-rate chemist or a number of young men. There was a gentleman present from Perthshire who said they did not want one man in Edinburgh or Glasgow, but half-a-dozen men.

Sir THOMAS HEPBURN said he thought that a special meeting should be called for the purpose of considering the various proposals, as a number of the members were not aware of the nature of them.

Mr. GEORGE HARVEY said they could not do otherwise than appoint a first-class chemist. He was equally anxious to see the young instructed. He never opposed that; but they must commence with the appointment of a chemist. After the chemist was appointed, he thought it would be advisable then to see what he (the chemist) would recommend to be done with the money at the command of the Society. He proposed that they should advertise for a chemist; but he wished it to be understood that he was not opposed to the education of the young. It was most important to instruct the young; but a number of those present, who were old fogies, wished to have some instruction also, to know what they were about, to know whether they were paying £10 for what might be really worth only £5. They must have a first-class chemist—a man of undoubted fame—a man who would consult with the farmers, and let them know what, in his opinion, was the most suitable mode of experimenting.

Mr. ROUGHHEAD (Haddington) said he considered it of the utmost importance to the Society to have a chemist. The whole thing was in a nutshell. They spent at present upwards of £400. In Germany there were the first-class chemists of the day; and he believed if they were to advertise for a German chemist, they would get a young man for £300 or £700 a-year. He had no doubt that a young energetic chemist coming here would get pupils, and instruct the young farmers and the general public. He thought it was of importance that they should have a young man devoted to the purposes of the Society—to see that the farmer got the manures genuine; and not only that, but to explain what were the best manures to apply to the soil. It would have the effect of allowing the tenantry to come in contact with the chemist, and have conversations with him, which would be of great advantage, both to the farmers as well as the proprietors of the soil. Farmers had done much in regard to the rearing of stock, but they ought not only to pay attention to that department but also to the cereals of the country, and to get chemistry applied to make them more productive. He thought that that was more important than the education of the young. The young ought to be taught in the schools; and to have a good chemist was of the greatest importance. It would make the Society more popular, and if not done the Society would lag behind as compared with the other societies in England and Ireland.

Mr. SMITH (Whittingham Mains) said, that while they were all agreed that both departments were important, it must be noticed that if the motion for the appointment of a chemist was carried, the other matter in regard to education would be shelved. Both subjects were so intimately connected, that he thought it was much better for the Society and for all parties that the one should not be lost sight of for the other.

Mr. MILNE HOME said he had no objection to allow the educational question to lie over along with the other. The Society could suffer no prejudice, because they had heard a very able report from Mr. Dewar, who was Dr. Anderson's assistant. He did not know a more able chemist than Mr. Dewar in the country, and he thought they could well allow that gentleman another six months.

Mr. ROUGHHEAD said he had no doubt of Mr. Dewar's abilities, but probably they would get a young man to act at a much lower rate than that for which they could expect Mr. Dewar to perform the duties (Cries of "No, no").

Mr. FINDLAY ANDERSON said he thought there was a very strong desire that both questions should be disposed of in a satisfactory manner. The difficulty had been a difficulty in regard to funds. Mr. Walker said that the directors had no right to change the destination of the funds. But he thought that, after the strong expression of the opinions of parties, either as regarded the chemistry or the education question, it would have the effect on the directors of leading them to consider the question whether they could not devise the expenditure of the Society so as to allow a sum for both these things. Let them revise the whole of the accounts, and see whether they could not, at another meeting, arrange by which both these objects might be carried on.

Professor BALFOUR said he did not see why they should go to Germany for a cheap chemist. It was ridiculous to suppose that they would get a chemist and a laboratory kept up for £550. He agreed with the proposal that the matter ought to be delayed.

Mr. MELVIN moved, "That the meeting ask the directors to appoint a committee of their own number and others to investigate the income and outlay of the Society, and to endeavour to provide sufficient funds for the purposes of the chemistry department and education. Delay consideration of these subjects in the meantime."

Mr. WALKER (Bowland) seconded the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps Mr. Harvey and Mr. Milne Home withdraw their motions.

Mr. MILNE HOME said he would withdraw his motion in favour of that which was now proposed.

Mr. GEORGE HARVEY said he would withdraw his motion at once. He thought the Chairman should dismiss them, as they could not agree to anything. When he was a director they generally agreed about everything. There was no pleasure in doing anything connected with the directory. In Mr. Hall Maxwell's time there was no jarring except on some special occasions.

Mr. MELVIN said there was one remark he would like to make, and that was, that he hoped the directors would early consider the matter, so that they would be prepared to report to the first general meeting of the Society, so that the matter could be decided at once.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure that the directors would take up the matter at once.

Mr. GEORGE HARVEY said he had great respect for Mr. Dewar, whose report was admirable, so far as he had been engaged. He would not say anything against Mr. Dewar. Perhaps he might be the chosen man after advertising, and in that case they would have no cheap Germans, as Professor Balfour said. There were many cantankerous men among the directors, and this meeting seemed not less so.

The CHAIRMAN said it was quite understood that everything connected with the educational and chemistry departments was deferred for the present.

The Hon. GEORGE WALDEGRAVE LESLIE: Except that Mr. Dewar is retained.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, he has got an appointment.

Mr. Melvin's motion was then agreed to.

Colonel INNES (Learney) said he had made a proposal that the Privy Council, as representing the Department of Science and Art, should take up the subject of agriculture as well as other subjects that were to be taught in the primary schools. The directors unanimously came to a resolution approving of his proposal, and as it involved no difficulty as to expense, he trusted it would now be submitted for the approval of the meeting, and that the memorial be forwarded to Government. Mr. Milne Home's proposal was to obtain bursaries for students in primary and secondary schools, to enable them to pursue a higher education in agriculture in the Universities. His (Colonel Innes') proposal was a very modest one. It was to the effect that whereas the practice of agriculture now involved the application of science, it was necessary that instruction in the application of science to agriculture should be diffused generally among all classes of agriculturists, and that that could be done by that education beginning in the primary schools. It would be out of the question for the Society to operate on the primary schools; but in the Science and Art Department there was the whole organisation; and if they got the consent of the Privy Council to take up agriculture as one of their branches, it would open to the humblest agriculturist the means of getting information as to the application of science to agriculture. The following was the resolution adopted by the directors: "(1). That the Society memorialise the committee of the Privy Council on Education on the propriety of establishing agriculture as a branch of the system of physical science taught under the superintendence of the Department of Science and Art in the schools and classes. (2). That the Society offer a premium for the best text book for such a course, including the application of botany, geology, chemistry, and animal physiology to the art of agriculture and the management of farm stock." He held in his hand, when he made the proposal, a letter from a schoolmaster in the county of

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Aberdeen, who occupied the position of chairman of the Association of Schoolmasters in three of the northern districts. It stated that 150 schoolmasters were ready to undertake that branch of education. Therefore, when they had such a complete organisation ready to enable the people to acquire a knowledge of the application of science to agriculture, it seemed to him that there could be no hesitation whatever as to the adoption of the proposal. Although there might be doubts as to the application of thousands a year, there could be no doubt as to the small expense necessary to carry out such a scheme as he proposed. He moved that the resolution adopted by the board of directors be carried.

Mr. MILNE HOME seconded the motion. He said there was no discrepancy between Colonel Innes and himself in regard to the matter. This proposal was with the view of securing not merely to primary schools, but to other schools, those liberal grants given in cases in which certain sciences were taught. There were at present 119 schools which were drawing grants from the Kensington Department for chemistry, botany, and other branches; but it appeared that the chemistry that was taught was not in relation to agriculture, but manufactures, and what the teachers wished was to have it extended to agriculture. They were prepared to give it their hearty support provided that agricultural chemistry be adopted by the Science and Art Departments. He wrote last week making inquiry into the subject, and the reply was that the grants were limited to other subjects than agriculture; but he had no doubt that as the object of that department was to educate the working classes of the country, they would be able to extend the grants to agriculture as well as to other subjects. At the same time, he did not confine his desire to the extension of grants to the primary schools. He had no reliance on the middle schools; and he believed that if the grants from Kensington were, extended they would apply to all schools.

Professor BALFOUR said he thought that in regard to the elementary schools they did not want the practical application of science to agriculture. What they wanted in the elementary schools was to teach the elements of the sciences. There were no means of thoroughly testing the knowledge of the pupils in the elementary schools. In regard to the Kensington department, the answers were sent to London, and the matter was decided there. But surely we in Scotland were able to carry on the work ourselves. Let them give a good practical education in the middle schools, and they might depend on it that the elementary education would follow in the primary schools. He was sure that as the higher education was being carried on well, the other departments would be well attended to without the Science and Art Department requiring to come in.

Mr. MILNE HOME said he had no doubt that the examination could be carried on as well here as in London—perhaps better—but it was a fact that ought to be kept in view that 43 schools last year received £1,700.

The motion was then agreed to.

The SECRETARY reported that an exhibition of steam cultivators was to be held under the auspices of the Society, in the vicinity of Edinburgh, early in the autumn of 1874. The exhibition would not be competitive, but each exhibitor would have the opportunity of showing the full working power of his apparatus.

The Hon. WALDEGRAVE-LESLIE then moved: "That this meeting is of opinion that, considering the scarcity of labour, the uncertain state of the labour market, the high price of horses and of horse fodder, the Highland and Agricultural Society should in every way encourage all attempts to introduce an improved system of steam cultivation at remunerative prices, and that the directors be requested to assist the cause of steam cultivation by every means in their power."

Professor WILSON seconded the motion, which was adopted, and the proceedings then terminated.

THE ROYAL COUNTIES (HANTS AND BERKS) AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT READING.

The management of this Society still continues to be of a curiously primitive character, as one comes to question whether the stewards and other officers can ever have seen any show but their own. For some hours the two sets of cattle judges were working away, so far as the public was concerned, utterly in the dark. Class after class came in and went out again with nothing more known than that the judges had entered some mysterious marks in their note-books. No colours were given out, no winning numbers were announced, and thus the whole effect of the thing was destroyed. Through the courtesy of a judge we could occasionally get a glimpse of what was going on, but more commonly one had to wait about the stalls until in due course the prize placards were put up. Anything so crude or so thoroughly unsatisfactory we have not witnessed for many a long day; and unless the committee can arrange for public judging on a better system, it might perhaps be as well to get through this work with closed doors, as under the circumstances the admission charge of half-a-crown is taken under something very like false pretences, the visitor getting more for his money on the shilling days.

Remarkably enough, moreover, in the horse-ring the colours were handed to the winners as the awards were arrived at; and here of course the very pertinent question arises as to why the stewards of stock did not act in concert with the stewards of horses? It is very possible that some people took quite as much interest in the Jersey cows as others did in the cart-mares, although here unquestionably was the strongest feature of the show. The class ran up to between twenty and thirty, and with very little exception the class might have been generally commended. The majority of the mares, backed often enough by some capital foals, were really adapted for agricultural purposes, and not over-weighted animals from the drays or the Shires. Smart, active, and comely, they looked like doing the work of the farm, and as they spread over the roomy ring, it was evident the judges had something to do. They, however, settled down to a well-grown handsome grey, who showed better out than in, and came from close by at Whitley Grove. In fact, like Mr. Hutchinson's second and third prizes again, many of the best mares were handy home, as from the sample they must have a good sort hereabouts, the class being one, alike for numbers and merits, which would have done credit to any society. Amongst the cart stallions Messrs. Stanford's Duke now beat the second-prize horse put above him at Bristol, as he should then have done, but, as we wrote of it, "the judges would not have the Clydes or Suffolks," notwithstanding that the Duke has now furnished into a very taking horse. He was further "proved" here by two or three of his stock also placed on the prize-list, and the show of cart horses pretty generally was good enough at Reading to make a prize worth having; a particularly clever chesnut from Twyford winning in the two-year-old stallion class, where the entries occasionally expanded into voluminous histories. The "nags" were about as bad as the draught horses were good; though Mr. Pain won in the hunter class with a powerful grey, who only wanted a horseman on his back to do better; whilst the best hack, smart enough to stand alongside of, could not walk, trot, nor canter, but went shuffling about with his head up in a manner or with "manners" quite at variance with all notions of a good hack; and no question but, at all points as a really nice riding horse, Mr. Alfred Howland's better bred black should have been put first.

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It is seldom that so many plain common-looking beasts have been got together under the denomination of highly-bred Shorthorns as were exhibited at Reading. A majority, indeed, of the prize takers were the mere culls from Bristol, with Lady Pigot, the Yorkshire and the Cornish eneries of the West now well out of the way. Protector, however, was again the best bull, though with absolutely nothing to beat; and the useful Prince Rupert won in another class of no consequence, the second best, with only half a pedigree attached to his nomination, having fairly broken down behind. In the cow class the highly commended of Clifton, Euphœmia, was first, and another useful heifer from one of the brothers Stratton also won in the next class; but amongst the yearlings, Brilliant Flower was put out by a gaudy-coloured, drooping animal never noticed at Bristol; and far away the most promising heifer of the lot, straight and stylish, was Her Majesty's Cawlina, which got no nearer than third. The best heifer-calf was the best at Bristol, where as we said there was scarcely anything of "much account;" and Shorthorn winners outright from the Western meeting which won again at Reading did so under very similar circumstances, that is, in bad company.

Her Majesty supplied the Hereford show in three entries which took three prizes; and the Royal farms were first and second for Devon bulls, and Mr. Senior first for cows and first for heifers, with a pair, however good, still so terribly overfed that the judges might have exercised their discretionary power as to such beasts being in place at a breeding show. "The judges took for their best cow an animal of size and weight, but not of the nice character of the second best from Crawley; as even the other cow from Mr. Duke's herd, the highly commended from Slinfold, or the brothers Stanford's entry were more comely and suggestive of the milk-pail." It was thus that we ventured to speak of the well-filled Sussex cow class at Bristol; and in the Sussex cow class at Reading Messrs. Stanford's cow was placed *first*, and Mr. Duke's first at Bristol *nowhere* in a class of four! as it did not require a Sussex judge to pronounce against her steery head and general coarseness, the one now preferred being a far sweeter *cow*.

But for cows, as cows, that is as producers of milk and butter, the public now turns to "the Alderneys," as they were once called, or "the Channel Islanders," as they are now written, of which, so far as the Jerseys went, there was a capital entry at Reading, set off by scarcely a Guernsey. And here Mr. Tait must either pride himself on his inconsequential impartiallity, or plead his minority; for amongst the cows Mr. Digby's Miss Edith, the best of all at Bristol, was now never noticed! the highly commended. Tal of the other day being now placed above her, and Mr. Gilby winning outright with his famous old Milkmaid—such a cow still at over seven years old! despite her broken horn. But this class of Jersey cows would rank well with the cart mares, there being a deal of good about, beyond the mere winners, from Mr. Simpson at Wray, Mr. Fuller of Dorking, Mr. Bonham Carter, Mr. Drewitt, and Mr. Wingfield Digby. There was another almost equally excellent entry of heifers, wherein the Hargrave Fan was not to be found, though Mr. Simpson was again second, while the winner turned up in Adhurst Flower, a neat, pretty heifer, although the decision in her favour was not altogether fancied by "the fancy." Mr. Drewitt's best old bull is very handsome, as he has taken the attention of the judges before now; while a nice two-year-old from the same herd was well beaten for first by Queen's Favourite, rather a favourite of ours, as a handsome, lengthy, high-bred bull, only lacking a little more "devil" in his expression. Your Jersey bull should let you know by his very look that he is a very resolute gentleman.

There was naturally a great show of Hampshire Downs, the judges speaking to the more general classes of ewes and of lambs in lots as particularly useful; while the Cotswold entry also ran up to some length of fairly good sheep from most of the prize flocks now about; but Lord Chesham had the Shropshires all to himself, as had Messrs. Wallis and Druce the Oxfords, where the Witney awards were "revised;" as was the old class of Southdown rams; Mr. Gorringe now beating the Prince's sheep, which was pronounced to be the better of the two last season. His Royal Highness, however, was first for shearlings with a ram commendable for size, but showing little Southdown character, being bad about his head, wrong in his shoulders, and wrong in his wool, and either of the Heasman's sheep should have been preferred. The one put second was commended at Bristol; but as true a type of a Southdown as anything in the show was another smaller and unnoticed shearling from Angmering, for size does not or *should* not make a Southdown. Still Mr. Gorringe's pretty bloodlike pen of ewes did win, although the other judges seemed to be going for something bigger, until, no doubt, discomfited by Mr. Rigden's eloquent ratiocination.

Berkshire pigs were, as of course they should be, quite in the ascendant in Berkshire, with the Duckerings doing by far the best amongst the other breeds, where the small blacks and small whites joined direct issue after a somewhat perplexing fashion, white having rather the call over Lord Portsmouth's pretty pigs, the decision against his lordship's young boar being not so self-evident to any beyond those in authority.

The "palatial" stand of the Messrs. Sutton was faced by the "palatial" stand of the Messrs. Carter—very emporiums of seeds and roots, set off and framed and baized like choice picture or cabinet curiosities; while the exhibitors of machinery in motion included Wallis and Steevens, Basingstoke; Humphries, Pershore; The Reading Iron Works Co.; Vosper and Clark, Portsmouth; Wilder, Reading; Nalder and Nalder, Wantage; Marshall, Sons, and Co., Gainsborough; Gibbons, Wantage; Tasker and Sons, Andover; and Cottrell and Co., Hungerford. The other exhibitors of implements and machinery were Bradford and Co., High Holborn, London; Heelas, Sons, and Co., Reading; Busse and Co., 8, South-street, Finsbury, London; Belcher, Gee, and Co., Gloucester; Wood, Worship-street, London; Smith, Basingstoke; Stacey and Lace, Newbury; Smith, Kettering; Benjamin and Gold, New Windsor; Gower and Son, Winchfield; Thomas and Taylor, Stockport and Salford; Apted, Guildford; Ashby, Jeffery, and Luke, Stamford; Spong and Co., Charing Cross, London; Parker, Woodstock; Milford, Cullompton; Sears and Co., Fenchurch-street, London; Maurice de Leon and Co., Oxford-street, London; King, Reading; Brown and Co., Charlotte-street, Blackfriars; Fox, Reading; Baker, Newbury; Samuelson and Co., Banbury; The Farmers' Supply Association; The Johnston Harvester Co., New York; H. Duffield, Regent's Park, London; Pickslay, Sims, and Co., Leigh; Waide, Leeds; Hetherington and Parker, Alton; Vincent, Arborfield, Reading; Cramp, Tewkesbury; Down and Co., Woburn; Ohlendorff and Co., Fenchurch-street, London; Osmond, Hungerford; Forbes, Albany-street, Regent's Park; Nicholson and Son, Northampton; Hancock, Dudley; Hollings Brothers, Swindon; Heard, Euston-road, London; Burney and Co., Millwall Docks, London; Kiddle, Donhead St. Mary; Jones, Gloucester; Martin, Reading; Bailey Brothers, Cursitor-street, Lon-

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don; The Thorough Washing Machine Company, Burnley; Williams and Sons, Reading; Beaumont and Co., Reading; Davis and Co., Newington Butts, London; Jacques, Dublin and London; Player, Reading; Cook, Reading; Wheeler and Wilson, Regent-street, London; Muggleton, Croydon, Surrey; Ball, Henley-on-Thames; Ford and Co., Bristol-road, Gloucester; Reynolds and Co., Southwark-street, London; Saunders, Streatley, Reading; Lee, Gloucester; Williams and Co., Bermondsey, London; Ilea, Regent's Park, London; Mrs. S. Ackerman, King's-road, Reading; Goss, Plymouth; Beach and Co., Dudley; Howard, Chesham, Bucks; Lyon, Finsbury-square, London; Margrett, Reading; Davies, Regent-street, London; Moore and Co., Upper Marylebone-street, London; Unite, Paddington; McDougall Brothers, Mark-lane, London; Day and Sons, Crewe, Cheshire; Chambers, Pimlico; Wilson, Reading; Stiles, Peckham, London; Markall, Whitechapel-road, London; Hollis and Son, Witney; Elliman, Sons, and Co., Slough; Wright, Portsmouth; Swain, jun., Reading; Lawrence and Co., Notting Hill, London; Davis, Kingsland, London; Edwards and Suter, Swindon; Van Praag and Co., Soho, London; Soper, Reading; Day, Son, and Hewitt, Baker-street, London; Kerr, Dublin; Tipper, Birmingham; Sellar, Reading; Van Stan, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.; Hilton, Altrincham; Bell and Co., Oxford-street; Carter and Co., High Holborn, London; Sutton and Sons, Reading; Lewis and Co., Shrewsbury; Salmon, jun., Reading; Nike, Plymouth; Kearsley, Ripon; Voice, Horley, Surrey; Isabel C. Bates, Stoke Newington, London; Simpson and Co., Chiswell-street, London; Phillips, Smith, and Co., Wandsworth-road, London; Edgington, London Bridge, Southwark; Sadler, Sonning, Reading; Cranston and Luck, Birmingham; Brigham and Co., Berwick-on-Tweed; Talbot, Reading; Messer, Reading; Baker, Compton, Newbury; Watson, Andover; Bartlett, Wimborne; Head-Wrightson, and Co., Stockton-on-Tees; Pearce, Reading; Dennis and Co., Chelmsford; Boulton and Co., Norwich; Rendle, Victoria-street, London; Tuck, Bath; Milford, Kenn, Exeter.

PRIZE LIST.

SHEEP.

JUDGES.—H. Bone, Bisterne, Ringwood; R. J. Newton, Campsfield Farm, Woodstock; J. Rigden, Hove, Brighton.

HAMPSHIRE OR WEST COUNTRY DOWNS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, A. Morrison, Fonthill, Tisbury; second, R. Coles, Middleton, Warminster; third, J. Rigg, Wrotham-Hill Park, Sevenoaks.

Ram of any age.—W. King, New Hayward, Hungerford; second, W. F. Bennett, Chilmark, near Salisbury, Wilts; third, A. Chapman Saunders, Watercombe, Dorchester. Commended: W. Lann, Woolding Farm, Whitchurch, Hants.

Five shearling rams.—First prize, W. Parsons, Monk Sherborne, Basingstoke; second, T. C. Saunders; third, J. Walter, M.P., Bearwood, Wokingham.

Five shearling ewes, which have never been separated from the flock till one month before the day of exhibition, the ewes to be clean shorn.—First and second prize, W. Newton, Crowmarsh, Battle, Wallingford; third, J. Barton, Hackwood Farm, Basingstoke. Highly commended: T. Moore, Viable's Farm, Basingstoke.

Ram lamb, bred by the exhibitor.—First prize, J. Rigg; second, A. Morrison. Highly commended: A. Twitchin, New Barn Farm, Whitchurch, and W. Parsons. Commended: W. F. Bennett.

Five ram lambs, bred by exhibitor.—First prize, J. Rigg; second, A. Morrison; third, W. Newton. Commended: W. F. Bennett and G. Edney, The Manor, Whitchurch, Hants.

Five ewe lambs, bred by the exhibitor.—First prize, W. Newton; second, H. Clift, Swallick Farm, Basingstoke; third, G. Edney. Highly commended: J. A. and T. Palmer, Clidden, Basingstoke. Commended: A. Twitchin.

Five ewes of any age, having bred a lamb this season.—J. A. and T. Palmer; second, G. W. Homer, Athelhampton Hall, Dorchester.

SOUTHDOWNS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, the Prince of Wales, K.G., Sandringham, King's Lynn; second, J. E. and A. Heasman, Angmering, Arundel; third, H. Penfold, Selsey, Chichester.

Ram of any age.—First prize, H. Gorringe, Kingston-by-Sea, Shoreham; second, the Prince of Wales; third, H. H. Penfold.

Five shearling ewes.—First prize, H. Gorringe; second, G. Smith, Paddockhurst, Crawley, Sussex. Highly commended: The Prince of Wales.

OXFORDSHIRE DOWNS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, G. Wallis, Old Shifford, Bampton, Farringdon; second, A. F. M. Druce, Twelve Acre, Eynsham, Oxon.

Ram of any age.—First prize, A. F. M. Druce; second, G. Wallis.

Five shearling ewes.—First prize, A. F. M. Druce. Highly commended: Lieut.-Col. Lindsay, V.C., M.P., Lockinge Park, Wantage. Commended: G. Wallis.

SHROPSHIRE DOWNS.

Shearling ram.—First and second prize, Lord Chesham, Latimer, Bucks.

Five shearling ewes.—Prize, Lord Chesham.

LONG WOOLLED SHEEP.

Shearling ram.—First and third prize, Cirencester College; second, J. Gillett, Tangley, Chipping Norton.

Ram of any age.—First prize, J. Wheeler and Sons, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour; second, H. E. Raynbird, Old Basing, Hants; third, Cirencester College.

Five shearling ewes.—First and second prize, T. and S. G. Gillett.

Five ewes having bred a lamb this season.—First and second prizes, T. and S. G. Gillett; third, H. E. Raynbird.

CROSS-BRED SHEEP.

Five ram lambs, bred by the exhibitor.—First prize, Mrs. Clift, Sherborne St. John, Basingstoke; second, R. Deacon, Bury Farm, Basingstoke. Reserved: W. Turvill, West Worldham, Alton.

Five ewe lambs.—First prize, Mrs. Clift; second, H. E. Raynbird.

HORSES.

FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

JUDGES.—W. C. Spooner, Eling House, Southampton; W. Sharp, Shottesbrook, Maidenhead; T. Rush, Chalk Farm, Babraham, Cambridge.

Cart stallion foaled before the year 1872.—First prize, E. and A. Stanford, Eatons, Steyning, Sussex; second, S. Davis, Woolashill, Pershore; third, W. Stanford, Pasildon Park, Reading.

Cart stallion foaled in 1872.—First prize, E. Headington, Scarlett's Farm, Twyford, Berks; second, J. Butler, Sherfield Court, Basingstoke; third, G. Twitchin, Worting Wood Farm, Basingstoke. Highly commended: J. Walter, M.P., Bearwood, Wokingham; J. Lawes, Sindlesham Mills, Wokingham; and E. and A. Stanford, Eatons, Steyning, Sussex.

Mare and foal.—First prize, R. Attenborough, Whitley Grove, Reading; second and third, N. G. Hutchinson, Crookham Manor Farm, Newbury. Highly commended: Lieut.-Col. Loyd Lindsay, V.C., M.P.

Gelding foaled in 1871.—First prize, T. Simonds, Carter's Hill, Boorfield, Reading; second, T. Thorn, 39, Victoria-street, Reading; third, G. Barton, Basing Mill, Old Basing, Hants.

Gelding or filly foaled in 1872.—First prize, W. Fisher, Chieveley, Newbury; second, W. Stanford, Steyning, Sussex; third, E. and A. Stanford. Highly commended: Lieut.-Col. Loyd Lindsay, V.C., M.P.

Cart colt foaled in 1873.—First prize, W. Stanford; second, S. Davis, Woolashill, Pershore.

Mare for breeding purposes.—First prize, C. J. Broadway, Pangbourne, Reading; second, W. L. W. Chute, the Vyne, Basingstoke. Highly commended: Sir P. Hunter, Bart., Mortimer Hill, Reading.

Cart gelding.—First prize, W. L. W. Chute; second, R. Attenborough. Commended: H. Hall, Alton, Hants.

HUNTERS, HACKS, AND PONIES.

JUDGES.—The Earl of Portsmouth, Hurstbourne-priors, Whit-Church, Hants; Sir P. Hunter, Bart., Mortimer-hill, Reading, Berks; W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Oakley-hall, Basingstoke, Hants.

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HUNTERS.

Mare or gelding of any age, jumping to be a point of merit.—First prize, T. Pain, Lower Pertwood, Hindon, Wilts; second, Capt. J. May, Basingstoke.

HACKS.

Mare or gelding, not exceeding 15 hands high, and calculated to carry 12 stone.—First prize, T. Simonds; second, A. R. Howland, Ludesdon, Thame, Oxon.

PONIES.

Mare or gelding not exceeding 14 hands high.—First prize, C. Y. Brown, Mildenhall, Marlborough; second, the Rev. A. G. Barker, Sherfield Rectory, Basingstoke.

Mare or gelding not exceeding 13 hands.—First prize, F. P. Bailey, Brown Candover, Alresford; second, J. R. Bridle, 62, Charlotte-street, Landport.

CATTLE.

JUDGES.—SHORTHORNS, HEREFORDS, DEVONS, and SUSSEX: J. Thompson, Badminton, Chippenham; E. Bowley, Siddington House, Cirencester; G. Garne, Churchill Heath, Chipping Norton.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull.—First prize, R. Stratton, The Duffryn, Newport, Monmouth; second, Lieut.-Col. Loyd Lindsay, V.C., M.P.; 3rd, J. A. Mumford, Brill House, Thame, Oxon.

Bull above two and under three years of age on the 22nd of June.—First prize, J. Walter, M.P.; second, R. Penson, Foxcote, Chipping Norton Junction; 3rd, R. B. Blyth, Woolhampton, Reading.

Bull above one year and not exceeding two years of age on the 22nd of June.—First prize, Lieut.-Col. Loyd Lindsay, V.C., M.P.; second, W. Nicholson, Basing Park, Alton; third, R. Penson.

Bull-calf above six and not exceeding twelve months of age on the 22nd of June.—First prize, Lieut.-Col. Loyd Lindsay, V.C., M.P.; second, T. Simonds; third, G. Young, Ashey Farm, Brading, Isle of Wight.

Cow in calf, or, if in milk, having had a calf within six months next preceding the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize and highly commended, J. Stratton, Alton Priors, Marlborough; second, R. Stratton; third, R. B. Blyth. Commended: Her Majesty the Queen.

Heifer in milk or in calf under three years old on the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, R. Stratton; second, J. A. Mumford; third, T. B. St. John Ackers, Prinknash Park, Painswick, Stroud.

Heifer above one year and not exceeding two years of age on the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, W. Nicholson; second, R. Stratton; third, Her Majesty the Queen.

Cow-calf above six months and not exceeding twelve months of age on the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, R. Stratton; second, Lieut.-Col. Loyd Lindsay, V.C., M.P.; third, T. Kingsley, Boars' Croft, Tring, Herts.

HEREFORDS.

Bull of any age.—First and second prize, her Majesty the Queen.

Hereford Cow in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months next preceding the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, her Majesty the Queen.

DEVONS.

Bull of any age.—First and second prize, her Majesty the Queen.

Cow in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months next preceding the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, T. Lee, senior, Broughton House, Aylesbury; second. J. Turvill, Hartley Park Farm, Alton.

Heifer under three years of age on the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, her Majesty the Queen; second, T. Lee, senior.

SUSSEX.

Bull of any age.—First prize, J. Turvil, Hartley Park Farm, Alton.

Cow in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months of the 22nd of June.—First prize, E. and A. Stanford, Eatons, Steyning, Sussex. Highly commended: J. Turvil.

CHANNEL ISLANDS AND AYRSHIRE.

JUDGES.—H. Tait, the Prince Consort's Shaw Farm, Windsor; Mr. Middleton, Cuttleslow, Oxford; and E. Curtis, Dummer Basingstoke.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

Jersey or Alderney bull of any age.—First prize, H. Drewitt, Milvill, Titchfield, Hants; second, T. B. Carter. Highly commended: J. Bonham-Carter, Lower Adhurst, Petersfield.

Jersey and Alderney bull, under two years of age on the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, G. Simpson, Wray Park, Reigate; second, H. Drewett, Tichfield. Commended and highly commended, C. B. Dixon, the Vinery, Shirley Warren, Southampton.

Jersey or Alderney cow in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months of the 22nd of June, 1874.—First and second prize, W. Gilbey, Hargrave Park, Stanstead. Highly commended: J. Bonham-Carter.

Guernsey cow in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months of the 22nd of June, 1874.—C. B. Dixon, the Vinery, Shirley Warren, Southampton.

Jersey or Alderney heifer, not exceeding two-and-half years old on the 23nd of June, 1874.—First prize, J. Bonham-Carter; second, G. Simpson, Wray Park, Reigate. Highly commended: Rev. A. G. Barker, Sherfield Rectory, Basingstoke.

Guernsey heifer, not exceeding two-and-a-half years old on the 22nd of June, 1874.—Prize, W. E. Fitt, Kerrfield House, Winchester.

AYRSHIRE.

Bull of any age.—Prize, A. J. Scott, Rotherfield Park, Alton.

Ayrshire cow in calf, or if in milk having had a calf within six months of the 22nd June, 1874.—Prize, A. J. Scott, Rotherfield Park, Alton.

PIGS.

JUDGES.—A. F. M. Druce, Twelveacre, Eynsham; J. White, Broadoak, Winchfield; J. Smith, Henley-in-Arden.

BERKSHIRE.

Boar over twelve months of age on the 22nd June, 1874.—First prize, R. Swannick, Cirencester College; second, H. Humphrey, Kingstone Farm, Shrivenham.

Boar under twelve months of age on the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, A. C. Baily, Swindon; second, A. Stewart, Saint Bridge Farm, Gloucester.

Breeding sow of any age.—First prize, R. Swannick; second, H. Humphrey.

Pair of sows under nine months old on the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, A. Stewart, second, R. Swanwick.

LARGE BREED, NOT BEING BERKSHIRE.

Boar of any age.—Prize, R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsay.

Breeding sow of any age.—Prize, J. Wheeler and Sons, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour.

SMALL BREED, NOT BEING BERKSHIRE.

Boar under twelve months of age on the 22nd of June 1874.—First prize, R. E. Duckering and Sons; second, W. Dunn, Elcot, Hungerford.

Boar under twelve months of age on the 22nd June, 1874.—First prize, J. Dove, Hambrook-house, Hambrook, Bristol; second, Earl of Portsmouth. Highly commended: Earl of Portsmouth.

Breeding sow of any age.—First prize, R. E. Duckering and Sons; second, Earl of Portsmouth.

Pair of sows under nine months old on the 22nd of June, 1874.—First prize, Earl of Portsmouth; second, J. Wheeler and Sons.

MOWING MACHINES.

Manufacturer's class.—First prize, W. A. Wood, Worship-street, London; second, Samuelson and Co., Banbury.

Farmer's class.—First prize, R. Attenborough, Whitley Grove, Reading; second, J. Fall, Home Farm, Severnake.

At the dinner the chairman, Colonel LOYD LINDSAY, M.P., said it was a matter of congratulation when those in high position had the wisdom and the good feeling to direct the fashion in such a manner as to prove advantageous to the community among whom they lived. Some of the boldest and most liberal buyers of improved breeds of cattle were to be found among men whose chief time and attention were devoted to commercial affairs, and some of them who most liberally maintained the name of England at the great sale in America were men who were neither great owners nor occupiers of land. These men had doubtless had their attention turned to the pleasures and benefits to be derived from farming by the example which had been set them in the highest circles. In maintaining and sustaining the interest which was taken in high farming and in improving the condition as well as the breed of animals, they are also much indebted to such shows as that in which they had been taking part that day, and that

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held a fortnight since at Bristol, and which was eminently successful. On these occasions men who had been spending hundreds of pounds on their stock deemed themselves well rewarded by receiving a small prize or even by being honourably mentioned or commended by the judges of the show. It had been frequently asserted by high authority inside the House of Commons, and by the highest authority outside the House of Commons, and never gainsaid that he was aware of, that England produced more corn and more meat, acre for acre, than any other country in the world; that she had in her fields more cattle and more sheep, and that those cattle and those sheep were bigger and heavier, and that they reached that size much more quickly than they did elsewhere. All this had been effected by the energy and industry of the farmers, and by the judicious admixture of economy and liberality in the conduct of their business, aided, also, by the free expenditure of money by the more wealthy classes in preserving a pure-bred of cattle and by replenishing it at almost any price from the best and purest strains of blood to be found in the world. It was perfectly true that farmers' profits were made by close and watchful economy, and without it there could be no good farming, and it might seem difficult to establish at first sight, that giving £1,000 for a cow or a bull was consistent with economy. In that respect English farmers were enormously liberal in their expenditure when compared with farmers on the Continent, and they had their reward by having in their fields cattle and sheep with such an aptitude to get flesh on their bones that six months' grass would do more to bring them into a condition for the butcher than twice or three times that amount of food would do when bestowed on a more skinny and bony style of animal. Such had been the effect of economy combined with liberality in the management of their farms; but if they were economical in their fields, they altogether failed to carry economy into their kitchens. They placed the finest joints before their cooks, and the result was not so good as was produced in France with a few odds and ends which many in their country would reject altogether. Take the evidence of their family butcher and they would find him state that his losses often arose from not being able to dispose of those odds and ends and scraps which not only poor people but the rich made such good out of in France. This uneconomical cookery was not confined to the houses of the rich. It was much worse in the cottages of the poor. As a rule, where the means were smallest the waste was greatest. This amounted to a national calamity, which once recognized ought, in these practical days, to be taken in hand and, if possible, diminished or cured.

Mr. R. Benyon, M.P., said he could not but think it was to be regretted that there had not been more frequent intercourse between employer and employed, and that the farmers had not availed themselves of the opportunity of the pay-night to calmly and quietly talk over matters with those who worked under them, and endeavour to explain to them things in their proper light. If this had been the rule, the labourers would never had listened to the gross fallacies and the impudent assertions which had been made throughout the land by babbling demagogues whose interests were not the interests of either the agricultural labourers or the farmers, but whose sole aim was to gain money as if by a trade. He would venture to refer to one matter, which was that it would be very desirable for them to encourage and support benefit societies among the labourers. He meant societies certified to be based on safe tables; not societies the legality of whose rules was certified by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, but societies based on the best statistics relating to human life that could be obtained and approved by the best actuaries in the land. These societies would give the labourers an independence of character and a self-reliance, and cause them to feel independent in the time of sickness and in old age, and at the point of death to be undisturbed by any thought of the horrors of the workhouse. He would have branches of the society all over the country, so that the labourers would be enabled to transfer their contributions from one branch to another, and so go on as before; and he would have one grand national society composed of a conglomeration of local branches. If labourers were to join these clubs it would remove them from the "wet" clubs, which were far from being to their advantage. If such a society as he had hinted at were established, he believed it would be greatly to the benefit of the labourers everywhere and to the welfare of the country.

THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT STRATFORD.

It is recorded how when some second-class dandy wished to give a dinner-party he requested Brummell to name and invite the guests; but on going over these they could not agree as to the exact number, the Beau counting up to nine only, while the other reached to ten. At length, however, the host solved the difficulty by pointing out that Brummell had omitted to include in the company the giver of the feast. "My good fellow," was the Beau's answer, "you don't mean to say that you are going to dine with us!"

Now it seems to us that the almost hopeless muddle—for muddle it still is—into which the Essex Society has drifted might be amended in something the same way. Let them by throwing open the whole show, and so getting quit of that terrible Book of Numbers, provide the material for an entertainment in which they will not presume to take much share themselves. And in point of fact it has already nearly come to this. There are now but few show Shorthorn herds in the county, for Mr. Pigott has given over and Mr. Christie has been selling out; all the best premiums for horses went out of the county, as they mostly did also for sheep and pigs; the competition for the more local breeds or from the more local breeders, being pretty generally on the plan of a very limited company. In truth, with just an exception or so, the exhibition of the most famous breed of stock was supplied from without; Oxford Prize, paraded as a blindfold savage, now receiving no notice whatever in the champion class, where one of the judges held to Donyland Duke, a yearling of good quality, but with little more in his favour. However, the Duke was eventually placed third or highly commended in the class, about the best performance the Essex stock did during the day; the winner turning up once more in Telemachus, who is wearing well and promising well again for the Royal meeting. Lord Exeter's bull must, indeed, be one of rare constitution, as he suffered terribly from foot-and-mouth disease in the summer of 1872, when he was on his side for some weeks, and shed all his hoofs. He won, of course, easily enough in the bull class, the judges dwelling for some time over the Essex yearling and The Earl of Warwickshire in their choice for second, as the Earl has lost his coat, and in other respects is a less "likely" animal than ever. Telemachus, nevertheless, was beaten for the challenge cup by Mr. Kennard's yearling heifer, to which we have previously spoken as almost perfect; singularly straight and true in her frame, with a good honest touch and plenty of breeding about her, Queen Mary rather lacks elegance in the "turn" of her neck, which threatens to grow too coarse for fine cow character. Still she beat not merely the champion bull Telemachus, but the rival beauties Vivandiere and Victoria Victrix, who here ran out their tie so far, and the crack yearling Lord Godolphin, showing very light and none the better for his recent travels about the country. As we intimated at Bristol, Lady Pigot's younger animals have not gone on well since last season, and Rapid Rhone and the Wythams made no great mark at Stratford; the

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more sightly heifer Baroness Conyens now beating Rose of Wytham, as she should have done at Bristol, and also Blooming Bride. Amongst the family parties Telemachus and Sea Gull had nothing to beat but the blindfold Oxford Prize and Acacia, without it were Mr. Hope's Cherries; but then Mr. Hope will not feed up his milking cows for show, and thus, of course, his entries scarcely attracted a glance from such a judge of beef as Mr. Clifton Robinson.

There was a very short show of "Essex Shorthorns without pedigrees"—thorough Essex this—and in the general class of dairy cows old Milkmaid was the best of all, beating red Polls from Norfolk and Shorthorns from Essex, and a lot of quite beautiful little Brittanies. Milkmaid was, of course, first again in the Jersey cow class, with a very nice cow shown by Mr. Tower, beating the Wray Queens and Beauties for second; while Fan first, and Pretty Lass second, was again the return over the heifers, amongst which Lord Braybrooke showed a very clever one not in price. It was altogether a very good entry of Jerseys, with Essex doing better here, even beyond Mr. Gilby; and Mr. Simpson in defiance of some previous readings taking first and second with Crocus and Favourite in a large and good class of bulls of all ages, the entry running up to close upon twenty.

"A good show of riding horses for Essex" is simply tantamount to a very bad one. If the show of nags was bad the management was worse, or rather there was no management at all; but this is easily accounted for, as what is everybody's business is nobody's, and there was a very regiment of mounted officials continually getting in each other's and everybody's way. Then the "ring" was too circular, and surrounded by a chain, of all the dangerous things in the world; there was no telegraph board, while the prize cards were not nailed up for hours after the verdicts were given. The poor show of nags we think is in a measure due to the folly of only giving one prize in many of the classes, and the still greater folly of allowing the same horse to be entered in several other classes. For instance, there was nothing to prevent Masinissa, the Numidian Conqueror, from carrying off three prizes out of four had the judges believed in the old saying of "an ounce of blood is worth a pound of bone." As it was he was sent back to Hasketon loaded with spoil, as Mars, the God of War, was more vulnerable than Achilles, and though as handsome as paint, and by Marsyas, out of Necklace, the golden bay stood no more chance with the brown in the ring than the poor crippled Knight Templar, by Knight of Kars, half-brother to Stockwell, King Tom, and Rataplan! But such is the lottery of breeding, that while the vital spark lingers in the poor cripple it is possible, though not probable, that it may fall in fruitful soil, and bring forth a fiery steed who may cause a consternation. Such was the case with Marsyas, the sire of Mars, who, shrunken with age and gone in the back, was all but put out of sight when we were last at Cobham; but still to him it was decreed to get George Frederick, and not his grand companions, two as handsome looking horses as eyes ever gazed on—the all but faultless Macaroni and the twelve thousand five hundred guineas Blair Athol. Masinissa has thickened, and as he is liked by the Essexites we look forward to seeing some Sophonisbas and Jemmy Thomsons in the ring, as he always reminds us of the poet's line in his tragedy on the loves of Masinissa and Sophonisba.

O, Sophonisba! Sophonisba, O!

and the wag in the gallery who sung out

O, Jemmy Thomson! Jemmy Thomson, O!

The well-known Fireaway the 2nd was considered the best of a few useful roadsters, including Mr. Branwhite's Defiance, which beat him last year, Mr. J. Grout's The Squire, and Mr. Gedden's Great Gun. For the weight-carrying hunters it was any odds on the Banker, as Mr. Hayward's Paramour, a winner of several prizes, and one other were his only opponents. For hunting mares or geldings five years old, peculiar to Essex, there were only two entries for the £10 and £5, and the prizes witheld for want of merit. This is what the management might have expected, as five-year-old hunters represent so much money now, and it is not likely that owners will risk their horses catching cold, and go to the expense of sending them away from home with servants for half a week or more on the chance of winning such prizes. In a very poor class of light-weight hunting mares and geldings Gentility, of fair hunting form and action, beat King John, not much to look at, and not at all like his sire King John, a horse from whom the late Mr. Blenkiron expected great things. Such is breeding. The four-year-old hunting mare Duchess is a brown of good form, which, after being ridden by Mr. Booth, appeared in the ring with foal at foot as the best hunting brood mare. Ladylike, a clever hack, with rather tutored action, in a class of fifteen beat five or six worthy of notice—viz., Mr. Frisby's Filbert, Mr. Smith's chesnut mare by Knight Templar, Mr. Grout's Kitty, and Mr. Gray's brown gelding. The natty little harness horse Eclipse, from Buckingham-gate, noted in the ring for his very elegant moving only played second to Sensation, a short-legged capital-going gig mare; and again a fine showy and useful pair of browns from Mr. Gilbey beat him, as Eclipse's companion in harness was not considered his match, but an odd one. Then, with Princess Polo, a nice goer, Mr. Frisby was again out of luck, being put behind Sir Thomas White's nicely-made cob. Among the ponies was a very little dun, a perfect blood-horse in miniature and an extraordinary goer, as we think, called Sir Tommy, but we could not catch his number.

The agricultural horses made a better display, as the Suffolks mustered in strong numbers; but they were out of luck, and in many instances were beaten by anything but imposing animals, with the main exception of Mr. Purser's grand mare Honest Lass and Mr. Statter's Champion, many round the ring saying they never saw Champion show better; but we fear they did not take into consideration that he was not in tip-top society, and that his always superiors Honest Tom and Le Bon were well out of the way. With reminiscences of Sir Walter Scott and Young Lofty, we look for something grand, with power, a cheerful countenance, and an elastic step in a Clydesdale, which Mr. Sturgeon's horse has not, as he is but a sour-headed plain animal, with "plenty of hair" on his legs. Ashantee, again, is a good-limbed, useful horse; but we could find in our own neighbourhood many a gelding of much grander proportions in contractors' carts. Mr. C. Frost's four-year-old by Cupbearer, and the Ipswich Cup winner, is a well-made Suffolk, barring being tied in at the knees; while Major Garrett's old horse had left several very promising ones on the ground, but a two-year-old with bone and action, out of a mare by Barthropp's Hero, will do more for the fame of Cupbearer than the Claimant.

There were some nice two-year-olds, but the chesnuts had to succumb to a Grand Prince, not of their breed. In a good class of cart mares, four years old and upwards, the chesnuts were again routed by the Bedford Honest Lass, the first two-year-old at Cardiff, the class including Mr. Lester's Royal Duchess, Mr. Bott's old mare, and Mr. Brierly's famous grey Sensation, which has much fallen off in form and action, but still a grand mare, as she always will be, for even her skeleton would be a prize to any lover of the horse. Then there were Mr. Wolton's Diamond and Princess, Mr. Green's Smart, Mr.

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Lambert's bay by Honest Tom, and Mr. Tomlinson's Smiler from Derby. There were a couple of good two-year-old fillies, the winner being by Cupbearer. A handsome mare headed the class under four years old, and a good-looking Clydesdale the mares with foals, backed by Mr. Coulson's upstanding Violet and Mr. Green's Blossom; while a neat active little cart-mare of Mr. Courage's—a breed getting scarcer every day—had a foal by the thoroughbred Knight Templar. There were a couple of good geldings, several capital pairs, and one very showy team of four.

It will be thus seen that the four-year-old filly Honest Lass, by Honest Tom, was without the slightest question—for everybody had so settled it before Mr. Purser's filly entered the ring—declared to be the best of all; as she also eventually was at Ipswich the other day, although two Suffolk fanciers had just previously contrived to put her out of her class, as not being the sort of animal fit for Suffolk. It is, however, going a long way to assume that had Honest Lass been a chesnut instead of a bay she would not have been considered just the sort for Suffolk. An old saying declares that a good horse cannot be of a bad colour, but this would the rather now appear to run, at least down Eastwards, that a good horse can only be of one colour. And what is this colour test worth even in a Suffolk? Next to nothing. There was a grey exhibited at Stratford, out of a grey mare, which when put to a chesnut stallion will or has thrown chesnut stock which have been duly exhibited as pure Suffolks? Of course Honest Lass now beat the smart filly put above her at Ipswich, and the joke of the day was Messrs. Barthropp's and Badham's award, to be known hereafter as "the Judgment of Solomons." But this is not the first time that Honest Lass has had to encounter such Solomons, as after winning at a Royal meeting, she was bodily turned out of the ring at Leicester, in company with a class duly recorded as possessing *no merit!*

Mr. Colman's Southdowns to our thinking never showed so well; there was more breed and style about them, and apparently less desire to manufacture a Southdown by feeding and crossing for size. The winning shearling was a smart neat sheep, and two or three really pretty ewes might have been picked out of the prize pen. With His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Mr. Gorringe, and others here in competition, we may look to something like a battle Royal amongst the Norfolk flocks at Bedford. There were one or two exhibitors of Suffolk blackfaces, and one exhibitor of Oxfords or Shropshires, but in a better entry of longwools, Leicesters, Lincolns, or Cots wolds, the county had little or no concern.

Mr. Griggs in the county has still some capital hardy Berkshires. Yet the chief winner of pig premiums was from without, Mr. Royds being everywhere prominent, as in one class he substituted a small black sow bred by Lord Portsmouth for one entered as bred by Mr. Sexton, although some of the other firsts were direct from Wherstead. The Wheelers and Duckerings were also occasionally successful, but with one premium only in a class they had more commonly to be content with commendations.

If the Committee had intended the luncheon to be a failure they could not have contrived this more effectually than by putting the price of "the cold collation" at five shillings a head; the more especially as some of us who had rashly paid so much found subsequently to our sorrow that a slice of beef or the wing of a chicken might have been had in another place at just half the money. As it was the public would not give the fee even to look at a live Lord Mayor, and the large tent was very sparsely furnished with guests. However, those who did take tickets had plenty of elbow room and came and went just when they pleased, paying the least possible heed to a gentleman who appeared to be proposing toasts and making speeches. It will, indeed, be noticed, that we have had still to dwell on the mismanagement of this Society, as some of our contemporaries are at length getting weary of the difficulties which they have to encounter in undertaking such an affair. *The Agricultural Gazette* becomes thus confounded: "In spite of unnecessary perplexities, caused by having county classes and classes open to the whole kingdom, and allowing the Essex cattle to compete in both, so that one animal might be (and sometimes was), if not 'like Cerberus, three gentlemen at once,' certainly representing three entries at once—*i.e.*, one in the county class, one in the general class, and one in the class for a group of animals (bull, cow, and offspring, or best three yearlings)—in spite of this bewilderment, and that caused by putting all the classes in line, putting an open class, for example, like the meat in a sandwich, between two home-bred ones, still the exhibition was very interesting—*i.e.*, when one had got over the puzzle of finding prize-cards more freely distributed among the more ordinary looking than among the choicer specimens." Again, even such an optimist as the agricultural authority of *The Field* declares how "the first thing which struck a visitor to the Shorthorn classes at Stratford was the extraordinary character of the awards. One passed animal after animal of the highest character, and hardly a riband among them. Then, in the same line, in the same sheds, were to be seen blue and red rosettes affixed to bulls and heifers; pretty cattle enough, but of far lower pretensions than the unnoticed ones. No explanatory notices on the numbers cleared up the difficulty; and the catalogue when referred to, was as hard to understand as a chess problem." Further, the county papers show that the entries in the chief classes are falling off, and protest against the system occasionally adopted of offering only one prize in a class. In truth, unless some very radical reform be effected in the constitution of the Society and the committee, it would be idle to expect that the Essex show can recover from the "muddle" into which it has sunk.

Amongst the exhibitors of implements were—Arthur Carey, of Rochford, with steam tackle and traction waggons; Ransomes, Sims, & Head, Orwell Works, Ipswich; Wedlake, of Hornchurch, Romford; Davey, Paxman, and Davey, Colchester; Edmington and Co., Chelmsford; Woods, Cocksedge, and Co., Stowmarket: Catchpool, Stannard, and Stanford, Colchester; Pertwee, Old Hall, Boreham, Chelmsford; Barnard and Lake, Rayne, Braintree; Pash, Chelmsford; The Maldon Iron Works Company; Coleman and Morton, Chelmsford; Hunt and Tawell, Earls Colne; Dennis and Co., Mansion House-buildings and Chelmsford; King, seedsman, Coggeshall; Edgington, London Bridge; Day, Son, and Hewitt, London; Christy, Chelmsford; Willsher and Co., Braintree and London; Meeson, Rettendon-place, Chelmsford; Cottis and Sons, Epping; Cullingford, Stratford; Thurgood, Harlow; Emerson, Billericay; Gilders, Colchester; Wilson and Whitworth, Stratford; Mabbett and Pink, Romford and Barking; Mein, Stratford.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CART HORSES: J. Waldy, Barton Hall, Darlington; J. H. Plowright, Manea, Isle of Ely; J. K. Cooper, Barron, Bury St. Edmund's. RIDING HORSES: Lord Combermere; Y. K. Graham, Edgbaston, Birmingham; J. B. Booth, Killerby, Catterick; H. Thurnall, Royston. SHORTHORNS: The Rev. Canon Beevor, Penoraig, Ross; J. Robinson, Clifton, Olney, Bucks; F. Tallant, Easeborne, Midhurst. CHANNEL ISLANDS CATTLE: Col. Wilson, Stowlangtoft Hall, Bury St. Edmund's; H. Middleton, Cuttalowe, Oxford. SHEEP AND PIGS: T. Horley, The Fosse, Leamington; J. Hempson, Erwarton Hall, Ipswich,

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HORSES

FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Stallions.—First prize, C. Sturgeon, South Ockendon Hall, (Clydesdale); second, W. Thompson, jun., Rose Cottage, Thorpe, Colchester (Ashantee). Reserved: R. Cross, St. Osyth (Young Emperor).

Stallions, three years old and upwards (open to the United Kingdom).—First, C. Frost, Wherstead (Cupbearer 2nd); second, W. Thompson, jun., Rose Cottage, Thorpe (Ashantee). Reserved and highly commended: W. Byford, The Court, Glemsford, Suffolk (The Statesman).

Stallion (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Whitefield, Manchester (Champion). Highly commended and reserved: H. D. Dove (Matchless).

Entire two-year-old colt.—First prize, F. Mead, Barking, E. (Royal Oak); second, H. D. Dove, Langham Hall (Young Major). Highly commended and reserved: W. G. Walford, Walton-on-the-Naze.

Entire two-year-old colt (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, G. E. Daintree, Fenton, Huntingdon (Grand Prince); second, F. Mead, Barking, E. (Royal Oak). Highly commended and reserved: Major R. Garrett, Carlton Hall, Saxmundham.

Cart mare, four years old and upwards.—First prize. D. A. Green, Donyland-place (Smart); second, D. A. Green (Brisk). Reserved: N. Allen, Great Horkesley (Smart).

Cart mare, four years old and upwards (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, and Special Prize, H. Purser, Willington Manor, Beds (Honest Lass). Highly commended: C. Lister, Coleby Lodge, Lincoln (Royal Duchess). Commended: D. A. Green, Donyland-place (Smart); H. Lambert, Abington Park, Cambridge; A. Tomlinson, Stenson House, Derby (Smiler).

Two-year-old filly.—First prize, D. A. Green, Donyland-place, Suffolk; second, T. Wagstaff, Stifford Clays, Romford (Violet).

Yearling filly.—Prize, J. Ward, East Mersea, Suffolk.

Cart mare, under four years old (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, W. Cross, Frating (Kathleen).

Mare and foal.—First prize, D. Robertson, Aveley Hall (Jess); second, A. Coulson, Fingringhoe (Violet). Reserved: D. A. Green, Donyland-place (Blossom).

Mare and foal (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, H. Wolton, Newbourn Hall (Pride). Reserved: D. Robertson, Aveley Hall (Jess).

Foal.—First prize, D. Robertson, Aveley Hall; second, D. A. Green, Donyland-place. Reserved: T. Docwra, Foxburrows, Colchester.

Gelding.—Prize, H. Trigg, Bury Lodge, Stansted.

Gelding (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, H. Trigg, Bury Lodge.

Pair of plough horses, either sex (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, H. Wolton, Newbourn Hall (Pride); second, D. A. Green, Donyland-place (Brisk). Reserved: D. Robertson, Aveley Hall (Darling).

Pair of van horses, either sex, to be shown in harness in van with pole (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, D. A. Green, Donyland-place (Smart); second, Savill Brothers, Stratford Brewery. Reserved: D. A. Green (Brisk).

Best cart mare or filly in any of the classes.—Prize, H. Purser, Willington Manor, Beds (Honest Lass). Highly commended: C. Lister, Coleby Lodge, Lincoln (Royal Duchess).

Team of four horses (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, D. A. Green (Smart).

RIDING HORSES.

Thoroughbred stallion (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, and Challenge Cup, Colonel Barlow, Hasketon (Masanissa); second, H. I. A. King, Great Bardfield (Knight Templar).

Hack stallion not thoroughbred, calculated to get roadsters and hackneys (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, B. Mitchell, Crowe Hall, Denver (Fire Away the 2nd). Reserved and highly commended: W. Giddens, Walpole St. Peter's, Wisbech (Great Gun). Highly commended: F. Branwhite, Long Melford (Defiance).

Hack stallion, thoroughbred or otherwise, calculated to get roadsters or hackneys (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize W. Giddens (Great Gun). Reserved and highly commended: F. Branwhite (Defiance).

Weight-carrying hunter—Stratford Town Prize—Open.—£25, Wm. Armstrong, Fairfield, Kendal (Banker).

Hunting mare or gelding.—Prizes withheld.

Light-weight mare or gelding, five years old and upward that has been regularly hunted during the past season in Esse—First prize, W. Gilbey, Hargrave Park (Gentility); second C. Page Wood, Scrips, Kelvedon (King John). Reserved C. Page Wood (Ruby).

Light-weight hunter, which has been regularly hunted wit any pack of hounds during the past season (open to the Unite Kingdom).—Prize, W. Gilbey, Hargrave Park (Maud). Re served: C. Page Wood (King John).

Four-year-old hunter (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, E. Ind, Great Warley (Duchess). Reserved: C. (Hayward, Southill, Beds.

Hackney mare or gelding, not to exceed 15 hands 2 inche (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, W. Gilbey, Hargrav Park (Ladylike). Reserved: T. Banyard, Poplar Hal Horningsea (Princess).

Hackney mare or gelding, five years old and upwards, not t exceed 15 hands 1 inch:—First prize, W. Gilbey, Hargrav Park (Ladylike); second, J. Smith, Pattiswick Hall.

Four-year-old hackney (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, R. Emson, Halsted.

Three-year-old hackney.—Prize, W. G. Small, Bradwell-on Sea (Stella). Reserved: R. W. Rayner, Galleywood, Chelms ford (Sunflower).

Two-year-old colt or filly.—W. Laws, Great Clacton Lodg (Young Defender). Reserved: W. and E. Havers, Ingate stone.

Hackney mare or gelding, not under 14 hands 2 inches, t be shown in single harness (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Whitefield; second, H Frisby, James-street, Buckingham-gate (Eclipse). Reserved Miss Scratton, Gosfield (Templar).

Cob, over 13 and not exceeding 14 hands (open to th United Kingdom).—Prize, Sir T. White, Great West Hatch Chigwell.

Pony, under 13 hands, (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, E. Faux, Heybridge Hall; second, W. N. Saber ton, Ely (The Shah). Reserved: J. F. Hutley, Braxted Hall

Pony (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, W. D Collins, Chesnut-tree House (Sir Tommy); second, E. Faux Heybridge Hall. Reserved: W. N. Saberton, Wilburton Ely (Cardinal).

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull.—First prize, J. Hutley, Porter's Hall, Stebbing (King Lear 2nd); second, D. A. Green, Donyland-place (Heydon Duke 2nd). Reserved: C. Sturgeon, South Ockendon Ha (Duke of Berkeley).

Two years old bull.—First prize, R. H. Crabb, Baddow-place, Baddow (Duke of Geneva); second, C. Hall, Tolles-hunt Knights.

Yearling bull.—First prize, D. A. Green (Donyland Duke) second, Lord Braybrooke, Audley End (Christmas Duke 2nd). Reserved: R. H. Crabb (Claro's Rose 2nd).

Yearling bull, bred by exhibiter (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, J. Outhwaite, Bainesse, Catterick (Lord Godolphin). Highly commended: D. A. Green (Donyland Duke). The class commended.

Bull, not exceeding twelve months.—Prize, A. T. Puckridge, Grange Hill, Chigwell (Blair Athol).

Bull of any age (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, Marquis of Exeter, Burghley Park (Telemachus), second, W. Wilson, Broadway, Worcestershire (Earl of Warwickshire 3rd). Highly commended: D. A. Green (Donyland Duke).

Cow.—First prize, R. H. Crabb (Surprise); second, J. R. Chaplin, Ridgewell (Vernalia).

Cow or heifer, not under three years old (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, J. Outhwaite (Vivandière). Highly commended and reserved: Lady Pigot, Branches Park, Newmarket (Victoria Victrix). Highly commended: J. Stratton, Alton Priors, Marlborough (Emphœmia). The class commended.

Two years old heifer.—First and second prizes, J. Christ Boynton Hall (Geneva Rose and Lady Liverpool).

Two years old heifer (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, J. Outhwaite (Baroness Conyers). Highly commended H. Dudding, Panton-house, Wragby (Blooming Bride). Highly commended and reserved: Lady Pigot (Rose of Wytham).—

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Yearling heifer.—First prize, R. H. Crabb (Memento 2nd); second, A. P. Clear, Maldon (Geneva). Commended and reserved: D. A. Green (White Peach Blossom 2nd).

Yearling heifer (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, Rev. R. B. Kennard, Marnhull, Blandford (Queen Mary). Highly commended: J. How, Broughton, Huntingdon (Lady Butterfly); Lady Pigot (Princess of Wytham); A. P. Clear (Geneva).

Heifer, not exceeding twelve months.—First prize, J. R. Chaplin, Ridgewell (Ridgewell Rose); second, A. F. Puckridge (Lady Chigwell).

Bull and cow, with calf their offspring (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, Marquis of Exeter (Telemachus, &c.) Reserved: N. Catchpole, Bramford (Oxford Prize, &c.)

Yearling bull and pair of yearling heifers (open to the United Kingdom).—Prize, Lady Pigot (Rapid Rhone, Princess of Wytham, and Rose Lincoln). Reserved: J. Outhwaite (Lord Godolphin, Lady Lawson, and Matchless).

Best pure-bred Shorthorn in any of the classes.—Champion cup, Rev. R. B. Kennard (Queen Mary).

SHORTHORNS WITHOUT PEDIGREES.

Cow, three years old and upwards.—First prize, T. Mashiter, Romford (Landlady); second, D. Christy Patching Hall. Reserved: T. Mashiter (Ladybird).

Heifer, under three years old.—First and second prizes, J. O. Parker, Woodham Mortimer Place. Reserved: D. Christy.

Cow or heifer (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, D. Dainty, Belmisthorpe, Stamford (Economy); second, J. O. Parker. Reserved: J. J. Colman, M.P., Norwich (Lady Marton).

DAIRY CATTLE.

Cow or heifer.—First prize, T. Mashiter (Duchess); second, R. Laxton, Epping (Brittany cow); third, Sir T. F. Buxton, Warlies, Waltham Abbey (Brittany cow).

Cow or heifer (open to the United Kingdom).—First prize, W. Gilbey, Hargrave Park (Milkmaid); second, J. B. Burtt, Kettering (Highland Princess). Reserved and highly commended: W. Gilbey (Medora).

CHANNEL ISLANDS BREEDS.

(Open to the United Kingdom.)

Bull, exceeding one year old.—First prize, G. Simpson, Wray Park, Reigate (Prince Crocus); second, G. Simpson, (Queen's Favourite). Reserved and commended: S. Hanbury, Wickham-place, Wickham (Sir William). Highly commended: W. Gilbey, Hargrave Park (Ducal). The class highly commended.

Cow, exceeding three years old.—First prize, W. Gilbey (Milkmaid); second, C. J. H. Tower, Weald Hall (Victoria). Reserved and highly commended: W. Gilbey (Medora). Highly commended: W. Gilbey (Tal). Commended: G. D. Digby, Wingfield, Sherborne Castle, Dorset (Miss Edith). Commended: W. J. Beadel, Springfield Lyons (Bloom); G. Simpson (Beauty). The class commended.

Heifer, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, W. Gilbey (Pan); second, G. Simpson (Pretty Lass). Reserved and highly commended: Lord Braybrooke, Audley End (Fame). Commended: W. Gilbey (Daystar).

Best animal in the Channel Island classes.—W. Gilbey, (Milkmaid); S. Hanbury (Sir William), recommended to be divided, if not the former.

SHEEP.

(Open to the United Kingdom). Southdown ram, of any age.—First prize, H. Gorringe, Kingston-by-Sea; second, J. J. Colman, M.P., Norwich. Highly commended and reserved: Prince of Wales, K.G., Sandringham. Highly commended: H. Gorringe. Commended: Prince of Wales.

Shearling Southdown ram.—First prize, J. J. Colman; second, Prince of Wales. Commended and reserved: Lord Braybrooke.

Shearling short-wool ram.—G. Cooke, Horseheath Park, Shropshire.

Five shearling Southdown ewes.—First prize, J. J. Colman; second, H. Gorringe.

Five shearling short-wool ewes.—First prize, H. Trigg, Bury Lodge, Stansted; second, J. Smith, Thorpe Hall, Hasketon, Suffolk.

Shearling Cotswold ram.—First prize, Wheeler and Sons, Long Compton; second, H. E. Rainbird, Basingstoke.

Shearling Lincoln or Leicester ram.—First prize, T. Gunnell, Milton, Lincoln; second, C. Hales, Manor House Bassingbourne, Lincoln. Commended and reserved: T. Banyard, Poplar Hall, Horningsea, Lincoln.

Shearling Oxfordshire or Shropshire ram.—First and second prizes, G. Cook.

Shearling long-wool ram.—Prize, C. Hales.

Five shearling Oxford or Shropshire ewes.—Prize, G. Cooke.

Five shearling long-wool ewes.—Prize, T. Gunnell. Commended: F. Ellis, Chesterton.

Five shearling Kent ewes.—Prize, J. S. S. Godwin, West Peckham.

Five ewes with their lambs.—First prize, G. Jonas, Icleton; second, F. M. Jonas, Chrishall Grange.

Three fat shearling Southdown wethers.—First prize, F. M. Jonas; second, G. Jonas.

Three fat shearling short-wool wethers.—G. Cooke and H. Trigg, prize to be equally divided.

Three fat shearling cross-bred or long-wool wethers: First prize, T. F. Buxton, Easneye, Ware; second, H. Lambert, Abingdon Park, Cambridge. Commended: T. F. Buxton.

PIGS.

Boar, large breed (open to the United Kingdom). Prize C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds. Commended: J. Dove.

Sow in pig, large breed.—Prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds. Highly commended: Wheeler and Sons. Commended: J. Dove.

Three sow pigs, large breed.—Prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds. Commended: J. Dove.

Boar (Berkshire).—Prize, A. C. Baily. Commended: Wheeler and Sons.

Sow in pig (Berkshire).—Prize, G. Griggs. Reserved: Wheeler and Sons.

Three sow pigs (Berkshire).—Prize, A. C. Bailey.

Boar, small black.—Prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds. Commended: A. Harvey.

Sow in pig, small black.—Prize, Wheeler and Sons. Highly commended and reserved: C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Three sow pigs, small black.—Prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Boar, small white.—Prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds. Commended: Lord Rendlesham, M.P., and R. E. Duckering. Reserved: J. Dove.

Sow in pig, small white.—Prize, R. E. Duckering. Highly commended and reserved: J. Dove. Commended: Lord Rendlesham.

Three sow pigs, small white.—Prize, Lord Rendlesham. Commended and reserved: C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Sows and pigs, large breed: Prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Sows and pigs, small breed.—Prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds. Reserved and commended: Wheeler and Sons.

THE GUERNSEYS AT BRISTOL.—Mr. Rendle writes in justice to himself and other breeders from Guernsey who exhibited at Bristol, giving the name of the man who coloured his cow's udder and ears, as stated in our report; but as the culprit was severely reprimanded by "the sharp-sighted and clever judges," as Mr. Rendle terms them, we in mercy withhold his name until he has been found to offend again.

THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION AT BREMEN.—The *Irish Farmers' Gazette* avails itself of our report without one word of acknowledgment. This omission is the more noticeable, as we believe that *The Mark Lane Express* was the only agricultural journal which gave a special report. We are quite willing to admit that a very able article has been terribly mangled by our contemporary.

DIED — MR. JOHN BEASLEY.—On Saturday, July 4, at Brampton in his 73rd year. For many years past Mr. Beasley has been the agent to the late and present Earl Spencer and Lord Overstone, and during his residence in this country he has won the esteem of all who knew him. He took an active part in everything pertaining agricultural matters.

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DONCASTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT DONCASTER.

At this, the third show, the entries of horses and Shorthorns were found to be especially good, while of sheep and pigs there was also a very creditable display. The Shorthorns included many famous animals already seen out this summer at Bristol and elsewhere, including as these did Leeman, now first beating Duke of Aosta; Sir Arthur Ingram, Lord Godolphin, who of course "placed himself;" Rapid Rhone, and the rival beauties, Vivandiere and Victoria Victrix, who may now run out the tye at Bedford. Lady Pigot's younger heifers were, however, quite put out, and Mr. Dudding, Mr. Foljambe, Mr. Sharp, Mr. A. H. Browne, Mr. Statter, and Mr. Mann materially strengthened the entry, as the prize-list will tell, this being so far, no doubt, the strongest Shorthorn show of the season. The entries in the classes for Alderneys were chiefly by local exhibitors. Of sheep there was not a large entry; the Leicesters numbered twenty-three, the Lincolns twenty-seven, and the Shortwools eleven; the awards over the Leicesters furnishing a good advertisement for Mr. Borton's coming sale. In the class of gimmers were a smart pen from Mr. Turner, of Armthorpe, but they properly belonged to the Lincolns. Among the exhibitors in the Lincoln classes appeared the well-known names of Wright, Dudding, Pears, and Byron; and there were also some gimmers and ewes from Mr. Roe's, of North Scarle. In the Shortwool classes the only two exhibitors were Mr. Baker, of Atherstone, and Mr. Marris, of Ulceby. Two or three entries in the class for Longwool shearling wedders were from local breeders, Mr. Alcock, of Wadworth Grange, and Mr. Barker, of Marr, the other competitor being Mr. Byron, of Sleaford. The pigs were divided into large and small breeds, and the cottagers' class. Of the large seventeen were shown, and of the small breed nineteen. The principal exhibitors were the Earl of Ellesmere, Mr. Beswick-Royds and Mr. Kilham, of Wisbeach. Horses were the most numerous of the live stock on the ground. Of agricultural and draught horses there were 32 entries, in the class for roadsters and ponies 131, of hunters there were 79, and in the jumping class 23. Among the brood mares, some of which were of much merit, Mr. Turner, of Armthorpe, and Mr. Fawcett, of Barmbrough, contended against Messrs. Statter, of Manchester, and Mr. Hutchinson, of Catterick. In the three-year-olds Mr. Bramley, of Amcotts, Mr. Ingham, and Mr. Barker, of Marr, and Mr. Wood, of Hayfields, were each represented; while among the two-year-olds Mr. Oliver, of Barmby Dun, Mr. Vickers, of Brodsworth, and Mr. F. B. Frank, of Campsall Hall, had some good entries. The chief exhibitor among the draught horses was Mr. Brierley, of Middleton, the only local representative being Mr. Barker, of Marr. In the class for pairs of agricultural horses the whole of the entries were by residents in the vicinity, excepting Mr. Tenant, of Selby. The roadsters included a larger class which had come from a distance, and the competition was more keen than in the agricultural section. The three-year-olds were fair, but they were far eclipsed by the classes for any age, consisting of horses fifteen hands two inches and of fifteen hands high respectively. In the former of these classes was Mr. Harvey Bayly's famous hack *and* hunter, the best horse of his time for the *two* purposes. The three-year-old coaching geldings were also a superior class; and amongst the exhibitors were Mr. Winder, of Newton, and Mr. Law, of Stancil. There was a good display of ponies, the larger being the more excellent. Of the hunters, those comprised in Classes 47 and 48—the five-year-old geldings or mares, and the four-year-old geldings or fillies, must be awarded the palm. Scheduled amongst the entries were Mr. T. H. D. Bayly, of Edwinstowe; Mr. Jewison, of Raisthorpe, Malton; Mr. Mundey, of Wrawby, Brigg; Mr. Hutchinson, of Catterick; Mr. Hornsby, of Grantham, and Mr. A. J. Brown, of North Elmsall, with well-known prize entries attached to their names. Next in merit might be named the four-year-old geldings or fillies equal to carry 13 stones. The brood mares and foals were also a good class; as also the two and three-year-old geldings and fillies, more particularly the latter.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE: J. Knowles, Wetherby; J. Lynn, Stroxton, Grantham; R. Kirk, Waltham, Grimsby. SHEEP, PIGS, AND WOOL: T. Cartwright, Dunston Pillar, Lincoln; R. Baker, Gamston, Retford; T. Dodds, Wakefield. HORSES: Hunters—Capt. P. Williams, Barnby Moor, Retford; F. Gordon, Thorne Haugh, Wansford; J. H. Barton, Stapylton Park, Pontefract. Hackneys and Ponies—H. Beevors, Blyth, Worksop; W. H. Gaunt, Thornville. Agricultural horses—E. Godfrey, Thealby, Brigg; G. Robson, Shires House, Easingwold; T. Plowright, jun., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

SHORTHORNS.

Bulls, any age above three-year-old.—First prize, £10, G. Fox, Hanfield, Wilmslow, Cheshire (Leeman); second, £5, A. H. Browne, Doxford, Chathill, Northumberland (Duke of Aosta). Highly commended: J. H. Rockett, Cowick Park Farm, Selby (Speedwell). Commended: Lieut.-Colonel Reeve, Leadenham, Grantham.

Bulls, above two and not exceeding three-years-old.—First prize, £15, W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton, Yorks (Sir Arthur Ingram); second, £10, H. Dudding, Panton, Wragby, (Robert Stephenson). Commended: F. J. Savile Foljambe, Osberton Hall, Worksop (Sir Julius Benedict).

Bulls, above one and not exceeding two-years-old.—First prize, £15, J. Outhwaite, Bainesse, Catterick (Lord Godolphin); second, £10, Lady Pigott, Branches Park, Newmarket (Rapid Rhone); third, £5, A. H. Browne, Doxford, Chathill, Northumberland (Rosario). Highly commended: J. Staniforth, Paddocks Farm, Sheffield Park (Prince Bismark); J. J. Sharp, Bronghton, Kettering (Cambridge Duke 6th).

Bull calves, above five and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £5, Sir T. Constable, Bart., Burton Constable, Hull (Oneida Prince); second, £2, Lady Pigott (Imperator). Highly commended: Major Worsley, Woolknowl, Hovingham (Volunteer); G. Mann, Scausby Hall, Doncaster (Surprise); Messrs. Atkinson, Bywell Hall Farm, Stocksfield-on-Tyne (Duke of Florence); J. Dickinson, Partridge Hill, Bawtry (Conservative).

Cows of any age, in calf or milk.—First prize, £10, J. Outhwaite, Bainesse, Catterick, Yorkshire (Vivandière); second, £5, Lady Pigott (Victoria Victrix). Highly commended: T. Statter, Stand-hall, Manchester (Lady Ann); T. H. Hatchinson, Manor-house, Catterick (Lady Louisa). The whole class commended.

Heifers, not exceeding three-years-old, in calf or milk.—First Prize, £10, H. Dudding, Panton-house, Wragby (Blooming Bride); second, £5, T. Statter, Stand-hall, Manchester (Rosabina). Very highly commended: Lady Pigott (Rose of Wytham). Highly commended: Lady Pigott (Victoria Mantilisa); T. H. Hutchinson, Manor-house, Catterick (Lady Playful); J. Outhwaite (Baroness Conyers); A. Robotham, Oak Farm, Drayton Basset, Tamworth (Princess Beatrice); H. Fawcett, Kirkstall-road, Leeds (Lady Eglinton). The whole class commended.

Heifers, not exceeding two-years-old.—First prize, £10, T. Statter, (Robin's Rone); second, £5, T. Statter, (Robin's Stanley Rose); third, £2, T. H. Hutchinson. Manor-house, Catterick. Highly commended: Lady Pigott (Rose of Lin

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cols). A silver cup, value £10 10s., to T. Statter (Robin's Stanley Rose).

Heifer calf, above five and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £5, W. Hutton, Gate Burton, Gainsboro', (Melpomene); second, £2, Lady Pigott (Moorish Captive).

Alderney, Jersey, or Guernsey cows or heifers, in calf or milk—First prize, £10, J. Brown, Rossington-hall; second, £2 J. Brown.

Alderney bull, fit for service—First prize, £10, J. Brown (The Ireland King); second, £2, Clater, Awkley, and Retford (Young Ireland King).

Cow for dairy purposes—First prize, £3, J. Brammer, Doncaster; second, £2, J. Brammer; third, £1, W. B. Houlden, Braston Grange; fourth, 10s., E. Hodgkinson, Morton Grange, Retford.

Extra stock.—Prize of £5, T. Statter (Polled ox); second, £2, F. J. Savile Foljambe, Osberton-hall.

SHEEP.

Shearling Leicester ram.—First prize, £10 and second, £5, J. Borton, Barton-le-Street. Commended: T. H. Hutchinson, Manor-house, Catterick.

Leicester ram of any age.—First prize, £5, J. Borton; second, £2, T. H. Hutchinson. Commended: J. Barton, and T. H. Hutchinson.

Pen of five shearling Leicester gimmers.—First prize, £10, J. Borton; second, £5, T. H. Hutchinson.

Pen of five Leicester ewes that have suckled lambs up to the time of the show.—First prize, £5, T. H. Hutchinson.

Shearling Lincoln ram.—First prize, £10, R. N. Morley, Leadenham, Grantham; second, £5, R. Wright, Nocton-heath, Lincoln. Commended: H. Dudding, Panton-house, Wragby.

Lincoln ram of any age.—First prize, £5, R. Wright, Nocton-heath, Lincoln; second, £2, H. Dudding, Panton-house, Wragby. Commended: J. Pears, Mere, Lincoln; and R. N. Morley, Leadenham, Grantham.

Pen of five shearling Lincoln gimmers.—First prize, £10, J. Pears, Mere, Lincoln; second, £5, J. Byron, Kirkby-green, Sleaford. Commended: W. Hesseltine, Beaumont Cote, Barton-on-Humber.

Pen of five Lincoln ewes that have suckled lambs up to the time of the show.—First prize, £5, T. Gunnell, Milton, Cambridgeshire; second, £2, W. Roe, North Scarle Field, Newark.

Short wool shearling ram.—First prize, £5, and second, £2, W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone.

Short wool ram of any age.—First prize, £5, and second, £3, W. Baker.

Five shearling short-woolled gimmers.—First prize, £5, and second, £2, W. Baker.

Five short-woolled ewes that have sucked lambs up to the time of the show.—First prize, £5, given by P. B. Davies-Cooke, Esq., and second, £2, W. Baker.

Five long-woolled shearling wedders, to be shorn not earlier than the 1st day of April, 1874.—Silver cup, value £5 5s., J. Byron, Kirkby-green, Sleaford; second, £2, S. Barker, Marr, Doncaster; third, £1, G. W. Alcock, Wadworth Grange, Doncaster.

HORSES.

Stallion for getting agricultural horses.—First prize, £10, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Manchester; second, £5, T. Statter. Commended: J. F. Crowther, Knowl Grove, Mirfield.

Entire agricultural colt, foaled in 1872.—First prize, a silver cup, value £5, and £5, W. and E. Johnson, Hatfield; second, £2, S. Barker, Marr. Commended: J. G. Fitchley, Misterton.

Brood mare for breeding agricultural horses, with foal sucking.—First prize, £10, T. Appleyard, jun., Wistow Lordship, Selby; second, £5, W. Fawcett, Barmbrough Grange. Highly commended: T. Statter. Commended: F. T. Turner, Arnthorpe.

Three years old agricultural gelding or filly.—First prize, £10, W. Bramley, Amcotts; second, £5, W. Bramley. Highly commended: J. Chapman, Thorpe Hill, Wixley. The whole class commended.

Two years old agricultural gelding or filly.—Fist prize, £10, W. Baker, Moor Barnes, Atherstone; second, £2, G. W. Alcock, Wadworth Grange, Doncaster. Commended: R. Johnson, Westbro', Grantham; J. T. Purvis, Knaith Park, Gainsboro'.

Yearling agricultural colt or filly.—First prize, £7, F. T. Turner; second, £3, T. Appleyard, jun.

Pair of draught horses used exclusively for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £10, C. W. Brierley, Middleton, Manchester; second, £5, C. W. Brierley. All commended.

Horse or mare for agricultural purposes.—First prize, a silver cup, value £5 5s., F. T. Turner; second, £2, W. Brockton, Tudworth Green. Highly commended: G. Wood, Hayfields.

Pair of agricultural horses, the property of a tenant-farmer residing within twenty miles of Doncaster.—Prize, a silver cup, value £5 5s., G. Wood.

Stallion for getting roadsters.—First prize, £10, T. Rennison, Skiff Farm, Holme, York; second, £5, T. Wakefield, Messingham, Kirton Lindsay. Highly commended: W. Featherby, Old Hall, Seaton Ross.

Brood mare for breeding roadsters, with foal sucking.—First prize, a cup, value 5 gs., and £5, T. E. Morrell, Hellaby Hall, Rotherham; second, £2, C. Lancaster, Ladyfield, Northallerton. Highly commended: J. F. Crowther. Commended: C. E. S. Cooke, St. Catherines, Doncaster.

Three years old roadster gelding or filly.—First prize, £5, J. Robinson, 63, Wright-street, Hull; second, £2, J. P. Crompton, Burton Agnes. Highly commended: J. Barnard, Owston Ferry.

Hackney or roadster, any age or sex, equal to carry 15 stones, not exceeding 15 hands 2 inches high.—First prize, £10, and a silver cup, value 5 gs., T. H. Bayly, Edwinstowe House, Ollerton; second, £5, R. Nelson, Barton Hill House, York. Commended: W. P. Moon, Normanby Grange, Brigg.

Three years old coaching gelding or filly.—First prize, £10, J. Johnson, Brigham, Driffield; second, £5, W. Wainwright, South Duffield, Selby.

Mare or gelding, 14 hands or upwards, any age, to be shown driven in single harness.—First prize, £10, T. Statter; second, £5, C. E. S. Cooke. Commended: J. Benson, Sandtoft, Crowle.

Brood mare for breeding hunters, with foal sucking.—First prize, £15, E. Hornby, Flotmanby, Ganton, York; second, £5, H. Watson, Newbegin, Filey.

Five years old hunting gelding or mare.—First prize, £40, T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick; second, £10, P. Hornsby, Castle-gate, Grantham. Commended: J. Tate, Barnhill, Acklington, Northumberland.

Four years old hunting gelding or filly, equal to carry 15 stones.—First prize, £40, T. H. Hutchinson; second, £10, T. Darrell, West Ayton, York. Commended: W. H. Clark, Hook House, Howden.

Three years old hunting gelding or filly.—First prize, £10 and cup, J. P. Crompton, Thornholme, Burton Agnes; second, £5, M. Harrison, Warter, Pocklington. Commended: T. Darrell.

Two years old hunting gelding or filly.—First prize, £5, H. Watson; second, £2. J. Everatt, Laughton, Gainsboro'.

Extra stock.—Prize, £5, G. Wood.

PIGS.

Boar, large breed.—First prize, £4, Earl of Ellesmere, Worsley Hall, Manchester; second, £2, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds, Littleborough, Manchester. Commended: Earl of Ellesmere.

Sow, large breed, in pig or milk.—First prize, £4, Earl of Ellesmere; second, £2, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds.

Boar, small breed.—First prize, £4, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds; second, £2, Earl of Ellesmere.

Sow, small breed, in pig or milk.—First prize, £4, Earl of Ellesmere; second, £2, E. Ellis, Bentley. Commended: C. R. N. Beswick-Royds.

Boar, large breed, not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £2, Earl of Ellesmere; second, £1, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds. Highly commended: J. Garbutt, jun., South Cave, Brough.

Sow, large breed, not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £2, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds; 2nd, £1, J. Garbutt, jun.

THE NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION AT LEAMINGTON.—The paragraph which has been put into circulation as to the establishment of this "Union" has since been contradicted on some of the more material points.

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THE SUFFOLK AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT IPSWICH.

The entries did not come up to the strength of the two previous years; and the younger classes of Suffolks stallions are numerically weak. Cupbearer 2nd, the champion, won also at Woodbridge; then, as now, the best Suffolk. Mr. R. Garrett's The Claimant, second last week in Norfolk, was now again placed first, as at Woodbridge. The judges had no little difficulty occasionally in coming to a decision, having, as it will be seen, to "refer" a case or two. The mares are, as a whole, not so good a lot as are the fillies and the foals. One deemed worthy of an extra prize for superior merit as an animal for general purposes—a shire bay—won Lord Henniker's special prize as the best cart mare. This is Mr. Purser's famous Honest Lass, first at Norwich. The riding and coaching horse classes are not so well filled as they have been of late at the Suffolk shows. Colonel Barlow's Massanissa and Citadel were first and second; while Mr. Grout shows the only coach and roadster stallions, and wins with Vanguard, Quicksilver, and Harkaway. The hunters are but a small show. A Bedfordshire mare stands first in the five-year-old class; Colonel Barlow's Cornishman, first at Norwich, first in the four-year-olds, and winning the special prize as best hunter. The hackneys and riding horses are only a moderate show. Of cattle, the Suffolk and Norfolk Red Polled are a much smaller show than that at Norwich. The Norfolk award in the cow class was sustained, the judges thinking Mr. B. Brown's Countess too heavily fatted to be a sure breeding animal, and giving first place to Mr. Lofft's Minnie 3rd. The Shorthorn entries were very short in the younger classes; but beyond Mr. Catchpole's bull there are among the cows and heifers some animals which have previously held good places. The Channel Islands cattle are few, and by no means a first-class show, Mr. Gilby not exhibiting. The Suffolk sheep are fairly good, the prizes going to well-known breeders of the sort; while the Marquis of Bristol, Mr. Colman, M.P., and Mr. G. Cooke divide the honours for Southdowns and other shortwools, the Marquis also taking the prize for the best ram in the yard, and Mr. Colman for the best pen of five ewes. The show of pigs is as good, with prizes to Lord Rendlesham, Mr. G. M. Sexton, and Mr. T. Rose, among the local men; and to Messrs. Duckering, Wheeler, and Dove, residing out of the district.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—Horses for Agricultural Purposes: N. G. Barthropp, Hacheston; W. Thompson, Thorpe, Colchester. Riding and Coaching Horses: G. D. Badham, Bulmer, Sudbury; B. Sparrow, Halsted, Essex. Cattle: W. Simpson, Attleborough; J. Seago, Stoke Holy Cross, Norwich. Sheep: W. Harvey, Timworth; M. Biddell, Playford. Pigs: C. Sturgeon, South Ockendon, Essex; E. C. Clayden, Ellough, Beccles.

HORSES

FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Stallion.—First prize, C. Frost, Whersted, Ipswich (Cupbearer 2nd); second, Colonel F. M. Wilson, Stowlangtoft (Heir Apparent). Highly commended: S. Wolton, Butley Abbey Royal Duke 2nd).

Three-year-old entire colt.—First prize, R. Garrett, Carlton Hall, Saxmundham (Claimant); second, W. Byford, The Court, Glemsford (Statesman).

Two-year-old entire colt.—First prize, M. Biddell, Playford (The Templar); second, R. Garrett. Highly commended: Executors of the late S. C. Goodwyn, Covehithe, Wangford (Hero). Commended: R. Capon, Dennington; J. Toller, Blaxall; R. Garrett.

Best Suffolk stallion in classes 1, 2, and 3.—Special prize, C. Frost (Cupbearer).

One year-old entire colt, foaled in 1873.—First prize, Lieut.-Colonel F. M. Wilson, Stowlangtoft Hall (Monarch); second, S. Robinson, Bramford Tye (Stearn's Boxer). Highly commended: C. Frost (Cupbearer 2nd); W. Turner, Waldringfield (Grout's Emperor). Reserve and highly commended: A. Cracknell, Thornham, Eye (Cupbearer); E. Hodgson, Charsfield (Bismarck).

MARES AND FOALS.

Mare with foal at foot.—First prize, H. Wolton, Newbourne Hall (Pride); second, G. A. Goulson, The Hay, Fingringhoe (Violet). Reserve and highly commended: R. Makens, Ringshall.

Foal, foaled in 1874.—First prize, A. Cracknell (Spelman's Ploughboy); second, S. Wolton (Chillesford Duke). Reserve and highly commended: C. Frost (Cupbearer 2nd).

Gast mare.—First prize, D. A. Green, East Donyland, Colchester (Smart); second, H. Wolton (Diamond): Reserve: Lieut.-Colonel F. M. Wilson.

Bay cart mare, special cup awarded by the Judges on the ground that the animal was of superior merit for general purposes, but was not purely an agricultural mare.—Extra prize, H. Purser, Willington Manor, Bedford (Honest Lass).

FILLIES.

Three-year-old filly, foaled in 1871.—First prize, W. Cross, Ivy Cottage, Frating, Colchester (Kathleen); second, I. Rist, Brantham (Blossom). Reserve and highly commended: J. Toller.

Two-year-old filly, foaled in 1872.—First prize, M. Biddell (Jewel); second, C. Frost. Highly commended: D. A. Green. Commended: I. Rist. Reserve: W. Wilson, Baylham.

Year-old cart filly, foaled in 1873.—First prize, J. Skeet, Rushmere, Ipswich (Wilson's Bismarck); second, H. Purser (Grand Duchess, the Czar).

For the best filly in the above three classes.—Special prize, W. Cross.

For the best team of four cart horses, either mares or geldings, or mixed, of any breed, to be exhibited in harness or not, at the option of the exhibitor.—Special prize, H. Wolton.

Pair of plough horses, mares, or geldings, or mixed.—Special prize, H. Wolton (Captain and Brag).

RIDING AND COACHING HORSES.

Thoroughbred stallion for hunting purposes, having served not less than ten mares in the county.—First prize, Colonel F. Barlow, Hasketon (Massanissa); second, Col. F. Barlow (Citadel).

Stallion for coaching purposes, having served not less than ten mares in the county.—First prize, J. Grout, Woodbridge (Vanguard).

Roadster stallion, having served not less than ten mares in the county.—First prize, J. Grout (Quicksilver); 2nd J. Grout (Young Harkaway).

For best stallion in the above three classes.—Special prize, Lieut-Col. F. Barlow's (Massanissa).

For best match pair of geldings or mares, for carriage purposes, not less than 14.2 hands.—Special prize, J. Grout, bay mares.

Hunting mare, with foal at foot.—First prize, J. Grout (Myrtle); second, Rev. A. Bond, Freston Rectory, Ipswich Reserve: H. Wolton, Newbourne Hall.

Hackney mare, with foal at foot.—First prize, H. Wolton (Wood Nymph); second, E. Prior, Bury St. Edmund's. Reserve: J. C. Cook, Ashfield-cum-Thorpe.

Hunting foal, bred in the county, or by exhibitor.—Prize, J. R. Wood, Melton Hall, Woodbridge. Reserve: J. Grout.

Roadster foal, bred in the county, or by the exhibitor.—Prize, E. Prior, Bury St. Edmund's. Reserve: H. Wolton.

For the best foal, by either of his riding stallions.—Special prize, H. Wolton.

For the best foal by either of the Hasketon stallions.—Special prize, J. Humphreys, Ipswich.

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Weight-carrying hunting mare or gelding, not less than five years old, equal to carry not less than 14 stone.—First prize, C. C. Hayward, Southill, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire (Paramour); second, S. A. Goodwyn, Leiston Hall (The Lancer). Reserve: F. G. Freeman, Henham, Wangford (Perfection).

Four-year-old weight-carrying hunting mare or gelding, equal to carrying not less than 14 stone.—First prize, Lieut-Col. F. Barlow (Cornishman), also special prize as the best hunter in the yard; second, C. C. Hayward (Richelieu). Reserve: G. M. Sexton, Wheatead Hall, Ipswich (The Baron).

Weight-carrying hunting mare or gelding, three years old, having been bred in the county or by the exhibitor, and equal to carrying not less than 14 stone.—First prize, R. Garrett (mare); second, G. M. Sexton (gelding). Reserve: Lieut-Col. Barlow (gelding).

Weight-carrying hunting mare or gelding, two years old, having been bred in the county or by the exhibitor, and equal to carrying not less than 14 stone.—First prize, W. P. T. Phillips, The Grange, Melton (Fencing Lass); second, Lieut. Col. F. Barlow (Courage). Commended: R. Garret (gelding).

Light-weight hunting mare or gelding.—Special prize, Lieut-Col. F. Barlow, Hasketon. Reserve and commended: W. Harvey, Timworth.

RIDERS AND HACKNEYS.

Riding mare or gelding, not under 15 hands high.—First prize, R. Garrett (roan riding mare). Reserve: J. Grout (Gay Lad).

Hackney mare or gelding, not under 14 hands high and not exceeding 15 hands.—First prize, J. Grout, (Kitty).

Three-year-old hackney mare or gelding, bred in the county or by the exhibitor.—Prize, J. Toller, Blaxhall. Reserve: Rev. A. Bond, Freston Rectory, Ipswich.

Two-year-old hackney mare or gelding, bred in the county or by the exhibitor.—First prize, G. Bond, The Rookery, Cretingham. Reserve and commended: J. Smith, Hasketon.

The best hackney mare or gelding, of not less than 14 hands high, nor more than 15.2 hands high, to be exhibited in single harness.—Special prize, J. Grout, Woodbridge (Alice). Reserve: J. A. Ransome, Ipswich.

For the best weight-carrying cob, mare, or gelding, carrying (while being judged) at least 15 stones, saddle and bridle included, and not less than 13.3 hands nor more than 14.3 hands high.—Special Prize, R. C. Cooke, Livermore. Reserve and commended: M. Page, Hollesley. Commended: J. Grout, Woodbridge (Alice).

PONIES.

Pony, not under 13 hands high, and not exceeding 14 hands. Prize, R. C. Cooke.

For the pony showing the finest action in single or double harness.—Special prize, J. A. Ransome (Rory O'More). Highly commended: R. Capon, Dennington (Bess).

For the best match pair of ponies under 14 hands high.—Special prize, J. A. Ransome (Rory O'Moore) and (Kate Kearnay).

For the best match pair of ponies under 12 hands high.—Special prize, Mrs. Ogilvie, Sizewell House, Leiston (Harlequin) and (Columbine).

For the hunter jumping the best the first day of the show.—Special prize, J. Grout, Woodbridge (Irish Lassie).

For the hunter jumping best: tried over hurdles, a bank and water jump, on the second day of show.—Special prize, cup, Duke of Hamilton, Easton Park.

CATTLE.

Suffolk or Norfolk red polled bull, not under two years old.—First prize, J. J. Colman, M.P., Norwich (Powell); second, H. Birkbeck, Stoke Holy Cross, Norwich (Young Duke). Commended: M. Biddell, Playford (Big Playford).

Suffolk or Norfolk red polled bull, under two years old.—First Prize, J. J. Coleman, M.P., Norwich (Royal Duke); second, R. E. Loft, Troston, Bury St. Edmund's (Honest Tom). Commended: H. Birbeck, Stoke Holy Cross, Norwich (Suffolk).

Suffolk or Norfolk red polled bull calf, not exceeding one year old.—First prize, J. J. Colman (Baron Easton).

Suffolk or Norfolk red polled cow in milk or in calf.—First prize, R. E. Loft, Troston, Bury St. Edmund's (Minue); second, B. Brown, Thursford (Countess).

Under three-years-old Suffolk or Norfolk red polled heifer in milk or in calf.—First prize, B. Brown, Thursford (Nonpariel); second, H. Birbeck, Stoke Holy Cross, Norwich (Wave). Commended: J. J. Coleman, M.P., Norwich (Rosabelle).

Under two-year-old Suffolk or Norfolk red polled heifer.—First prize, G. Gooderham, Monewden (Coral).

Shorthorn bull, not under two years old.—First prize, N. Catchpole, Bramford (Oxford Prize); second, J. Wortley, Swafield, Walsham (Captain Hopeful). Commended: R. H. Crabb, Baddow Place, Chelmsford (Baddow Duke of Geneva).

Shorthorn bull, under two years old.—First prize, D. A. Green, East Donyland, Colchester (Donyland Duke); second, R. H. Crabb (Claro's Rose 2nd). Commended: N. Catchpole (Thiers).

Shorthorn bull-calf, not exceeding one-year-old.—Prize, T. Rose, Melton Magna (Bright Knight). Highly commended: N. Catchpole (The Shah).

Shorthorn cow, in milk or in calf.—First prize, N. Catchpole (Acacia); second, T. Jennings, Phantom House, Newmarket (Bracelet). Commended: N. Catchpole (Queen Anne).

Shorthorn heifer, under three years old, in milk or in calf.—First prize, J. R. Chaplin, Ridgewell, Halstead (Cinnamon); second, N. Catchpole (Romford Rose). Highly commended: N. Catchpole.

Shorthorn heifer, under two years old.—First prize, D. A. Green; second, R. H. Crabb. Highly commended: N. Catchpole; R. H. Crabb; J. R. Chaplin (Lady Pigot).

Bull of any pure breed, not being red polled, Suffolk, or Norfolk, or Shorthorn.—Prize, R. M. Jary, Underwood Hall, Westley (The Shah).

Cow or heifer of the Channel Islands breed, if over two years old, in milk or in calf.—First prize, Lieut.-Colonel F. M. Wilson; second, Marquis of Bristol. Commended: I. Rist.

Best cow or heifer in the yard, bred by a tenant-farmer in the county of Suffolk.—Special prize, N. Catchpole (Romford Rose).

SHEEP.

Suffolk tup, of any age.—Prize, J. M. Green, Stradishall, Newmarket. Highly commended: R. Woodgate, Great Waldingfield, Sudbury.

Shearling Suffolk tup.—First prize, J. M. Green; second, W. S. Garner, Moulton, Newmarket.

Suffolk lamb tup.—Prize, R. Woodgate.

Pen of five Suffolk shearling ewes.—First prize, R. Woodgate; second, W. S. Gardner. Highly commended: R. Garrett.

Short-woolled tup, of any pure breed (not being Suffolk), of any age.—Prize, Marquis of Bristol (Southdown). Highly commended: G. Cooke, Horseheath Park Linton. Commended: J. J. Colman, M.P., Norwich (Southdown); J. Giblin, Bardfield, Braintree.

Shearling short-woolled tup of any pure breed, not being Suffolk, of any age.—First prize, Mr. Cooke; second, J. J. Colman, M.P. (Southdown). Commended: Mr. Cooke; J. Giblin.

Pen of five short-woolled shearling ewes, of any pure breed, not being Suffolk.—First prize, J. J. Colman, M.P. (Southdown); second, Mr. Cooke.

Long-woolled tup of any pure breed, of any age.—Prize, J. Giblin (Cotswold three-shear tup).

Shearling long-woolled tup, of any pure breed.—First prize, J. Wheeler and Sons (Shearling Cotswold ram); second, J. Giblin (shearling Cotswold tup).

Best ram in the yard.—Special prize, the Marquis of Bristol.

Pen of ten ewes of any age or breed, which have had lambs this year.—Prize, A. F. Nicholson, Ipswich (Hampshire Down).

Ten shearling ewes of any breed.—Prize, J. A. Hempson, Erwarton Hall (Southdown).

Ten ewe lambs of any breed.—Prize, J. J. Colman, M.P. (Southdown). Highly commended: A. Ogilvie, Sizewell House, Leiston. Reserve: R. Woodgate.

Best pen of ewes in the yard.—Special prize, J. J. Colman, M.P.

PIGS.

Boar of the black breed, not under one-year-old.—First prize, R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsey; second, J. Wheeler and Sons.

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Boar of the black breed, under one-year-old.—First prize, G. M. Sexton, Wherstead Hall, Ipswich; second, Lord Rendlesham, M.P.

Sow and pigs of the black breed (the pigs not to exceed ten weeks old).—Prize, G. M. Sexton.

Breeding sow of the black breed.—First prize, J. Wheeler and Sons; second, G. M. Sexton. Reserve: R. E. Duckering.

Pen of three young sows, of the black breed, pigged since November 1st.—First prize, G. M. Sexton; second, T. Rose, Melton Magna, Wymondham.

Boar of the white breed, not under one-year-old.—First prize and special prize, for the best boar in the yard, G. M. Sexton; second, Lord Rendlesham.

Boar of white breed, under one-year-old.—First prize, J. Dove, Hambrook House, near Bristol; second, Lord Rendlesham.

Special prize, G. M. Sexton.

Sow and pigs of the white breed (the pigs not to exceed ten weeks old).—Prize, G. M Sexton.

Breeding sow of the white breed.—First prize, R. E. Duckering; second, J. Dove.

Pen of three young sows of the white breed, pigged since November 1st.—First prize, Lord Rendlesham, M.P.; second, R. E. Duckering.

The following implement makers had stands on the ground: Ransomes, Sims, and Head, Orwell Works, Ipswich; E. R. and F. Turner, St. Peter's Iron Works, Ipswich; R. Garrett and Sons, Leiston Works, Suffolk; Woods, Cocksedge, and Co., Stowmarket; Packard and Co., Ipswich; James, Sons, and Smyth, Peasenhall; J. K. King, Coggeshall, Essex; Rands and Jeckell, Ipswich; F. Beaumont, Ipswich; Bennett and Botwood, Ipswich; Whight and Mann, Gipping Works, Ipswich; C. Taylor, Ipswich; J. T. Scrivener, Ipswich; Scrivener, Gill, and Co., Ipswich and London; G. Busse and Co.; Ohlendorff and Co.; Bell and Co.; G. Gilders; Burgess and Key; R. Boby; Catchpool and Stannard; W. Bear; W. Tinsley; C. Burrell; J. T. Markall; Murton and Turner; Whitmore and Binyon; Page and Girling.

At the President's dinner Lord WAVENEY returned thanks for the Vice-Presidents, and congratulated the Society on the remarkable success of the show of that day, and expressed his gratification to find that there was an improvement in the manner in which the horses were brought to the ring. He had previously expressed a hope that the horses might be shown so that they could see a little more of the skeleton, and a little less of the skill of the horse keeper. He thought the young animals exhibited that day had shown that there was now a tendency to work out the faults of the horses. He had never seen horses that more inspired him with hopes than the two-year-old class that day.

Mr. BASIL SPARROW, in returning thanks for the judges, said he considered the show of hunters had been very good. One of the horses he had got upon was such a one as he should have liked to put into his own stables, for he was one of the few big horses that could gallop. There were, he could say from his own experience, very few weight-carriers that were worth anything, and he could prove that in the mud of the Essex brooks. He thought there was a prospect of the British farmer being better horsed than he had been, that in future a good horse would not be beyond the means of the Suffolk farmer, and if he did not want them that the landlord would be willing to give a good price for them.

Capt. BARTHROPP also responded for the judges, and alluded to a difficulty which had arisen in judging class 7 that day. A bay mare, a very good animal, was exhibited in that class. His friend, Mr. Thompson, and himself did not quite agree as to the merits of this mare and a chesnut mare which received the prize. He (Capt. Barthropp) felt that the other was not the animal to encourage in this county, and a referee was called in. Mr. Badham was called in, and he coincided in his (Capt. Barthropp's) opinion, and the prize went to the chesnut, and the bay mare was considered not the sort of animal for Suffolk. Then the question arose whether this mare was eligible for the special prize for the best cart mare in classes 5 and 7? As he (Capt. Barthropp) understood it the prize was given for the best animal for agricultural purposes, and he certainly thought she ought not to go into the ring; but it was decided by the stewards by a majority of one, that the bay mare was eligible to compete, she went into the ring, and his friend Thompson and himself were again at issue. They both retired from the contest, and left the matter to two other gentlemen—one of whom had been a judge of cattle, and the other of sheep—who decided that the bay mare should have the prize. The decision might be right, or it might be wrong, only he wished the explanation to be known, because it seemed curious that the mare should have been decided not to have been eligible to compete, and that they should turn about in half-an-hour and give her the best prize in the yard. He would fully admit the merits of the mare for dray purposes, but he did not consider that she was the best for agricultural purposes in Suffolk. The show of agricultural horses had been most successful. There were 12 or 13 animals in the two-year-old class, and the fact that the Veterinary Inspector had said that he did not see a single side bone, spoke volumes in favour of the improvement of the Suffolk horses, who were said, by some enemies of the breed, to have had bad feet. He could only say with respect to other breeds that about three weeks ago he was acting as judge at the Royal Cornwall Show, and in the first class of horses there was not a single sound horse; they all had side bone or very bad sand cracks.

Mr. THOMPSON also responded, and carried the bay mare story a little further. She was a Bedfordshire mare exhibited among the Suffolks. In looking over his judges' book he found that the prize was to be awarded to the best cart mare. As to being fitted for agricultural purposes, he would like to know what agricultural work that mare could not do? He wanted to know why that animal, which could do its work in Lincolnshire or Cambridgeshire, could not do it in Suffolk? He held strongly for that mare for the simple reason that he thought she was one of the best four-year-old mares he ever saw. He would ask Mr. Badham a simple question, whether that mare ought to be disqualified merely for colour or for the hair on her legs? She was said to be a mare for dray purposes, and as he found by the judges' book that the prizes were for cart horses, why should she not have the prize?

Mr. H. BIDDELL said a matter which had been talked of very much was the union of the three counties for the formation of one Society, so as to make one great East of England Show. They would get a very great show perhaps, but he should like to ask what they would get there that they had not had at Ipswich that day? If they wanted a bigger show, they had quite enough for anyone to look at in the two days. If they wanted more money, he would say that they had offered enough money to collect some of the best classes of animals he had ever seen. The Bath and West of England Society having recently enlarged the area of its operations, the County Associations within that area had started up into activity, and had never been more prosperous than now.

THE SHORTHORN HERD BOOK. — Messrs. Lythall and Clarke, the auctioneers of Birmingham, were ready to give Mr. Strafford his price, £5,000, for this work, which, however, as will be seen, has now been taken up by a Company.

THE WATERCOMBE RAMS.—Mr. J. T. Ensor, of Dorchester, brought to the hammer for sale and and letting 135 rams, belonging to the flock of Mr. T. Chapman Saunders. The two-tooth rams were first submitted, there being 70 lots of these. They realised in all 312½ gs. and 392 gs. Lot 35, a superior animal, made 36 gs., while lot 46 brought 30 gs., lot 60 33 gs., and lot 64 23 gs. Fifty-two rams (four-tooth) were let at prices varying from 5 gs. to 31 gs., the whole of the lots bringing 187½ gs. and 171½ gs. Of the e, lot 99, a very superior animal, was let at 27 gs., 22 gs. being given for the letting of lot 80, 31 gs. lot 95, and 21 gs. lot 105. Sixteen six-tooth (mostly) were sold at from 5 gs. to 13½ gs., the whole bringing 47½ gs. and 63½ gs. Twenty others were let at from 5 gs. to 9 gs., the whole making 124 gs. The grand total of the sale and letting was 1,298½ gs., or an average of £10 1s. 11d.

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THIRSK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At this show the entries were 50 in excess of last year, the increase being in the sheep and pig classes, while the horses were up to about the usual standard of this meeting.

PRIZE-LIST.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull two years old and upwards.—First prize, G. Yates. Studley, Ripon; second, I. Garbutt, Bragg House, Farndale, Kirbymoorside.

Bull above one year and under two years old.—First prize, Rev. W. Prest, Ampleforth College; second, C. Mc C. Swarbreck, Sowerby.

Bull calf under twelve months old.—First prize, H. Clay, Northallerton; second, J. Coates, Hartshead Moor.

Cow or heifer in-calf or milk, three years old and upwards.—First and second prizes, and cup.—T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick.

Cow or heifer under three years old.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, T. Strickland.

Heifer one year old and under two.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, T. Strickland.

Heifer calf under twelve months old.—First prize, Major Stapylton, Myton-hall; second, J. T. Robinson, Topcliffe.

CATTLE OF ANY BREED OR CROSS.

Cow for dairy purposes.—First prize, G. K. Harland, Northallerton; second, T. Strickland

Cow, the property of a cottager.—First prize, T. Barnett, Thormanby; second, G. Yates, Thirsk.

Three dairy cows in calf or milk, the property of a tenant-farmer.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; second, C. Mc. C. Swarbeck, Sowerby; third, H. Pickersgill, Topcliffe.

SHEEP.

LEICESTER OR LONGWOOL.

Ram, one shear.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; second, W. Coverdale, Helmsley.

Ram, aged.—First prize, W. Coverdale; second, T. H. Hutchinson. Highly commended: C. and W. Dovener, Bedale, and T. H. Hutchinson.

Three gimmer shearlings.—First and second prizes, T. H. Hutchinson. Commended: R. Tarbotton, Cawton, Gilling, and W. K. Pickering, Gilling.

Pen of three ewes having suckled lambs in 1874.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, W. Coverdale.

(Limited to the District).

Ram, one shear.—First prize, C. and W. Dovener; second, F. Heugh, Northallerton.

Ram, aged.—First prize, R. Tarbotton; second, F. Heugh. Commended: C. and W. Dovener.

Three gimmer shearlings.—First prize, W. K. Pickering, Gilling; second, R. Tarbotton, Cawton.

Three ewes having suckled lambs in 1874.—First prize, W. Hall, Thirsk; second, C. and W. Dovener, Bedale.

Half-bred sheep, limited to the district.—First prize, W. Dale, Topcliffe Park; second, C. Watson, Sowerby.

Three ewes having suckled lambs in 1874.—Prize, J. Greaves, Clotherholme, Ripon.

PIGS.

Boar, large breed.—Prize, W. Lister, Armley.

Boar, small breed.—First prize, G. Sedgwick, York; second, D. Sanderson, Richmond.

Boar of the black or Berkshire breed.—Prize, W. Holmes, York.

Boar of any other breed.—First prize, G. Sedgwick; second, — Graham, Leeds.

Sow of the large breed, in pig or milk.—First prize, — Graham; second, W. Lister.

Sow of the small breed, in pig or milk.—First prize, D. Sanderson, Moulton-hall; second, G. Sedgwick, York.

Sow of the black or Berkshire breed.—Prize, W. Holmes, York.

Sow of any other breed, not qualified to compete in classes 25, 26, and 27—First prize, W. Lister, Armley, Leeds; second, F. Waller, High Coniscliff, Darlington,

(Limited to the District).

Pig, the property of a cottager whose annual rental does not exceed £8.—First prize, J. Eden, Thirsk; second, G. Horner, Thirsk. Commended: J. Appleton, Thirsk. Highly commended: W. Jackson, Bedale. G. Horner being disqualified, prize given to W. Jackson.

HORSES.

Thoroughbred stallion for getting hunters.—First prize, B. Fishburn, Ainderby Steeple; second, W. Feaster, Cock Moorhall, York. Commended: J. Gowland, Ripon.

Stallion for getting agricultural horses, to travel in the district the following year.—First prize, W. Robson, Old Malton; second, Jas. F. Crowther, Mirfield.

Brood mare for breeding coach horses with foal at foot.—First prize, W. L. Robinson, Thormanby-hall; second, R. Mothersill, Northallerton.

Mare for breeding weight-carrying hunters, with foal at foot.—First prize, J. T. Robinson, Topcliff; second, M. Wilkinson, North Kilvington.

Brood mare for breeding roadsters, with foal at foot.—First prize, Wm. F. Pilter, South Preston; second, C. Lancaster, Northallerton.

Mare for breeding agricultural horses, with foal at foot.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; second, J. Morton, Skipton-on-Swale.

HUNTERS.

Yearling gelding for the field.—Prize, H. Crossley, Masham.

Yearling filly for the field.—First prize, L. Manfield, Barugh; second, R. Kirby, Northallerton.

Two-year-old gelding for the field.—First prize, G. M. Lomas, Dishforth; second, J. Leng, Houghton-le-side.

Two-year-old filly for the field.—First prize, R. Garbutt, Ampleforth; second, J. T. Robinson, Topcliffe.

Three-year-old gelding for the field.—First prize, J. B. Booth, Catterick; second, G. Lancaster, Northallerton.

Three-year-old filly for the field.—First prize, G. K. Harland, Northallerton; second, C. Lancaster, Northallerton.

Hunting gelding or mare, four years old.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; second, C. Rose, Malton.

Hunting gelding or mare, five years old and upwards, to be ridden in the ring.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; second, J. C. Bilton, Hutton's Ambo.

Hunting gelding or mare, seven years old or upwards, to be ridden in the ring.—Prize, B. Nicholson, Garforth.

COACHING.

Yearling gelding.—Prize, H. Pettinger, Easingwold.

Two-year-old gelding.—First prize, G. Meynell, Bedale; second, R. D. Batty, Easingwold.

Two-year-old filly.—First prize, J. Goodrick, Skipton Bridge; second, W. Hardwick, Northallerton.

Three-year-old gelding for coaching.—First prize, T. Plummer, Easingwold; second, H. Pettinger, Easingwold.

Three-year-old filly for coaching.—Prize, J. Burton, Thirsk.

ROADSTERS.

Two-year-old gelding for the road.—First prize, J. Rountree, Leyburn; second, T. Heugh, Northallerton.

Two-year-old filly for the road.—First prize, Hon. G. E. Lascelles, Sion Hill; second, T. Carter, Thirsk.

Three-year-old gelding for the road.—First prize, R. Kirby, Northallerton; second, W. Wray, York.

Three-year-old filly for the road.—First prize, Jas. Cook, York; second, G. Wetherill, Thirsk. Highly commended: Robt. Farnhill, Batley.

HACKNEYS.

Gentleman's hackney, of any sex, not exceeding five years old, and not exceeding 15h. 2in. in height, to be ridden in the ring.—First prize, T. Dales, Kearby, near Wetherby; second, T. G. Mallory, Great Habton, Pickering. Highly commended: Earl Cathcart, Thornton-le-Street.

AGRICULTURAL HORSES.

Yearling gelding or filly.—First prize, Mrs. Kitching and Sons, Whorlton; second, W. Thrackrey, Borrowby.

Two-year-old gelding.—First prize, J. Morton, Thirsk; second, R. Bosomworth, Easingwold.

Two-year-old filly.—First prize, W. Wilkinson, South Kilvington; second, W. Appleton, Thirsk.

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Three-year-old gelding.—First prize, J. Smith, Humburton, Boroughbrige; second, J. Peirson, Aireyholme, Northallerton.

Three-year-old filly.—First prize, J. Chapman, Thorp Hill, York; second, T. F. Imeson, Eldmire-hill, Thirsk.

Gelding or mare four years old and upwards.—First and second prizes, R. Saunders, Westbrook, Darlington. Commended: J. F. Crowther, Knowl Grove, Mirfield.

Jumper.—First prize, T. Peacock, Hill-house, Bedale; second, J. Welburn, Scackleton Grange, Hovingham.

Pony not exceeding 14 hands in height, any age or sex.—First prize, T. Mitchell, Bowling-park, Bradford; second, Mc C. Swarbreck, Sowerby. Highly commended: W. Howe, Bondgate, Darlington; and W. Johnson, Mile-house, Thirsk.

EXTRA STOCK.

Horses.—Prize £1 each, Tom Strickland (Thirsk Junction), three gilt pigs; C. Nicholson (Melmerby, Thirsk), ewe and four lambs; and W. Hall (Thirsk), Alderney cow.

BUTTER.

Four rolls of butter.—First prize, J. Arrowsmith, South Kilvington; second, Mr. Abbey, Crimple; third, Miss Elsworth, Plompton. Commended: J. Stevenson, Crosby.

THORNE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The entries were 1,264, or an increase over those of the previous show of 150. The agricultural and draught horses were superior to those previously exhibited, but the hunters were not very good. There was a fair show of cattle, a better class of animals being displayed than at last meeting. The sheep penned were principally Lincolns, and on the whole a moderate lot.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—DRAUGHT HORSES: T. Reed, Upton, Hull; J. Wressell, Crow Grange, Beeford; J. Smith, Brayton, Selby. HUNTERS AND NAGS: E. Godfrey, Thealby Hall, Brigg; T. Smith, Gringley-on-the-Hill; W. H. Clark, Hook House, Howden. CATTLE, SHEEP, AND PIGS: T. Dodds, Mount Pleasant, Wakefield; J. Rowley, Norton Priory, Askern; E. Abraham, Barnetby-le-Wold, Ulceby. BUTTER AND EGGS: T. Tasker, Moorgate-grove, Rotherham.

HORSES.

Agricultural mare and foal.—First prize, E. Coulman, Levels; second, F. T. Turner, Armthorpe.

Hunter mare and foal.—First prize, H. W. Godfrey, Levels, Thorne; E. Fearnside, Wakefield.

Carriage mare and foal.—First prize, J. Reader, Holme; second, M. Askren, Levels.

Roadster mare and foal.—First prize, T. E. Morrell, Rotherham; second, E. Belton, Tudworth.

Agricultural or draught, yearling colt or filly.—First prize, F. T. Turner, Armthorpe; second, J. F. Crowther, Mirfield.

Two-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, J. T. Purvis, Gainsbro'; second, N. England, Fishlake.

Three-year-old gelding or filly.—First and second prizes, W. Bramley, Amcotts.

Pair of draught horses, within twenty miles of Thorne.—First prize, G. Wood, Doncaster; second, T. J. Brown.

Pair of draught horses.—First prize, G. Bletcher, Levels; second, J. F. Crowther.

Gelding or mare, any age.—First prize, M. Askren, Levels; second, W. Brockton, Tudworth.

Hunters, yearling colt or filly.—First prize, J. Furnis, Crowle Wharf; second, R. J. Winder, jun., Newton.

Two-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, M. Askren, Levels; second, T. Everett, Laughton.

Three-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, A. J. Brown, North Elmsall Hall; second, M. Askren, Levels.

Gelding or mare, any age.—Prize, A. J. Brown.

Carriage yearling colt or filly.—First prize, J. Waite, Fishlake; second, W. Gray, Thorne.

Two-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, T. E. Morrell; second, C. W. Darley, Thorne.

Gelding or mare, any age.—First prize, G. Goody, Thorne; second, J. Benson, Sandtoft.

Roadsters, yearling colt or filly.—H. W. Godfrey, Bank House; second, M. Askren.

Two-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, R. Chapman, Campsall; second, W. H. Brown, Beltoft.

Three-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, W. Stephenson, Cottingham; second, R. Farnhill, Batley.

Gelding or mare, any age.—First prize, J. Robinson; second, W. Sadler, Leeds.

Weight-carrying cob.—First prize, J. Benson; second, W. Sadler.

Lady's hackney.—First prize, F. C. Matthews, Driffield; second, J. Reader.

Pony, not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, W. H. Blackman; second, T. Mitchell, Bradford.

Pony, not exceeding 13 hands.—First prize, Miss A. M. Godfrey, Levels; second, R. Widdop, Snaith.

Yearling foal by "Blazeaway."—Special prize, H. W. Godfrey.

CATTLE.

Bull, any age.—First prize, J. H. Rockett, Goole; second, S. Barker.

Bull, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, J. Stainforth, Sheffield Park; second, J. F. Watson, Crowle Wharf.

Bull-calf.—First prize, W. Burton; second, T. J. Eland, Hatfield, Woodhouse.

Cow, in calf or milk.—First prize, J. H. Rockett; second, Messrs. Dudding, Wragby.

Heifer, in-calf or milk.—First and second prizes, F. Strickland, Carlton, Thirsk.

Heifer, two years old.—First prize, F. Strickland; second, J. H. Rockett.

SHEEP.

One-shear improved Lincoln ram.—First and second prizes, Messrs. Dudding.

Improved Lincoln ram, any age.—First prize, Messrs. Dudding; second, W. Roe, North Scarle Field, Newark.

Five improved Lincoln ewes.—First prize, W. Roe; second, T. Askren, Levels.

Five improved Lincoln gimmers.—First prize, F. T. Turner, Armthorpe; second, W. Roe.

Five improved Lincoln rams.—First prize, E. Belton; second, W. Roe.

PIGS.

Boar, any breed.—C. F. Hallas, Huddersfield; second, J. Garbutt, South Cave, Hull.

Sow, any breed.—First prize, C. F. Hallas; second, J. C. Coups, Barmby Don.

Open gilt, any age.—First prize, E. Ellis, Doncaster; second, J. Garbutt.

Two store pigs.—First prize, Parkinson Brothers, Doncaster; second, H. C. Littlewood, Wicker, Sheffield.

BUTTER AND EGGS.

Pound of butter, flavour, colour, and make.—First prize, Mrs. J. Purdy, Thorne; second, Mrs. Moore, Thorne; third, Mrs. G. Watson, Fishlake; fourth, Mrs. Rawson, Woodhouse, fifth, M. Askren.

Twelve eggs.—R. C. Empson, Goole; second, Miss Gravil, Thorne.

THE THOROUGH-BRED STOCK SALE AT THE ALEXANDRA PARK.—This, the second experiment of the sort, was held under the auspices of Messrs. Tattersall, with a very indifferent result. The attendance was thin, and not half the yearlings offered were sold, those which did find purchasers going mostly at very poor prices.

THE LABOURERS' STRIKE IN SUFFOLK.—This seems hastening to an end; the march to the North country being, perhaps, for the present, the last act of the drama. In Norfolk labourers are well paid, well employed, and to all appearances happy and contented. There is a plentiful supply of hands everywhere, so there is no prospect of a scarcity of labour for turnip hoeing or harvest.—*The Norfolk Chronicle.*

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ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

MONTHLY COUNCIL: *Wednesday, July* 1.—Present: Earl Cathcart, Vice-President, in the chair; the Duke of Bedford; the Duke of Devonshire, K.G.; the Earl of Leicester; Viscount Bridport; Lord Chesham; Lord Ealington, M.P.; Mr. Barnett, Mr. Bowly; Mr. Cantrell, Mr. Dent; Mr. Druce; Mr. Evans; Mr. Brandreth Gibbs; Mr. Horley, Jun.; Mr. Hornsby; Mr. Hoskyns; Colonel Kingscote, M.P.; Mr. Leeds; Sir A. K. Macdonald, Bart.; Mr. Pain; Mr. Rigden; Mr. Statter; Mr. Wakefield; Mr. W. Wells; Colonel Wilson; and Dr. Voelcker.

Colonel Kingscote, M.P., was elected a Governor of the Society.

The following new members were elected:

Allen, George, Unicarville, Comber, Co. Down.
Ambrose, Cole, Stuntney Hall, Ely.
Armstrong, George, Graffham, St. Neots.
Ashby, Captain G. Ashby, Naseby Woolleys, Rugby.
Bidwell, Charles, New Barnes, Ely.
Freeze, Edward, Old Marton Hall, Whittington, Oswestry.
Broughall, Edward, Wikey House, Ruyton, 11 Towns.
Burton, Oliver, Gwaynynog, Denbigh.
Burt, Walter, Wellingore, Grantham.
Calver, Thomas. Burnham Thorpe, Lynn.
Clay, Edward, Ellesmere, Salop.
Cooper, James, Barton Mere Farm, Bury St. Edmunds.
Church, George, Bedford.
Calverwell, William Thomas, Durleigh Farm, Bridgwater.
Fryer, William Rolles, Lytchett Minster, Poole.
Green, Edward, The Moors, Welshpool.
Higgins, George, Castle Close, Bedford.
Horrell, Robert, Oakley, Bedford.
Hunt, E. Bradley, Hayes, Uxbridge.
Inman, Henry, Rose Bank, Stretford, Manchester.
Kynaston, Rev. Walter C. E., Hardwick, Ellesmere.
Lester, James, Kempston, Bedford.
Lester, Thomas, High-street, Dudley.
Lovell, John M., Harpole, Weedon.
Magniac, Charles, Colworth, Bedford.
Meredith, Richard, Rednal, Shrewsbury.
Nodea, Joseph, Bridgemere Hall, Nantwich.
Prior, Benjamin, Leighton, Kimbolton.
Ransom, Edwin, Kempston, Bedford.
Rigden, Henry, Saltwood Castle, Hythe, Kent.
Sainsbury, Edward, 16, Mark-lane, E.C.
Sartoris, Alfred, Abbotswood, Stow-in-the-Wold.
Shuker, John, Knightley Hall, Chirbury, Salop.
Simons, Thomas, Markgate Cell Park Farm, Dunstable.
Smith, Henry Herbert, West Lodge, West End, Hampstead.
Smith, Thomas, Tillbrook, Kimbolton.
Vaughan, Lewis Edward, Trederwen Hall, Arlein, Oswestry.

FINANCES.—Viscount Bridport presented the report, from which it appeared that the Secretary's receipts during the past month had been duly examined by the Committee, and by Messrs. Quilter, Ball, & Co., the Society's accountants, and found correct. The balance in the hands of the bankers on June 30, was £2,582 7s. 9d., and £2,000 remains on deposit. The quarterly statements of subscriptions and arrears to June 30, and the quarterly cash account, were laid on the table. This report was adopted, with the addition of the following resolution:

That the candidates for election as members of the Society, whose names have just been read, shall be entitled to the privileges of membership at the Bedford meeting on paying their subscription for 1874, and signing the usual conditions.

JOURNAL.—Mr. J. Dent Dent, chairman, presented the plan of prizes for Somersetshire farms proposed by the committee as follows:

Class 1.—For the best-managed hill-farm, including not less than fifty acres of arable land, and not less than one hundred acres of hill pasture, whether convertible or otherwise, and whether adjacent to the arable land or not, £50; for the second best, £25.

Class 2.—For the best-managed dairy-farm of not less than one hundred acres in extent, £50; for the second best, £25.

Class 3.—For the best-managed farm not qualified to compete in either of the foregoing classes, and of not less than two hundred acres in extent, £50; for the second best, £25. The entries to be made on or before October 31, 1874. This report was adopted.

Mr. Dent Dent then moved, pursuant to notice, on behalf of the *Journal* Committee, for a grant of £150 to enable the Secretary to inquire into the stock-farming of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, with reference to the probable supplies of cattle from those countries to the United Kingdom. This motion was seconded by Lord Ealington, and carried unanimously.

GENERAL BEDFORD.—Lieut. Gen. Viscount Bridport reported the recommendations of the committee with reference to the tenders for showyard manure, and for printing the lists of awards; also with regard to the receipt and delivery of parcels to the showyard, and the engagement of a sufficient number of the A division of Metropolitan Police. The Committee also recommended that no animals should be received in the showyard previous to the date fixed in the Prize-sheet. This report was adopted.

IMPLEMENTS.—Mr. B. T. Brandreth Gibbs reported that the Committee recommended the following classification and prizes for implements to be tried at the Taunton meeting next year—subject to future amendment after consideration during the Bedford meeting:

Class 1. For the best one-horse mowing machine (the power required for one-horse machines not to exceed 33,000 foot-lbs. per minute), £20; for the 2nd best, £10; for the 3rd best, £5.

Class 2. For the best two-horse mowing machine, £30; for the 2nd best, £20; for the 3rd best, £10.

Class 3. For the best haymaking machine, £20; for the 2nd best, £10; for the 3rd best, £5.

Class 4. For the best horse-rake, £15; for the 2nd best, £10.

Class 5. For the best hay collector, £15; for the 2nd best, £10.

Class 6. For the best system of drying hay in wet weather, sufficiently economical for practical purposes, large Gold Medal; for the 2nd best, large Silver Medal.

Miscellaneous awards to agricultural articles and essential improvements therein, 10 Silver Medals. This report was adopted.

CHEMICAL.—Mr. W. Wells (chairman) presented the following quarterly report of the Chemical Committee:

The committee have to report that Dr. Voelcker has submitted to them the following cases of inferior manures which have been sent to him for analysis during the past quarter:

The first three cases reported again show the advantage of testing manures by independent analysis, in order to ascertain whether they are of equal quality with the analysis furnished by the vendors—more especially in cases where the mixture is sold as special manure prepared for some particular purpose.

1. A sample of barley manure was sent by Mr. W. G. Duncan, of Bradwell, Stony Stratford, who had bought it of an agent at £8 10s. per ton. Dr. Voelcker reported as follows:

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Analytical Laboratory, 11, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, E.C., London, March 9, 1874.

Sir,—I beg to enclose a copy of an analysis of the sample of barley manure which you sent me a short time ago. The manure is too wet to be readily applied to the land. I do not put a precise money value upon manures which are sent me for analysis, but may observe, in a general way, that a manure containing the constituents mentioned in the inclosed copy of analysis, and in the same proportions, can be bought in most places at about £6 10s. per ton. Believe me,

Yours faithfully, AUGUSTUS VOELCKER.

W. G. Duncan, Esq.

Composition of a sample of barley manure sent by Mr. W. G. Duncan.

Moisture	19.66
Water of combination and *organic matter	15.30
Bi-phosphate of lime (mono-basic phosphate of lime)	11.14
Equal to bone phosphate (tri-basic phosphate of lime) rendered soluble by acid	(17.45)
Insoluble phosphates	4.75
Sulphate of lime / Alkaline salts and magnesia	42.05
Insoluble siliceous matter	7.40

*Containing nitrogen 1.71
Equal to ammonia 2.07

Mr. Duncan communicated this analysis and report to the agent from whom he had bought the manure, and received the following reply, which the makers addressed to the agent, after having had a sample of the manure for analysis by their own chemist:

April 2, 1874.

Dear Sirs,—I got the sample, and last night got our chemist's report, which I regret extremely to say quite confirms Dr. Voelcker's. Nothing but carelessness on the part of the men at factory could have made it possible for such manure to be sent out, as it is evident they have not used the ingredients in their proper proportions. We have severely reprimanded our foreman, and told him that if anything of the kind occurs again, he will be instantly dismissed. To yourselves and customer we must express our sincere regret, and can only add that we shall be most happy to take back the manure, pay all expenses he may have incurred, and supply him with other manures in its place.—We are, dear sirs, yours truly, * * * * * (Manager).

2. Another sample of manure, invoiced as "Phosphatic Cereal Manure," at £7 per ton, also sent by Mr. W. G. Duncan, of Bradwell, Stony Stratford, who had bought it of an agent.

With regard to this manure, which was guaranteed to contain 25 per cent. of phosphates in soluble form, and about 2 per cent. of ammonia, Dr. Voelcker reported as follows:

Analytical Laboratory, 11, Salisbury-square, Fleet Street, E.C., London, April 13, 1874.

Dear Sir,—I beg to enclose a copy of an analysis of the sample of manure which you call a "cereal manure." This is a misnomer, for you will notice that the manure contains but little ammonia—an essential constituent of every good cereal manure—ammonia, or at all events nitrogen in some form or other. The sample of manure which you sent me for analysis is also poor in soluble phosphate, and in point of fact is essentially a badly-dissolved superphosphate, containing but little nitrogen. A manure of the composition of the sample analysed by me, in my opinion, is not worth more than about £4 15s. to £5 per ton. I should feel obliged to you to inform me at what price this manure is actually sold, and by whom it is manufactured and sold.—Believe me, yours faithfully, AUGUSTUS VOELCKER.

W. G. Duncan, Esq.

Composition of a sample of cereal manure, sent by Mr. W. G. Duncan:

Moisture	17.16
Water of combination and *organic matter	18.09
Bi-phosphate of lime (mono-basic phosphate of lime)	8.33
Equal to bone phosphate (tri-basic phosphate of lime) rendered soluble by acid	(13.03)
Insoluble phosphates	15.78
Sulphate of lime / Alcaline salts and magnesia	32.87
Insoluble siliceous matter	7.78
	100.00

*Containing nitrogen..... .73
Equal to ammonia ..... .89

On receipt of this letter, communications took place between the several parties, with the result that the following letter, dated April 16, from the makers, was handed to Mr. Duncan:

London, April 16, 1874.

Dear Sirs,—We regret much to learn the result of Mr. Duncan's sending to Dr. Voelcker, and at first were much surprised. On inquiries, however, the matter was cleared up, as we are able to connect the complaint with one particular parcel, which was sent out under the following circumstances: On going to dig out of bulk the phosphatic cereal for this order, our foreman discovered that, through our acid tank having sprung a leak, a large quantity of acid had run down into the bin in which the manure was, and had made it very wet; so he set to mix, with the shovel, enough ground coprolite with the manure, as he thought, to dry up the excess of acid. Of course the mixing was most imperfectly done, and was in random proportions. This will fully account for the deficiency in ammonia, the excess of insoluble phosphate, and the general bad character given by Dr. Voelcker to the manure. Fortunately it was the only parcel sent out; for, on discovering the matter, we immediately stopped any more going out, and made a fresh bulk, from which we are now delivering. We had no idea, however, that the value of the manure had been so much reduced, or would have taken steps o prevent its being used. As it is, we can only say how much we regret the circumstance, especially happening as it does with a customer of yours who had complained of another make. We shall leave it entirely in your hands to settle with him as you think right, and beg that you will express our unfeigned regret for the annoyance and trouble it has given to him, as well as make a fair and liberal allowance in money. Should he, fortunately, have not used all, will you please have what remains returned to us, and we will replace it with what we are now sending out, and of the quality of which we are perfectly satisfied. Meanwhile, we remain, yours truly, * * * .

3. Soon afterwards, on April 22, Dr. Voelcker sent the following report on a manure, invoiced as "Best Superphosphate of Lime," to Mr. Duncan, at £5 10s. per ton, and guaranteed by the makers (the same firm as in the "Phosphatic Cereal Manure case") to contain 28 per cent. of phosphates, in soluble form, and a small percentage of ammonia:

Analytical Laboratory, Salisbury Square, Fleet-street, E.C., London, April 22, 1874.

Dear Sir,—I have the pleasure of enclosing a copy of an analysis of the sample of superphosphate which you sent me a short time ago. I notice in the circular of Messrs. * * * their best superphosphate is stated to contain 28 per cent. of phosphates in a soluble form, and a small percentage of ammonia. I find, however, only 19¼ per cent. of soluble phosphate, and the small percentage of ammonia really amounts to merely a trace. This superphosphate would be worth £5 10s., if it contained 28 per cent. of soluble phosphate; but as the insoluble phosphates in it occur as mineral, they are not worth much for the farmer, and in my judgment the sample of manure which you sent me is worth about 25s. less per ton than Messrs. * * * best superphosphate guaranteed to contain 28 per cent. of soluble phosphate.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. Duncan, Esq. AUGUSTUS VOELCKER.

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Composition of a sample of superphosphate sent by Mr. W. G. Duncan, Bradwell, Stony Stratford:

Moisture	18.60
Water of combination, and *organic matter	9.32
Bi-phosphate of lime (mono-basic phosphate of lime)	12.29
Equal to bone phosphate (tri-basic phosphate of lime) rendered soluble by acid	(19.25)
Insoluble phosphates	10.50
Sulphate of lime } Alcaline salts and magnesia }	43.49
Insoluble siliceous matter	5.40
	100.00

Mr. Duncan having thereupon communicated again with the makers, received from them a reply, dated April 29, and containing the following statement:

Our firm has been too long established, and has for too many years held an honourable reputation, for us to condescend to any action which was not perfectly straight'orward, and if through any misfortune we get into a difficulty, we are always ready and anxious to do what is right to get out of it. We will not again refer to the matter of the "Cereal" Manure, as Mr. * * told you just the simple truth about the way in which the mischief occurred, and we have nothing to add to what he stated, except to express our unfeigned regret that ever that parcel left our establishment.

And now as regards the superphosphate. This was made as we represent, from the very best materials, and as we believe in the best manner. The difference, however, between the statement of its composition in our circular and in Dr. Voelcker's analysis, arises mainly from two circumstances—(1). That rightly or wrongly we include as "soluble phosphate" the "precipitated phosphate," of which there are always from 2 to 3 per cent. present; these we find Dr. Voelcker classes with the "insoluble." (2). The superphosphate has evidently "gone back" since it was made, as it will do sometimes when certain substances, such as iron, are present in the original coprolite. Putting these two points together will fully account for the difference. The analysis shows that the phosphoric acid is present, although not in the form represented by us, which will relieve us from any imputation of having "adulterated" the manure, which is the point about which we are anxious; as we have honestly gone into the business with a determination to sell only good articles, and have resolutely abstained from anything in the shape of adulteration.

You are probably aware that this is a new trade with us, and we must learn wisdom by experience. We see in Lawes's circular that superphosphate is stated to contain from 23 to 27 per cent. of "soluble phosphate," and that the minimum only is guaranteed. We, unfortunately, in getting out a circular, from want of experience overlooked the fact that manures are liable to 'go back," and did not leave any margin for any such accident happening.

As regards what you have left, Messrs. * * will arrange with you about sending it back. With respect to what you have used we have no fear of the result, for although the analysis shows only 19.25 per cent. of really "soluble" phosphate, we are certain that the 10.50 of "insoluble" (according to Dr. V.), contains a large proportion of "precipitated," which, practically, is just as useful to the plant as the "soluble," and in a very wet season more so, as it is not so liable to be washed down into the subsoil, and is, nevertheless, as good "food" for the roots as the fully "soluble" phosphate. We do not in the least fear the loss of the turnips, and venture to hope, on the contrary, that in spite of the unsatisfactory "analysis," you will find the manure produce really satisfactory results.

Under any circumstances you shall not have cause to complain of our treatment, and we indulge the hope that though our first transactions have been so very unfortunate, we may have the pleasure of doing business with you in a perfectly pleasant and satisfactory manner for many years to come.—We are, sir, yours faithfully, * * *.

Mr. Duncan, in sending these documents, stated, "I think it only fair to both Messrs. —— and Messrs. —— to say that the first-named firm supplied me, gratis, with 3 cwt. of nitrate of soda, and that the barley where their manure was sown looks as well, if not better, than any other barley within miles of my farm—that when I sowed the nitrate of soda I left out a strip of barley *unsown*, and that I can at present see no difference in that portion of the crop. As regards the second firm, they make no charge whatever for the 'cereal manure,' which was sown on 4 acres of oats, and have given me 6 cwt. of nitrate of soda gratis. The superphosphate, or turnip manure, is not charged for either. I used half of it with some early turnips, and the other half Messrs. —— fetched away. The oats where the 'cereal manure' was sown look well, but they have been helped by the 6 cwt. of nitrate. I cannot speak fully on this crop yet, because, being later sown than the barley, there is not yet much show, neither can I say anything of the effects of the manure on the turnips, as they are not yet hoed out. No doubt I was very unfortunate with both these firms, but I hope there was nothing but neglect in their dealing, and not cheating." Under these circumstances the committee withold the names of the firms in question.

4. A sample of "English nitrate of soda" was sent by Mr. Charles Cock, of Hamshead, near Birmingham, who had bought it of Messrs. Padley and Co., of 40, Toll End, Tipton, Staffordshire, at £12 per ton.

This so-called "nitrate" yielded on analysis the following results:

Moisture and water of combination	32.55
*Sulphate of iron	40.98
Sulphate of lime	.33
Sulphate of soda and a little chloride of sodium (common salt)	22.47
Insoluble siliceous matter	3.73
	100.05

* Equal to crystalled sulphate of iron (green vitrol) 74.95.

Mr. Cock states "this order was given because a gentleman (who stated himself to be a partner with Padley and Co., and was accompanying their agent soliciting orders) informed me it was better manure, and would produce better results than the imported nitrate under 5 per cent. refraction" [impurity]. The preceding analytical results, however, show that this so-called nitrate is merely salt-cake and green vitriol, and that it possesses no manurial properties whatever.

5. A sample of oilcake was sent by Mr. George Liddell, jun., of Chilton, Ferry Hill, Durham, who obtained it from Messrs. T. and G. Marley, of Bishop Auckland, to whom it had been invoiced by Messrs. Pearson and Bailey, of Hull, as pure linseed cakes at £12 15s. per ton, each cake being also branded with a triangle and the initials P. B.

This cake yielded the following result on analysis:

Moisture		14.07
Oil		13.50
*Albuminous compounds		26.31
Mucilage, &c.		27.22
Woody fibre		9.89
†Mineral matters		9.01
		100.00
*Containing nitrogen	4.21	
†Sand	4.97	

Dr. Voelcker reported that this oilcake was not a pure linseedcake, but was made from dirty linseed, containing many small weed-seeds, and 5 per cent. of sand.

6. Another sample of oilcake, which had been sold at £13 10s. per ton, was sent for analysis by Mr. T. T. Porter, of Baunton, Cirencester, and proved to be not a pure linseedcake, but made from dirty linseed, full of small weed-seeds and starchy matter, which does not occur in pure linseedcake.

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The following results were obtained on analysis:

Moisture	14.06
Oil	10.41
*Albuminous compounds	25.94
Mucilage, starch, &c.	29.07
Woody fibre	13.49
†Mineral matter	7.03
	100.00

*Containing nitrogen 4.15
†Containing sand 3.11

This cake, although sold at so high a price, was not invoiced as pure linseed-cake. The committee therefore withhold the name of the vendor.

7.—A sample of soot, which was sent by a member who had bought about 10,000 bushels of it, of a common sweep, at 6d. per bushel, yielded on analysis the following results:

Moisture	2.11
*Organic matter	24.62
Mineral matter	73.27
	100.00

*Containing nitrogen ..... .42
Equal to ammonia..... .51

Dr. Voelcker reported as follows: "This sample contains but little soot, and consists principally of ground coal-dust, ashes, and rubbish, and is barely worth 10s. per ton. Good soot yields from 3 to 4 per cent. of ammonia, and is worth about £2 2s. per ton."

On the motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. J. Dent Dent, this report was adopted, and ordered to be printed in the usual agricultural newspapers.

REPORT ON THE COMPOSITION OF 13 SAMPLES OF PERUVIAN GUANO, SENT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

These samples were sent to England in sealed bottles, by Her Majesty's ship Peterel, from Callao. The bottles were opened by me on the 9th of June, 1874, and submitted to careful analyses.

Five of the samples were taken from the guano deposits of Pabillon de Pica, three from the guano deposits of Punta de Lobas, and five from the deposits of Huanillos.

The samples were labelled as follows:

PABILLON DE PICA.—GUANOS.

1. Guano deposit of Pabillon de Pica at La Cueva, taken at 25 feet below the surface.
2. Guano deposit of Pabillon de Pica at San Lorenzo, taken at 15 feet below the surface.
3. Guano deposit at Pabillon de Pica at La Barloventa (white guano), taken at the surface of a large deposit not yet marked.
4. Guano deposit of Pabillon de Pica, Cueva del Rinconada, taken on the surface over deposit of probably more than 100 feet.
5. Guano deposit of Pabillon de Pica, Cueva del Rinconada, taken from about 50 feet lower than No. 4.

PUNTA DE LOBAS GUANO.

1. Guano deposit of Punta de Lobas, taken at 5 feet below the surface, above boring of 20 feet.
2. Guano deposit of Punta de Lobas, taken at 40 feet below the surface.
3. Guano deposit of Punta de Lobas, taken at 8 feet below the surface.

HUANILLOS.—GUANO DEPOSITS.

1. Guano deposits of Huanillos, taken at 5 feet below the surface.
2. Guano deposit of Huanillos, taken at 10 feet below the surface.
3. Guano deposit of Huanillos, taken at 19 feet below the surface.
4. Guano deposit of Huanillos, taken at 13 feet below the surface.
5. Guano deposit of Huanillos, taken at 40 feet below the surface.

According to a report given by Mr. Thierry, C.E., the estimated quantity of these deposits, which lie to the south of Iquique, are:

	Tons.
Huanillos	700,000
Punta de Lobas	1,601,000
Pabillon de Pica	5,000,000
	7,301,000

These are the chief deposits recently surveyed; for, according to Mr. Thierry, the additional minor guano deposits bring up the estimated total amount to 7,680,500 tons, or are only 379,500 tons more than the estimated quantity in the three large deposits from which I received samples for analysis.

PABILLON DE PICA GUM.

The following is the Composition of the five samples labelled as above:

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.
Moisture	3.20	5.45	4.13	9.23	6.70
*Organic matter and salts of ammonia	46.17	49.40	59.01	41.32	55.10
Phosphates of lime	25.51	27.01	21.82	23.80	24.55
**Alkaline salts... ...	15.49	15.99	9.00	23.30	12.10
Insoluble siliceous matter (sand) ...	9.63	2.15	6.04	2.35	1.55
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
*Containing nitrogen	9.81	9.15	15.08	11.02	6.55
Equal to ammonia...	11.91	11.11	18.31	13.38	7.95
**Containing phosphoric acid	1.81	1.70	1.68	3.48	3.20
Equal to tribasic phosphate of lime	3.95	3.71	3.66	7.59	6.98
Total phosphoric acid	13.49	14.06	11.67	14.72	15.34

All these guanos, it will be seen, contain very little moisture. They are of a light brown colour, and in a fine powdery condition. No. 3 has a lighter colour than the rest, and is remarkably rich in ammonia. It is evidently a comparatively-speaking recent guano deposit, and compares favourably with the best old Chincha Island guano.

The amount of ammonia in the four other samples varies from 8 to 13 per cent. in round numbers, and that of sand from 1½ to 9½ per cent.

Excepting No. 4, the samples from Pabillon de Pica do not contain so much ammonia as Chincha guano, and although dry and powdery, without hard lumps, are inferior to the latter, whilst as regards composition three of the samples nearly come up to the standard of Guancope guano, and are greatly preferable to the latter as regards condition.

PUNTA DE LOBAS GUANO.

The following is the Composition of the Three Samples from these Deposits:

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.
Moisture	14.53	14.06	4.79
*Organic matter and ammonia-salts	35.77	49.74	17.14
Phosphate of lime	26.50	21.40	23.09
**Alkaline salts	20.35	13.45	27.04
Insolable siliceous matter...	2.85	1.35	27.94
	100.00	100.00	100.00
*Containing nitrogen... ...	6.55	9.99	2.64
Equal to ammonia	7.95	12.13	3.21
**Containing phosphoric acid	3.20	1.21	0.38
Equal to tribasic phosphate of lime	6.98	2.64	0.84
Total phosphoric acid ...	15.34	11.01	10.95

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The deposit taken at 8 feet from the surface (No. 3), it appears, is used with a good deal of sand; it contains also a large proportion of alkaline salts, and in consequence is poor in ammonia. At 20 feet the Punta de Lobas sample yielded 8 per cent. of ammonia, and at 40 feet below the surface, 12 per cent.

The 40 feet deposit is a dry and fine guano. It is much drier than Guanoompe guano, and contains as little sand and as much ammonia as good Guanoompe guano on an average.

HUANILLOS GUANO.

The five samples, labelled as above, on analysis were found to contain in 100 parts:

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4	No. 5.
Moisture	8.23	5.25	12.67	15.39	8.66
*Organic matter and salts of ammonia	46.46	41.90	34.83	34.21	47.09
Phosphate of lime...	22.45	30.21	33.20	24.71	24.20
**Alkaline salts... ...	19.22	16.73	15.69	23.09	16.65
Insoluble siliceous matter (sand) ...	3.64	5.91	3.61	2.60	3.40
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	10.40	7.45	6.72	6.65	8.81
*Containing nitrogen Equal to ammonia	12.57	9.05	8.16	8.07	10.69
**Containing phosphoric acid	5.33	1.47	1.44	1.62	3.26
Equal to phosphate of lime	11.63	3.21	3.14	3.53	7.11
Total phosphoric acid	15.62	15.30	16.65	12.93	14.35

The Huanillos guano samples were all dry and powdery, and of a light brown colour.

The amount of ammonia in the several samples varies from 8 to 12½ per cent., and that of sand from 2½ to 6 per cent. in round numbers.

The proportion of phosphoric acid, in combination with alkalies, and present in a state soluble in water, in sample No. 1, it will be seen, is considerable, as it corresponds to about 11½ per cent. of soluble phosphate of lime. The samples No. 2 and No. 3 are also richer in phosphate of lime, but poorer in ammonia, than Chincha Island guano.

It will be noticed that several of the samples analysed by me contain a large proportion of alkaline salts. These salts I find consist principally of chloride of sodium, sulphate and phosphate of potash and soda, with more or less nitrates.

As the agricultural and commercial value of manures is much affected by the proportion of nitric acid which they contain, I have carefully determined the per-centage of nitric acid which occurs in these recently surveyed guano deposits, and have discovered that whilst some of the samples contain mere traces of nitric acid and others quantities varying from ¼ per cent. to 1 per cent., a few contain as much as 2½ to 3½ per cent. of anhydrous nitric acid.

The following are the results which I obtained in determining the nitric acid in the 13 samples:

Guano deposit from		Per-centage of Nitric Acid in
Pabillon de Pica,	No. 1	.01
" "	No. 2	.61
" "	No. 3	.04
" "	No. 4	.90
" "	No. 5	1.20
Punta de Lobos,	No. 1	3.40
" "	No. 2	3.50
" "	No. 3	.29
Huanillos guano,	No. 1	2.87
" "	No. 2	2.46
" "	No. 3	.35
" "	No. 4	.25
" "	No. 5	1.10

The occurrence of nitric acid in these deposits is no less interesting in a practical than in a theoretical point of view, for it throws some light on the formation of the large nitrate of soda deposits in the province of Parapasan and other localities in South Peru.

Nitrate of soda probably owes its origin to the nitrogenous organic matter of guano deposits, which in the course of time have been subjected to the action of sea-water and the oxydizing influence of the atmosphere.

The search for guano deposits may probably lead to the discovery of extensive nitre beds in the southern parts of Peru.

All the samples with the exception of one, which is evidently a surface deposit, mixed with much sand, are unquestionable valuable guanos which will command a ready sale in England, especially as they are dry and in a fine powdery condition; but, as they vary in composition, it will, in my opinion, be found necessary to have each cargo carefully sampled, and to fix the price of the cargo according to the intrinsic value of the guano as ascertained by analysis.

AUGUSTUS VOELCKER.

Saturday, 11, Salisbury-square, Fleet-street, E.C., June, 1874.

Dr. Voelcker's report was adopted, and ordered to be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, together with a recommendation of the Council, which is embodied in the following communication from the Earl Cathcart (acting for the President of the Society in his absence) to the Earl of Derby, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:

My Lord,—The Council of the Royal Agricultural Society have the honour to submit to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the enclosed report from their consulting chemist, Dr. Voelcker, on the samples of guano sent to the Council by the Secretary of State. The Council desire to call the attention of the Secretary of State to the great difference of the samples submitted, and the varying proportion of ammonia and phosphates contained in them. British agriculturists have for some years had to complain that all the guano delivered by the Peruvian Government has been sold by their agents at an uniform price, irrespective of its value as determined by analysis, and the Council take this opportunity of respectfully urging upon the Secretary of State the desirability of impressing upon the Peruvian Government the necessity of adopting a standard analysis for Peruvian guano, and regulating the price of the guano delivered in proportion to this standard analysis. The Council beg to tender their cordial thanks to the Secretary of State for his courtesy in sending to the Council a communication of so much interest at the present moment to the agricultural community.

I have the honour to be, by lord,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) CATHCART.

EDUCATION.—The Duke of Bedford (Chairman) reported that the committee proposed that the examination for scholarships be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 17 and 18; and that the entry of boys for these examinations must be made to the Secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society not later than September 30, 1874.

The following letter was read from Mr. Baldwin on behalf of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, requesting that the agricultural and training college at Glasnevin be admitted on the list of schools eligible to send candidates for scholarships, and the committee recommend that the application be acceded to. The report was adopted.

Albert Farm, Glasnevin, Dublin, June 26, 1874.

Dear Sir,—The Commissioners of National Education are anxious that the students of the Albert Agricultural Training Institution, Glasnevin, would be permitted to compete for the scholarships recently established by the Royal Agricultural Society of England.—Yours faithfully,

H. M. Jenkins, Esq. THOS. BALDWIN.

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House. — Lieutenant-General Viscount Bridport (Chairman) reported that the committee had instructed the Secretary to obtain estimates for painting the inside of the house during the ensuing recess, and to report to the committee in August. This report was adopted.

Showyard Contracts.—Mr. B. T. Brandreth Gibbs presented the report of the Surveyor, from which it appeared that the showyard works would be entirely completed and the yard ready for use by the end of this week. The local authorities had done everything that was required of them, with the exception of the rolling, which the state of the weather had necessarily delayed. The committee recommended the strengthening of the structure of the horse-boxes, and regulations for the admittance of the public to the top of the race-stand. This report was adopted.

Selection.—Lieutenant-General Viscount Bridport reported the recommendation of the committee that Colonel Nigel Kingscote, C.B., M.P., be elected a trustee of the Society, in the place of Sir Harry Stephen Meysey-Thompson, deceased. This report having been received, Colonel Kingscote was unanimously elected a trustee, on the motion of Lord Bridport, seconded by Mr. Barnett.

In the absence of the President, Earl Cathcart (as chairman of the meeting) reported the death of Mr. J. Wells, of Booth Ferry, Howden, a member of Council of the Society.

A letter was read from the Lord President of the Privy Council, announcing the issue of orders in Council, having special reference to foot-and-mouth disease.

A programme of trials of reaping machines, to be held at Soissons this month, was laid before the Council, and ordered to be communicated to the agricultural newspapers.

THE ALEXANDRA PARK HORSE SHOW.

As at Islington, so at Alexandra Park, in a fair show of horses, with some first-class ones, there were many, very many, ordinary animals, evidently not exhibited by their owners with the hope of getting a prize, but a purchaser. The thorough-bred stallions, numbering fourteen, with half-a-dozen or so decent horses amongst them, would not bear a comparison, or the thought of one, with the grand gathering which Citadel, when a four-year-old, headed at Islington; nor would the muster of roadster stallions stand a chance in the scale with the collections we have seen in Yorkshire, while, as to the hunters, we only ask those who some years back attended the purely open-air meetings even at the little town of Great Driffield, where horses stood as they would at a fair, if the gathering at Muswell Hill looked as much like crossing a country as those they have seen there, when country gentlemen and masters of hounds vied with each other for almost the mere honour of the thing? Then, in the opinion of the judges at Islington, a beautiful little hack from Driffield was not worthy of notice, although a well-known prize-taker throughout the country, and here placed at the head of the light-weights; while in heavy division Mr. Harvey Bayley's very clever Enterprise, though only a second at Islington, easily disposed of his opponents here. But what is the good of quoting these differences of opinion when we know that bench after bench have been unanimous in awarding brutes more adapted for the German sausage trade than hunting, with hundreds of pounds of prize money, and that Muggins who has show interest in his district, appoints Buggins as Judge, and Buggins, who with the like interests in his quarter confers the same honor on Muggins, and so Buggins and Muggins keep turning up again and again, till people who form opinions without looking under the bark set them down as very knowing gentlemen, with whom it would be the greatest arrogance to differ. Yet what is Laughing Stock but a barrel on stilts; and why is he placed before Hot Shot, Christmas Carol, or Masinissa? Because he has that flash show-yard trot that no thorough-bred, worth a bunch of catsmeat ever has had. King John is really a very good looking horse, and if he had been lucky enough to hit upon the cross to get a Derby winner like his old companion, Marsyas, thousands would have thronged round him and thought as the late Mr. Blenkiron did, that he was one of the handsomest horses in England. For we have seen in our time a hack not worth seven pounds ten, wrapt up in hood and body clothes, with knee caps and bandages as a blind, followed and admired by a whole town, while the real Simon Pure with a rug thrown over him and first favorite for the cup, walked quietly away to his quarters, showing that public performance and public opinion are very different things. Citadel is big enough for anything, and as he has beaten better horses in the showyard than he did on the turf, anything we could say in his favour would be preposterous. There were some tidy three-year-olds. Cawton, a niceish four-year-old has not quite the character of Sir George's nags, and we were never in love with his sire, Volturno, with his weak hocks and straggling hind leg action. Cornishman galloped well. Cashier, this year's Islington hero was one of the *non est*. In the five years old up to not less than fourteen stone many thought The Banker should have beaten Marmalade, as the latter has gone off since we saw him in Lincolnshire, while Mr. Harvey Bayly's Chief Constable was much fancied. Sir George, the pony stallion, is almost as well known as St. George and the Dragon, and was seconded by Cock-o'the-Walk, a deep, lengthy, short-legged one of Major Barlow's. The coach-horses only numbered nine, including absentees. The agricultural horses made a very good, but not a large show, there being seventeen stallions and a dozen four-year-old and upwards mares or geldings. Young Champion, the winner well known about the country is certainly more of a dray-horse than adapted for agriculture; in fact, he is a a tremendous brute, most unwieldy to meet, and as to stepping in the furrow, as some of our friends talk about, he would require one at least as wide as the ironway. We always thought Mr. Statters' two ended horse Young Champion a dray horse; but, in comparison to his monstrous namesake, he is a neat, light stepping nag. The well-known Le Bon is more of a cart horse than either; while Young Lofty, once the pride of a show-yard, and the Clydesdales, with Duke of the same breed second at two Royals, were among the unnoticed. In the four-year-old and upwards the winners and highly commended are better known in the show-yards all over the country than their judges.

With everything cut and dried, as it was last year, we thought anyone might have taken the reins and steered clear of accidents; but such was not the case, and it was an unpardonable neglect on the part of those who saw the lady riders clear the rails out of the ring last season not to have them raised higher this, and so prevented a lamentable accident. But accidents seemed rather to be courted than prevented, as the side rails or balks to each set of hurdles were not put up this year, and the gorse hurdles being the higher, it is only due to

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a miracle and the crowd that some horse, tantalised by taking the same fences so often, did not jump the side rail to get out of the ring. Then again, horses and carriages were allowed to come in the same yard where the show nags were, and horses shown there, although there were trial rings for that purpose last year. More attention should be paid to the parade of classes than was done on Thursday, as this should not be hurried over, with a third of the horses only shown. Why during the best part of the time the horses are out the prize animals and the commended should be standing like recruits at the end of the ring is beyond our comprehension.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—Lord Shannon; R. G. O. Howard; and C. Ellerby.

STALLIONS.

Thoroughbred.—First prize, £70, Major Barlow, Haskelon, Woodbridge (Citadel); second, £30, W. Blenkiron, Middle Park, Eltham (King John); third, £20, R. Hutton, Gloster-place, Portman-square (Laughing Stock). Reserve: W. Wilson, Wormerby, Hertford (Hot Shot).

Roadster.—First prize, £30, W. Vary, Bigthorpe, Stamford Bridge (Young Fireaway); second, £20, B. Mitchell, Crowe Hall, Denver, Downham Market (Fireaway the Second); third, £10, W. Geddens, Walpole, Wisbeach (Great Gun). Reserve: F. Braithwaite, Long Melford, Suffolk (Defiance).

Pony.—First prize, £15, G. W. Wilson, Kendal (Sir George); second, £10, Major Barlow (Cock o' the Walk); third, £5, Fergus Ferguson, Beverley (The Arab).

HUNTERS.

Three years old.—First prize, £30, E. G. Legg, Beaminster, Dorset (Black Prince); second, £15, T. Jackson, Tattenhall, Chester; third, £10, T. Darrell, West Ayton, York (Ebor Witch). Reserve: J. L. Scampton, York (The Autocrat). Highly commended: J. B. Booth, Killerby, Catterick (Baldersby) Commended: J. Goodliffe, George Hotel, Huntingdon (Lady Mary).

Four years old.—First prize, £50, Sir G. Wombwell, Newburgh Park, Yorkshire (Cawtes); second, £25, T. Darrell, Speckers Hill, York (King of Diamonds); third, £15, F. Barlow (Cornishman).

Five years old and upwards.—First prize, £60, H. H. Teesdale, Catterick, Yorkshire (Jester); second, £30, R. Brunton, Middlesboro, York (Joe Bennett); third, £20, Sir G. Wombwell (Amos Clark). Commended: J. R. Welch, Evercreech, Somerset (Brunette).

Five years old and upwards, up to not less than 14 stone.—First prize, £75, H. Jewison, Raisthorpe, Yorkshire (Palmerston); second, £30, J. T. Musgrave, Beverley, Yorkshire (Marmalade); third, £20, W. Armstrong, Kendal (The Banker).

Hacks and roadsters, up to not less than 12 stone.—First prize, £30, F. C. Matthews, Driffield (Ozone); second, £20, Sir G. Wombwell (Miss Sykes); third, £10, W. Stephenson, Cottingham, Hull (Princess). Reserve: J. Christy, Chelmsford (Firefly).

Up to not less than 14 stone.—First prize, £30, T. H. D. Bayley, Edwinstowe House, Ollerton (Enterprise); second, £20, H Frisby, Buckingham-gate (Filbert); third, £10, J. Grout, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

PONIES.

Not under 12 nor over 14 hands.—First prize, £15, H. Frisby (Princess Polo); second, £10, R. Wright, Salford (Young Apricot); third, £5, M. R. Syers, Upper Norwood (Rattler). Reserve: J. Wilson, Enfield (Prince).

Under 12 hands.—First prize, £10, C. Godfrey Tull, Moreton-street, Pimlico (Princess); second, £7, W. McDonald, Winchmore Hill (Donald); third, £3, Edith Field, Weybridge (Daisy).

JUDGES.—H. Biddell, J. Manning and B. Spraggon.

Agricultural stallions.—First prize, £40, T. Stokes, Caldicott, Rutland (Young Champion); second, £20, T. Statter, Whitefield, Manchester (Young Champion); third, £10, C. Sharpley, Louth, Lincoln (Le Bon). Reserve: Messrs. Yeomans, Pennymore Hall, Wolverhampton (Pride of England).

Carriage horses, four years old.—First prize, £30, G. Holmes, Beverley (bay gelding); second, £15, H. A Clark, Aspatria, Carlisle (Emma); third, £5, P. Watson, Tallaght, Dublin (Dodder).

Mules.—First prize, £10, C. L. Sutherland Coombe, Croydon (Rosseau); second, £5 (Blossom). Reserve: S. Lang, Clifton (Lass of Poiton).

THE HERTS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

This, mainly through the spirit displayed by the town and neighbourhood of Stortford, was no doubt the most successful meeting which the Herts Society, a body of not much calibre, has ever held. The weather and the site were alike favourable, and the attendance very large. The show itself, however, was not one of much more than local interest; the Shorthorns, useful animals enough, being mostly from the home herds, but with Mr. Tom Jennings, the trainer, winning in a very good class of cows; while Mr. Chaplin, from Halstead, had the best bull as well as heifer, and Lord Braybrooke the first yearling bull in Christmas Duke. Mr. Gilby did not enter his "crack" Jerseys, and Mr. Tower's pretty Victoria, the second at Stratford, succeeded to first, with Ducal, beaten by Lord Rosslyn in the class of young bulls, and Lord Braybrooke's good-looking Flame taking the first prize for yearling heifers. Lord Braybrooke had also the best Southdowns, as Lord Chesham the best of the other short-wools with his Shropshires; while Messrs. Hales and Gunnell were first for long-wools. There were very few pigs, but with Mr. Griggs' good Berkshires amongst them. There was a very creditable display of farm-horses, Mr. Briggs showing the best stallion and Mr. Street of Malden being first for mare and foal with Cardiff Lass. The "nags," however, were regarded as the chief attraction, and the usual Grand Stand was erected; but this section proved in many ways a failure. The three thorough-bred stallions were, in the outset, discarded as having "no merit;" while it threatened at one time that almost every good-looking animal would be put out as unsound. Moreover, with *two* "riding" judges in the ring, the proceedings in the after part of the day became insufferably tedious, as there were continual remonstrances sent from the Committee that they would "be a little quicker." However, first one had a ride and then the other, like boys upon Blackheath-common, until the thing looked like an absurdity and ended in one. Mr. Gilby's Gentility, who took the first prize in his class in the previous week at Stratford, was eventually pronounced to be unsound, although quite as sound as any hunter need be; while another horse, disqualified as unsound at Stratford, here succeeded to a prize! of course by a majority of votes. Mr. Gilby, however, was more "lucky" with Maud, Ladylike, and Wallflower; while Mr. Hayward, of South-hill, won with his big chesnut Paramour, as well as with Richelieu, and a clever three-year-old bred by Mr. Purser at Willington. Most of these horses were at the Essex meeting, but about the best nag in the show for his purpose as "a weight-carrying hackney" was Mr. Odams' cob, who had a long lead of his class and plenty of

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admirers outside. The judges were: Agricultural Horses, J. Manning; J. H. Plowright; H. Tait. Shorthorns: G. W. Baker; F. Leney; G. Garne. Alderneys: Col. F. M. Wilson; H. Middleton. Sheep and pigs: J. Newman; Wm. Rigden; R. Webster. Hunters and hacks: F. Oldaker; H. Corbet; J. E. Bennett.

THE SHORTHORN CLUB.

There can be no question but that the Turf owes its respectability as a national pastime to the Jockey Club. Without the influence or countenance of that body so precarious a pursuit, as one, moreover, so open to contamination, must have long since sunk in public opinion. And the Jockey Club, which watches so jealously over the interests of the Turf, is perhaps the most exclusive society in existence. It is essentially an association of gentlemen of high position, who may affect the sport; as amongst the present members are the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Christian, the Prince of Orange, and the King of Holland. Two of our past premiers, the late Lord Derby and the late Lord Palmerston, were long on its list, and the Duke of Richmond, amongst others of living statesmen, occasionally takes a part in the proceedings of the Club.

At a meeting at Willis' Rooms on Wednesday it was proposed "to form a Club on the model of the Jockey Club to promote the interests of Shorthorn breeders." The reverend gentleman, however, who seconded the resolution somewhat protested against such "model," and another holy man, out of orders, suggested that the offensive words should be struck out; while a nobleman, who had moved the resolution in its original shape, subsequently came to see that it would be better to do without the Club, as "the Managing Committee of the Herd Book Company would be the Committee of Appeal." It is only fair to say that these protests and emendations were very well received, a kind of shudder running through the company at the very mention of the Jockey Club, of whose actual constitution or use the meeting, with an occasional exception, knew probably nothing whatever. Like Mr. Stanniforth, they did not know what they were talking about.

For our own part we altogether disagree with the Duke of Manchester, who was so easily brought over, as we believe it would be far better that the character and integrity of the Shorthorn should be in the possession of a club and not of a company. The principle of these two bodies must manifestly be essentially different: the object of a company is on the face of it to make money; the aim of any society of gentlemen "formed on the model of the Jockey Club" is to discharge a duty entrusted to its keeping free from profit or any prospective reward. The Shorthorn *Herd Book* is now in the market at the price of five thousand pounds; as it is quite possible that five persons might have taken first run at this in the way of a very limited company, and thus have constituted themselves the Herd Book Committee. There was nothing whatever to have prevented Lords Dunmore, Skelmersdale, and Penrhyn, with one or two more, doing this; but they took a broader view of the subject, which resulted in the meeting on Wednesday, when the co-operation of all Shorthorn breeders was invited.

By all means let the Shorthorn *Herd Book* develope into a company in accordance with the spirit of the age; and on every good showing let the members of this company be eligible to sit at the Council table of the Shorthorn Club. But, we repeat, the operation and constitution of the company and the club must be kept separate. Let us turn, again, for a moment to the model of the Jockey Club, whose secretary or secretaries are the proprietors and editors of *The Stud Book*. It will thus be seen that the Club through its officers is in close relation with the conduct of *The Stud Book*, as no question this connection must be mutually advantageous. But this is a very different thing from making the proprietary of *The Stud Book* the chief authority or court of appeal for the Turf. And this demarcation line must be maintained in the interests of the Shorthorn. Messrs. Weatherby make a very good income by their book, as Mr. Strafford has done by his, and as the company may continue to do. But the club of a necessity must take higher ground.

If we made any exception to the Jockey Club as a model it would be as against its noticeable exclusiveness. A man may hold the rank of a gentleman, be true and just in all his dealings, and have bred a Derby winner or two, but unless he can trace himself for many generations back in Debrett as he can his horse in Weatherby he will stand but little chance of election. We are already glad to see that this principle is not to be so religiously observed in the Shorthorn Club. It is true that the names of the Earl of Dunmore, the Earl of Skelmersdale, Lord Penrhyn, and Colonel Kingscote sound rather formidable at first; but Mr. Thomas Booth creeps in at the end, while we hear of Mr. Charles Howard and one or two other experienced men as about to be taken from the rank and file. The Club, no question, will work far stronger in this way; but, at the same time, that which should be particularly guarded against is too hastily accepting a nomination made at a general meeting, and nothing could be better than the resolution with which Lord Dunmore discountenanced such an attempt on Wednesday. It is often enough but sheer toadyism, and should be resisted accordingly.

The definition of a thorough-bred horse has long since come to be recognised; but we question whether still the pedigrees of Shorthorns flying about are not occasionally of the loosest; and the influence of the Club must be felt not merely in the home-herd or by the sale ring, but on the show ground. In fact, the prize list goes with the *Racing Calendar* just as the *Herd Book* and the *Stud Book* rank together; and we really cannot see but that, with a little more liberty of selection, or election, the Jockey Club may be accepted as a model even by the *maximè pii*, who "rely almost as much on the *Herd Book* as they do on the Bible."

A numerous meeting of Shorthorn breeders and others was held on Wednesday, July 1st, in Willis' Rooms, St. James'; the circular calling the meeting running in the following terms:

34, Charles-street, Berkeley-square, W., June 15, 1874.

SIR,—A numerous and influential body of Shorthorn breeders having expressed a wish that some steps should be taken as to the future management of *Coates' Herd Book* whenever Mr. Strafford should determine on resigning the editorship; and as he has now signified to us his desire to do so, we earnestly invite you to attend a meeting of subscribers to be held at Willis' Rooms, King-street, St. James', at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, July 1st, to consider with him the best mode for the continuation of that work.

We remain, yours faithfully,

DUNMORE,
SKELMERSDALE,
PENRHYN,
R. NIGEL,
F. KINGSCOTE,
JOHN STORER,
THOMAS C. BOOTH.

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The Duke of DEVONSHIRE was called to the chair, and in opening the proceedings, remarked that in the few words he had to say he desired not to set a bad example by introducing any irrelevant matter whatever. He should, therefore, simply remind them that about two years ago, at a meeting of the Shorthorn Breeders' Committee, certain matters were discussed to which he need not more particularly allude; and besides the special object they were called upon to consider, they were authorised to deal with any matter which they might deem of importance as affecting the interests of Shorthorn breeders. Mr. Strafford having lately announced his intention of giving up the management of the *Herd Book*, which he had conducted with so much ability, it appeared to the committee that this was evidently an occasion on which they were called upon to take action, inasmuch as the future management of the *Herd Book* was a matter in which the interests of Shorthorn breeders were in every respect greatly concerned. They accordingly took up the subject and had given it a great deal of attention, and they were now prepared to lay the result of their deliberations before the meeting. The Duke then called upon

Colonel KINGSCOTE, who read the following statement: It will probably be in the remembrance of many gentlemen now present that a meeting of Shorthorn breeders was held at the residence of the Earl of Dunmore, 86, Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, London, on the 23rd day of July, 1872, to consider certain questions then pending. At that meeting a committee was appointed to examine and report upon those questions, and that committee was also authorised to deal with any other questions which might be submitted to them in which the breeders of Shorthorns might be interested, and it had power to add to its numbers. That committee having heard from Mr. Strafford that he was desirous of resigning the editorship and future management of *Coates's Herd Book*, and having taken counsel with two other Shorthorn breeders, thought it was a suitable moment to invite the subscribers to the book to meet and consider with Mr. Strafford the best mode for the continuation of that work, and thereupon issued the circular convening this meeting, the circular being signed by the committee appointed at the first-mentioned meeting, and by two other gentlemen whom the committee have added to their number. The committee present to this meeting the following observations in the nature of a report, and by way of introducing the subject for discussion. The committee think that having regard to the public importance now attached to the breeding of Shorthorn cattle, and to the consequent obligation upon all Shorthorn breeders to secure accuracy in all matters affecting Shorthorn pedigrees, the time has now arrived when Shorthorn breeders should unite themselves into an association to ensure for themselves and the public generally the best information on these points that can be obtained. With this view they recommend Shorthorn breeders, first, to form a company, on the model of a limited liability company, for the purchase of Mr. Strafford's *Herd Book*, and the future preparation and publication of a Shorthorn book; and next, to form a Club, on the model of the Jockey Club, to consist of Shorthorn breeders as members, and a limited Managing Committee, for the purpose of collecting and transmitting to the Club, year by year, with the view to publication, accurate information as to past and current pedigrees and sales, and of promoting the general interest of Shorthorn breeders. It is anticipated that the Company and the Club will work in harmony; and if the result should answer the expectations now formed, it may be desirable to apply for a Charter for the incorporation of a Shorthorn Association, on the model of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, in which the Club might be merged, and by which the *Herd Book* might be published as part of the proceedings.

The Earl of FEVERSHAM proposed the first resolution as follows: "That this meeting resolves to form a company for the purchase from Mr. Strafford of the Shorthorn *Herd Book*, and for its future preparation and publication." He wished to express the feelings and acknowledgment which were due to Mr. Strafford for the admirable manner in which he had conducted the editing of the *Herd Book* up to this time. That gentleman had carried on that work in a most impartial and wise spirit. He had not conducted it on any exclusive principles, but had made it as comprehensive as circumstances would permit. He believed that was the best way of conducting the work, and he trusted that in any arrangements which might be made for carrying it on in future the same principles would be adopted, and that it would be characterised by liberality and comprehensiveness The transfer of this property would require a considerable sum of money, and it would, therefore, appear that a company would be a very proper mode of effecting the object in view. There would be, of course, a proper direction formed, and one which would not fail to inspire confidence among Shorthorn breeders. They would, in the first instance, be entrusted with the negotiations with Mr. Strafford, and the subsequent carrying on of the publication would probably be entrusted to a board of directors or committee. He had no doubt such a body could be formed which would merit and command confidence.

Mr. POLE GELL, in seconding the resolution, trusted the meeting would acknowledge its importance, and would consider it proper that some such steps as those suggested should be taken to maintain such a very valuable publication as the *Herd Book*.

Lord PENRHYN thought it desirable that some intimation should be given to the meeting of the mode in which it was proposed to carry on the work. He did not want details gone into, but some sort of outline might be given o the way in which the company was to be formed.

Mr. JONATHAN RAGG said whatever plan was adopted, it was essential that perfect reliance should tbe placed in the integrity of the book If a committee were formed out of the present meeting, with the noble Duke as chairman, breeders might rely upon the book almost as completely as they did upon their Bible.

Mr. HARWARD stated that the mode of carrying out the arrangement would be very plain and simple. As regards the company, the committee would have to consider the mode of its formation, the number and value of the shares, the capital required, and the sum to be paid to Mr. Strafford. Having drawn up that scheme, they would look to the subscribers to the Herd Book for suggestions, and shape their course accordingly. The object of the present meeting was to get the principle established, and collect the opinions of the breeders, with the view of considering them afterwards. The broad principle had been laid down that every branch of Shorthorn cattle should be represented, and that no preponderance of interest should be given to one class over another. He thought the noblemen and gentlemen who had convened he meeting constituted a sufficient guarantee on that head, and that the future management of the *Herd Book* would be conducted on the same judicial and impartial manner as heretofore.

Mr. LODER, speaking for the class who might be termed the greenhorns of Shorthorns, would like to say a few words. The resolution stated that it was desirable to form a company. It had always been his opinion that it was not only desirable to form a company, but to go a little further, and he had no doubt the committee who had called the meeting, and who were so much interested in this matter, would be able to give some data which would enable breeders to calculate what were the prospects of such a company. For instance, he supposed the committee knew what sum was to be paid to Mr. Strafford, and upon what basis and to what amount the shares of the company were to be issued. These were matters which might just as well be mentioned now, because it was unlikely that the information would be afterwards given at so large a meeting as they had at present. On a future occasion, he might make remarks on other subjects, and in the meantime he might state that he held in his hand a catalogue of a sale of Shorthorns to take place next day. Mention was made in the catalogue of a cow which belonged to him, and there was another about bearing of the same name and number. Now, he thought in the preparation of the *Herd Book* attention should be directed to the subject of two or more animals bearing the same name with the view of getting a distinction made.

Mr. HARWARD said, in answer to the first question put by Mr. Loder, he might state that Mr. Strafford had seen the Committee, and had named the sum of £5,000 as the purchase price of the plant, goodwill, and copyright of the *Herd Book*, and the Committee had been given to understand that other parties were prepared to give him about that amount. No agreement, however, had been made, and no estimate had been formed as to the sum which should be paid. That

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amongst other things would require and would receive careful consideration, and whatever resolution was come to by the Committee would necessarily be submitted to the subscribers before the sum was finally fixed. He thought that matter might safely be left in the hands of the Committee at present. With regard to the amount at which the shares should be fixed, the Committee had received various suggestions, and they were day by day receiving others, and doubtless the shares would be fixed at such a sum as would meet the wishes of the whole body of the subscribers. The Committee had formed no definite idea as yet, and would be ready to receive suggestions from any Shorthorn breeders. It was thought that the sum should not be so large as to make the company exclusive, or so low as to make it insignificant.

Mr. STONE asked if the Committee could give any idea what the publication of the book would yield to the company. If the meeting knew what it had realised in the past, there would be some substantial basis to work upon in the future.

Mr. HARWARD said each volume produced £1,500.

Mr. STONE: Do you mean profit?

Mr. HARWARD: No; that is the gross yield. Part of that sum was derived from the entries, and the other part from the sale of the book. Mr. Strafford estimated the expense at £780.

Mr. STRAFFORD said he had made a calculation that if the price were the same the return would be not less than £1,500. The printing cost £500, but a sufficient balance would be left, after defraying all expenses, to pay a dividend of 10 per cent.

Mr. STONE said whether the Company paid a large or small dividend, his feeling would be decidedly in the direction of making the book as cheap and as comprehensive as possible, so that the smallest breeder might experience no difficulty in acquiring the knowlege which the *Herd Book* would furnish. If the book were to get into the hands of every breeder, it would tend more than anything else to encourage the breeding of Shorthorns.

Mr. HARWARD observed that, so far as he could ascertain the views of the Committee at present, their great object would be to maintain the integrity of the *Herd Book*, both as a safeguard to themselves and other breeders, and as a guarantee to the purchaser that what appeared in the volume was "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." At the same time it was desirable to make it as reasonably profitable as possible. There was one drawback which the Company would feel, namely, the reprinting of the back volumes, which were out of print, and the work had to be done in such a way that it left no great margin for profit.

A GENTLEMAN, whose name did not transpire, said the whole matter appeared pretty well cut and dry without asking all the Shorthorn breeders to meet together ("No, no"). He hoped, on behalf of breeders who were not present that the price of entries would not be increased, but that it would be continued at the same rate as at present. The price was quite enough now, as all, like himself, who had been subscribers for twenty years could testify.

Lord DUNMORE appealed to the meeting whether the remarks just heard were fair to those who had taken so much trouble with this matter (cheers). They had not come there with anything whatever cut and dry. If the speaker thought there were good reasons for attacking the Committee for having everything cut and dry, why did he not come with something cut and dry himself? He thought the previous speakers had wandered away from the subject. The resolution simply asked the meeting whether they thought it desirable to form a company for the purchase of the *Herd Book*. Nothing else could be settled that day. All details must be arranged at a future meeting.

The resolution was then put and agreed to, with only the one dissentient.

The Duke of MANCHESTER said, as he was one of the green horns alluded to by a former speaker, it might appear presumptuous in him to propose the second resolution in a meeting of gentlemen of so much more experience and fame in this matter than himself. He should not have appeared so prominently had he not been requested by those who had called the meeting to undertake this duty. He had great pleasure in acceding to the request, for, inexperienced as he was in Shorthorn breeding, he was very glad to have this opportunity of meeting so many gentlemen who were famous for breeding cattle well-known in all Her Majesty's dominions and many other parts of the world. He took great interest in the colonies, and from his connection and friendship with many colonists, he was aware in what high estimation Shorthorn breeding was held by them. The Shorthorn breeders in this country were, as a matter of fact, stocking the existing unpeopled wilds and unoccupied lands with the best race of animals in the world. Little as he knew of Shorthorn breeding, he believed it had become of fully equal importance with the breeding of race horses, whilst it was quite as interesting and very much less baneful to those engaged in it. He, therefore, thought it of great importance that Shorthorn breeders should have a Parliament or Council of their own to manage their affairs, to regulate, control, and keep a check upon the pedigrees of animals, and to certify that what was said about them was true. He begged to move "That it is desirable to form a club on the model of the Jockey Club, to consist of Shorthorn breeders and managers, with a limited managing committee, for the purpose of collecting and publishing accurate information as to past and current pedigrees and sales, and promoting the general interest of Shorthorn breeders." As to the fees to be charged for the book it would obviously be the interest of the company to keep them down as low as they could. The object of the company would not be to make a profit. If they charged too high for entries, they would cut their own throats.

The Rev. T. STANIFORTH seconded the resolution, with one little proviso, that he did not understand the model of the Jockey Club. He thought it quite right that the preparation and future issue of the *Herd Book* should be entrusted not simply to a committee, but to some person who understood pedigrees. They had all confidence in the impartiality and honesty of Mr. Strafford. Had it not been for his clear eye, sound judgment, and intimate knowledge of pedigrees, many animals would have crept into the breed unworthily. That showed the necessity of looking sharply after the matter. As to animals having the same names, he thought that could not be prevented, and those interested would have to decide the relative merits of such cattle from their numbers, and by studying their pedigree. No doubt there was a difficulty in finding new names, but he himself was lucky in having a great many lady friends, who assisted him with names.

Mr. JOHN BOOTH suggested that the words "model of the Jockey Club" should be struck out of the resolution, and that all details should be left to the committee who would be nominated.

The Duke of MANCHESTER approved of the suggestion.

Colonel GUNTER thought if the Club were to point out the inconvenience of having cattle of the same name, breeders would find new names, and thus prevent the pirating of herds. In the colonies, animals often got a fictitious value from the circumstance that the names were the same as those of some well-known cattle in this country.

Lord PENRHYN acknowledged the difficulty alluded to, but thought there was no more chance of remedying the matter than there was of numbering and re-naming all the Smiths in the world.

Mr. DENT asked whether the Club was to be entirely independent of the Company, and how the Club was to be formed?

The Duke of MANCHESTER thought that it would be better to strike out the word Club altogether, as the managing committee of the "Herd Book Company" would be the committee of appeal in all cases of disputed pedigree.

Colonel LOYD-LINDSAY was of opinion that the word "Club" conveyed to one's mind a certain amount of exclusiveness which was not desirable. If the company were started, a committee could be appointed who would constitute a court of appeal. He proposed to insert "society" instead of "club."

Mr. STORER said this meeting was only a preliminary one. The matter should be left as it stood, and a committee instructed to bring up a general report on a future occasion. Such matters as those discussed could not be settled in that room. It had been suggested that the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Bedford would be a good opportunity for holding the second meeting.

The Duke of MANCHESTER thought it would cause confusion if too many alterations were made. As had been said, a committee would draw up a scheme to be submitted to the Shorthorn breeders.

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Mr. DENT asked if it was necessary to have both a society and a company to conduct the *Herd Book*. Would it not be possible for the subscribers to the company to form a committee to look after pedigrees?

Lord DUNMORE replied that that was always understood by those who drew up the resolutions. This meeting was simply called to take the sense of the breeders, whether it would be desirable to form a company.

The resolution was then adopted unanimously, the word "society" being substituted for "club," and the words "model of the Jockey Club" omitted.

Lord CHESHAM moved that the following noblemen and gentlemen should form a committee to consider the suggestions made, and bring up a report hereafter: Earl of Dunmore, Earl of Skelmersdale, Lord Penrhyn, Mr. Nigel, F. Kingscote, Rev. J. Storer, Mr. Pole Gell, and Mr. T. C. Booth. He remarked that everyone he had named was earnest in the work, and it was fortunate that the matter should be undertaken by them.

Mr. BOWLEY seconded the resolution, and expressed regret at the reflections which had been cast upon those who had convened the meeting. He was glad they had got such high-minded men amongst them to take the lead in this important matter. They were men without bias or prejudice, and the breeders could repose the greatest confidence in them.

The resolution was at once agreed to.

On the motion of Lord Bridport, seconded by Col. Loyd-Lindsay, a vote of thanks was passed to the Duke of Devonshire for presiding, and the proceedings terminated.

THE IRISH CATTLE TRADE.

Considering how thoroughly the sympathies of the Conservatives are assumed to be with Agriculture, it is remarkable how much in a very short time the present Government has effected to correct such an impression. It has turned tail on the Malt-tax; it has shirked and trimmed over Tenant-Right, and it is now intent on undoing anything done to prevent the spread of the more serious diseases amongst cattle. As everybody knows who has given any attention to the subject, one of the most fertile sources of contagion for some time past has been Ireland; or, as the Committee of last session put it, "many complaints have been made by English and Scotch farmers with regard to the Irish imports, alleging that these have caused an increase both of pleuro-pneumonia and foot-and-mouth disease." Countered as the other members of the Committee continually were by the Irish contingent, they were not enabled to speak out so strongly as they otherwise would have done, but still they went so far as to advise, "that the regulations in Great Britain and Ireland with regard to contagious diseases be similar—that such regulations be carefully enforced at the landing-places both in Great Britain and Ireland—and that the Irish Government take steps by inspection at Irish ports to prevent the shipment to Great Britain of any diseased or infected animals." And upon this suggestion, coming under the immediate authority of the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Forster, his colleagues decided to act. The importation of Irish stock was to be watched with all that care and suspicion which its condition but too well warranted.

It is noticeable, however, how there has long been a kind of Conservative feeling manifested in dealing with the cattle trade of the sister Kingdom. No language could be too strong, no regulations could be too severe when touching on the case of the foreigner. He was always bringing in pleuro and foot-and-mouth, as over and over again some still more terrible disorder was reported to be coming up the Thames. Meetings were held, and resolutions were passed, declaring it to be simply ruin to land anything alive from the Continent; while at the same time it was regarded as something very like bad taste to say a word about Ireland, although far more disease was known to be drifting in from that quarter. Graziers, it was said, could not get on without their customary supplies of Irish steers, as occasionally they came to admit that they would prefer risking an attack of foot-and-mouth disease to being cut off from such importations. So far the Commons Committee may be regarded as going with these views, for, as the Report runs, "the consumer and the producer would consider the remedy—that of stamping out—to be worse than disease." And again, "such an interference with the home trade in animals would much affect prices." In fact, much of the agitation over foot-and-mouth is little better than a sham; but pleuro-pneumonia is a far more serious matter, and so the Committee recommended that "the slaughter of all cattle affected with this disease should be compulsory"—that "the regulations in Great Britain and Ireland should be similar"—and that "the Irish Government should take steps by inspection at Irish ports to prevent the shipment of any diseased or infected animals." And these resolutions or recommendations were, in Parliamentary phrase, approved.

Just now, however, we are threatened, according to common report, with another extensive outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia, and so, of course, there could be no more fitting time to relax any very stringent conditions. As Sir Michael Beach put it on the part of the present Government, "honourable gentlemen would fully appreciate the difficulties which stood in the way of the compulsory slaughter of cattle shipped from Ireland." But why so especially from Ireland more than from any other country? Surely the slaughter of a diseased Irish beast is as justifiable and imperative as that of a Frenchman or a Dutchman! Again, "there came the question whether the system of slaughter had been successful in those countries to which it had been applied. He believed it had been tried in several countries in Europe, and had been abandoned because of its enormous expense." But assuming this statement to be true, why should we make so curious an exception with regard to Ireland? as if the system of slaughter is not successful, why should we incur any further enormous expense in continuing it elsewhere? Sir Michael Hicks Beach would seem to possess a remarkably illogical turn of mind, or perhaps he has only caught the tone of his adopted country, "By Jabers! it is no use whatever to try to cure the noble bastes of Green Erin by killing them, but you ought to kill everybody else's." Further, Sir Michael says, "if disease from Ireland was imported so largely as was alleged, it was strange that there had been no complaints." No complaints! Why we have been complaining, and not merely complaining, but proving our case for years; or if Sir Michael Hicks desires any more official evidence as to the cattle disease imported from Ireland, we would refer him to Professor Browne, a gentleman at the head of the veterinary department of the Privy Council office. No complaints! Why the House of Commons Committee formed its strongest recommendations upon the weight of these complaints. No complaints! Why just previously on Friday night Mr. Stewart had stated how "he lived in a part of Scotland to which there was a large trade from Ireland, and they were very much afraid of *the introduction of disease*." Mr. Evans said "Derbyshire would be seriously inconvenienced if the importation of cattle from Ireland were stopped; but the regulations as to compulsory slaughter if inconvenient *had on the whole been beneficial*." In the Upper House Lord Kimberley said "So long as animals suffering from pleuro-pneumonia and

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foot-and-mouth disease were allowed to be imported into England from Ireland it was utterly futile to expect that those diseases could be stamped out in England, however stringent might be the rules in this country. For instance, it was the practice for large numbers of diseased animals to be landed in Norfolk from Ireland, and the consequence was the disease could not be stamped out." Mr. Barclay asks for a more vigilant and effective inspection on embarkation, and we hear officially in reply that the Irish Government will do the best it can. This does not amount to much, nor does Sir Michael Hicks appear very desirous to do much. If, however, there is to be any exceptional legislation over this business, people will only waste their time in talking about the danger of foreign stock, while we can continue to count upon the existence of this so handy home.

STOCK SALE.

SALE OF MESSRS. LENEY'S SHORTHORNS

At Orpines, Wateringbury, on Thursday, July 2, 1874.

BY MR. STRAFFORD.

A happy combination of events all tended to render this one of the most successful of sales of this season, and an average of £221 16s. for 41 head—the majority of which were young animals—is a great encouragement to Messrs. Leney to continue those lavish outlays for good animals that have recently distinguished their line of breeding. A few years ago their bulls were not looked upon as fitting sires for some very capital cows and heifers of the Charmer and Knightley blood in which their herd was so strong. In 1872, at Winterfold, Eighth Duke of Geneva, a pure Duke bull, as closely bred to Mr. Bates' herd as anything in this country (notwithstanding Mr. George Bedford's assertion of his great Duke bull in Kentucky, U. S. A.), was purchased for 1,650 gs.; and for the heifers Sixth Duke of Oneida was imported from the New York Mills at 1,200 gs. These two bulls gave an immense lift to the herd; and with two such cows as Seventh Duchess of Geneva and Grand Duchess of Geneva, for bull breeding, they may hold a high position in the Bates market for some years. Both bulls were paraded before the sale, and again in the ring immediately preceding it. That the younger one, Sixth Duke of Oneida, was the favourite there can be no two opinions; perhaps a little small for his age, three years in October, he is nevertheless a remarkably good bull, of great substance, capital form, and fine masculine character; indeed he is unlike what has been for years looked upon as Duke character. His dam, Lord Bective's seven-thousand-guinea cow, is one of the grandest cows in the country, and she has the Romeo cross running in her veins on her sire's side. Like his sire (Fourth Duke of Geneva, now Mr. Renick's property in Kentucky, where he is mated with the Red Roses), his hair is a trifle harsh, but this slight blemish is overcome in the blaze of his general excellence. Eighth Duke of Geneva looks thin, being kept so for use and lightness; he is of large size, and with that high mettle and nervous disposition for which the strain is so well known. His head and neck are very grand, and he is of great length; but he wants more middle, his length giving a sinking in the back that is not admirable. As a stock getter he will certainly rank high; five large calves rising a year old by him were shown in pens under the cherry-trees that were a nice lot, mostly of a colour, and good size and quality. It was remarkable that the best two of these five made the lowest prices: some thought lot 16, others lot 14, a gayer roan, but with not so good a back as on lot 16, though more even. The Rev. R. B. Kennard purchased this one at 130 gs., her dam being of John Wood's old Garland blood; and lot 16 went to Mr. Henry Brassey at 250 gs., her dam being of Lord Ducie's Louisa or Lizzy tribe, of Charge's blood. Mr. George Fox gave 300 gs. for lot 15, of the Knightley Walnut family. Mr. Stavely Hill and Mr. Jon. Rigg took the other two at 290 gs. each. But the pick of the sale was another and younger calf by Eighth Duke of Geneva; this was lot 19, Fourth Grand Duchess of Geneva, a granddaughter of Seventh Duchess of Geneva, bred by Mr. Sheldon, U. S. A., imported in 1867, and bought by Mr. Leney, at the Windsor sale, for 700 gs.; she is a very grand white cow, better than her daughter by Fifteenth Grand Duke. The calf was thin, but well grown; Mr. Leney, not intending to sell it, had given it ordinary keep until the last six weeks, when it had been running with a nurse, and will probably grow into a large fine heifer. A thousand guineas was talked of as the opening bid, but Mr. Loder's fifteen hundred seemed to stop all opposition for a time. Mr. Holford added fifty-guineas bids three times, but Mr. Loder's two thousand took the calf to his estate at Whittlebury (late Lord Southampton's), adjoining Mr. Oliver's farm; so that Northamptonshire, as of old, will still be the home of some of our finest Shorthorns.

The calves by Sixth Duke of Oneida were darker in colour and not being in such bloom as the older ones appeared to less advantage, still they sold remarkably well, Mr. Loder again taking quite the pick of them in Oxford Fausley 6th, a broad thick roan calf, slightly scouring, at 225 gs. There were five useful cows in nice condition and mostly in-calf. Mr. Blundell bought Lot 1, Lactea Oxoniensis, out of Sir Chas. Knightley's old Lactea, at 240 gs. Mr. Drewry, for the Duke of Devonshire, bought Lily, one of the Bell-Bates line, a fine large broad-backed cow, at 170 gs., and her calf by Sixth Duke of Oneida at 120 gs. Lot 3, Knightley Grand Duchess, another Bates on Knightley, went rather dear, at 350 gs., to Mr. Larking, who got several other lots. Thorndale Duchess, recently calved, looked plain and thin, still she ran up to 100 gs. (Mr. Jon. Riggs, Kent), and the Queen, bred from the herd at Windsor, was bought by Lord Chesham for 160 gs. Lot 6, Primrose, a thin fleshed cow, of nearly pure Knightley blood, excited keen competition, and Mr. A. Brogden finally took her into Lancashire at 335 gs. Two whites followed; one of the Charmer line, being recently calved, made only 225 gs.; but Oxford Fausley 4th, full of hair and heavy in-calf, was one of the handsomest lots. Sir Curtis Lampson's 400 gs. finally secured her for Sussex against strong opposition from Lancashire. Columbia Duchess, by Fifteenth Grand Duke, was also greatly run upon, but she is also retained in the south by Mr. Larking. Mr. Sheldon, who had bid strongly for her and several preceding lots, purchased Lot 10 of the Charmer tribe, a strong good heifer, at 320 gs.

The bulls were a fair good number, and their sale was greatly assisted by Mr. Larkworthy taking three of the best at 210 gs. (lot 8, brother to lot 16), 140 gs. (lot 11, of the Furbelow line), and 81 gs. (lot 2, brother to lot 7) for New Zealand. Mr. Collard bought lot 9, a pure Bates bull of the Wild Eyes tribe, at 145 gs. He is a thick good white, and likely to do excellent service near Canterbury. Lot 1, Young Knightley (own brother to

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lot 6 cows, sold for 335 gs.), was bought by the Rev. J. Storer at 60 gs.; and The Friar, a promising red calf of the Charmer line, goes to the Rev. Chas. Marshall, Surrey, at 58 gs.

Lord Penrhyn, chairman of the Shorthorn Committee, presided at the lunch, and it may be justly said that the same assembly of noblemen and breeders that thronged Willis' Rooms the day previously had a "country meeting" the following day in the pleasant vales of Wateringbury. Moreover, the Stratford meeting of the Essex Society brought many up from the Eastern Counties, and two days' showing was happily relieved by a pleasant day's selling in Kent. The heavy corn crops, the healthy hop-bines, and the rich pastoral look of the surrounding country, all indicated the high farming that Messrs. Lercy's Shorthorns necessarily caused; and this their third public appearance, with average of 211 gs. on the 60 gs. and 70 gs. averages of 1869 and 1871, is the best indication of the high and fashionable character of the herd.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Lactea Oxonensis, roan (1867), by Imperial Oxford (18084), dam Lactea by Sarawak (15238).—Mr. J. H. Blundell, 240 gs.

Lily, white (1867), by Lord Liverpool (22168), dam Levity by Lord Thoresby (14856).—Duke of Devonshire, 170 gs.

Knightley Grand Duchess, roan (1867), by 4th Grand Duke (19874), dam Nymphalin by Bull's Run (19368).—Mr. J. W. Larking, 305 gs.

Thorndale Duchess, red roan (1869), by 12th Duke of Thorndale (26020), dam Waterloo Duchess 2nd by Waterloo Duke (21077).—Mr. J. Rigg, 100 gs.

The Queen, rich roan (1869), by Lord Oxford 2nd (20215), dam Princess Alice by British Prince (14197),—Lord Chesham, 160 gs.

Primrose, roan (1871), by Sir Charles Knightley (27466), dam Pipalee by Bull's Run (19368).—Mr. A. Brogden, M.P., 335 gs.

Charming Lady 2nd, white (1872), by Grand Duke of Oxford (28764), dam Charming Maid by Lord Liverpool (22168).—Sir G. R. Philips, Bart., 225 gs.

Oxford Fawsley 4th, white (1872), by Grand Duke of Kent (26289), dam Oxford Fawsley 2nd by Lord Oxford 2nd (20215).—Sir Curtis Lampson, Bart., 400 gs.

Columbia's Duchess 3rd, roan (1872), by 15th Grand Duke (21852), dam Columbia by Bull's Run (19368).—Mr. J. W. Larking, 335 gs.

Twin Duchess 6th, roan (1872), by Grand Duke of Kent (26289), dam Twin Duchess by 4th Duke of Thorndale (17750).—Mr. H. J. Sheldon, 320 gs.

May Duchess 5th, roan (1872), by Grand Duke of Oxford (28764), dam May Queen by May Duke (18320).—J. Rigg, 70 gs.

Beauty 2nd, roan (1873), by Grand Duke of Oxford (28764), dam Sultana 2nd by Man in the Moon (18320).—Mr. J. Rigg, 110 gs.

Rosy, roan (1873), by Grand Duke of Kent (26289), dam Lactea Oxonensis by Imperial Oxford (18084).—Mr. J. W. Larking, 270 gs.

Queen of Garlands, roan (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Garland 5th by Waterloo Duke (21077).—Rev. R. B. Kennard, 130 gs.

Columbia's Duchess 4th, rich roan (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Columbia by Bull's Run (19368).—Mr. G. Fox, 300 gs.

Lady Louisa's Duchess 5th, roan (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Lady Louisa by Archduke 2nd (15588).—Mr. H. Brassey, M.P., 250 gs.

Baroness Fawsley 4th, rich roan (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Baroness Fawsley by 15th Grand Duke (21852).—Mr. A. S. Hill, M.P., 290 gs.

Sweetheart, roan (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Sylph by Knightley Grand Duke (24268).—Mr. J. Rigg, 290 gs.

Fourth Grand Duchess of Geneva, roan (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Grand Duchess of Geneva by 15th Grand Duke (21852).—Mr. Loader, Whittlebury, Northamptonshire, 2,000 gs.

Surprise 3rd, red and white (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Tacita by Duke of Rutland (19641).—Lord Feversham, 200 gs.

Baroness Fawsley 5th, red (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Baroness Fawsley 3rd by 15th Grand Duke (21852).—Mr. J. Robinson, 120 gs.

Wellingtonia 4th, roan (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Wellingtonia 3rd by Grand Duke of Kent (26289).—Rev. W. Sneyd, 260 gs.

Oxford Fawsley 6th, roan (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Oxford Fawsley 3rd by Grand Duke of Kent (26289).—Mr. R. Loder, 225 gs.

Lady Hudson's Duchess 4th, red (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Lady Hudson 2nd by 15th Grand Duke (21852).—Mr. J. Robinson, 85 gs.

Lady Bates 2nd, rich roan (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Lily by Lord Liverpool (22168).—Duke of Devonshire, 120 gs.

Fawsley 15th, red (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Fawsley 13th by Grand Duke of Oxford (28764).—Rev. W. Sneyd, 105 gs.

Thorndale Duchess 2nd, red roan (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Thorndale Duchess by 12th Duke of Thorndale (26020).—Rev. W. Sneyd, 105 gs.

Surprise 4th, red and white (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Tacita 4th by 5th Duke of Wharfedale (26033).—Mr. A. S. Hill, M.P., 100 gs.

BULLS.

Young Knightley, red and white (1872), by Sir Charles Knightly (27466), dam Pipalee by Bull's Run (19368).—Rev. J. Storer, 60 gs.

Charming Prince, roan (1873), by Grand Duke of Kent (26289), dam Charming Maid by Lord Liverpool (22168).—Mr. Lackworthy, for New Zealand, 81 gs.

Young Thorndale, red roan (1873), by Grand Duke of Kent (26289), dam Thorndale Duchess by 12th Duke of Thorndale (26020).—Mr. Deschfield, 65 gs.

Duke of Kirklevington 2nd, red (1873), by Grand Duke of Kent (26289), dam Kirklevington 20th by 5th Lord Wild Eyes (26762).—Mr. Godwin, 66 gs.

March Duke, red and white (1873), by Grand Duke of Kent (26289), dam Tacita 4th by 5th Duke of Wharfedale (26033).—Mr. J. Rigg, 50 gs.

Nestor, white (1873), by Grand Duke of Oxford (28764), dam Waterloo Duchess by Waterloo Duke (21077).—Mr. Bendall 26 gs.

The Young Knight, white (1873), by Grand Duke of Kent (26289), dam Gionetta by Sarawak (15238).—Mr. Harvey, 51 gs.

First Lord, rich roan (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Lady Louisa's Duchess 1st by 4th Grand Duke (19874).—Mr. Larkworthy, 210 gs.

Wild Duke 2nd, white (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Wild Duchess 3rd by Lord Oxford 2nd (20215).—Mr. C. Collard, 145 gs.

The Royal Prince, red (1873), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Princess Alice by British Prince (14197).—Mr. Larkworthy, 140 gs.

White Fawsley, white (1874), by 8th Duke of Geneva (28390), dam Oxford Fawsley 2nd by Lord Oxford 2nd (20215).—Mr. A. P. Cleat, 45 gs.

The Friar, red with little white (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Countess Wateringbury 5th by Sir C. Knightley (27466).—Rev. C. Marshall, 58 gs.

Caliph, rich roan (1874), by 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), dam Early Dawn by Grand Duke of Oxford (28764).—Mr. A. S. Hill, M.P., 45 gs.

SUMMARY.

28 cows averaged	£285	15	0	.....	£8,001	0	0
13 bulls "	84	3	8	.....	1,091	2	0
41 head "	221	16	8	.....	£9,095	2	0

THE RECENT SHORTHORN "SELL" IN AMERICA.—The Mr. Robbins, to whom the bull Second Duke of Hillhurst was knocked down at Colonel King's sale, was a short time since a clerk in the office of Mr. Strafford, the proprietor of *The Shorthorn Herd-book*.

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"CHOICE" TABLE BUTTER.

A Paper, by the Hon. Clark King,

Read before the Agricultural Society at Waitsfield, U.S.

In order to make a choice tub of butter, at all times see that your cows are provided with the best kind of food for that purpose. In summer, when your cows are at the pasture, let them have the best pasture you can provide. As a rule, a dry pasture which lies high and rolling produces the best grasses for butter-making: it makes a yellow, fine-grained, sweet tub of butter; while a low, swampy pasture, full of foul grass and bushes, makes a much poorer grade. Such pastures are not fit for the dairy. A moist pasture, if not too wet, may produce a good quality of grass, and in such pastures good butter can be made; but my experience, after dealing in butter some ten years, and manufacturing butter during this time, has taught me that a dry pasture, producing sweet qualities of grass, is the kind for dairying. At this season of the year, when the cows are stabled, and during the spring, when the cows are giving milk, give them the very best quality of early-cut hay, and a fair amount of meal each day. Cornmeal is the best, and any green fodder or roots which are of good flavour will also be good to feed them when giving milk. Give your cows warm stables; milk as regularly as possible; and milk clean. After the milk is drawn, set it away, after it is thoroughly strained, in a good milk-room, which must be kept sweet and clean. All odours, from whatever source, must be avoided, as cream on the milk is tainted very easily by smoke, cooking of various foods, odours from the sink and other places. The milk-room should be kept at a high temperature, for the cream to rise well, in cold weather, and in warm weather kept as cool as possible. Many times the cream will not half rise on account of the extreme heat, and a good share of it is thrown to the pigs. There is no doubt but that the large patent pans now coming into use, with pipes carrying cold water around them, so as to cool the milk and take out the animal heat as soon as set for the cream to rise, will prove to be a great improvement. Those who have used them consider them an improvement, and say that they paid for first cost in one season. They made good butter during the hottest weather last summer, and a good cream rose all through the extremely hot, damp weather. I had several dairies of butter made from those pans and the cooling apparatus the past season, which proved to be excellent. Doubtless these pans for setting milk will soon come into general use by good dairymen, as thereby a great amount of labour is saved, as well as good butter made. Always skim your milk before the cream is thinned. As a rule, skim it just before it sours, or as soon as it begins to sour on the bottom of the pan. No time can be given to skim milk after it is set which will always be reliable, as milk-rooms vary somewhat in temperature; but never fail to skim it while it is sweet and before it becomes tainted in the least. Here is where dairymen must not neglect the care necessary for producing choice butter. Here is where many dairymen make a mistake, in letting the cream stand on the milk too long; and the result is a common tub of butter, or even worse—*i. e.*, a poor tub of butter, which nobody wants. After your cream is taken from the milk, churn it in good season, taking care always not to let it stand too long before churning. Use a churn with as little machinery as possible. The plain churn, with the least number of floats, is the best for manufacturing solid butter. Never salt your butter too much. An ounce of salt to one pound of butter is enough for butter made to keep through the season, while from one-half and three-quarters to one ounce is enough for the market, when the butter is soon to be used. In fact, light-salted butter commands the highest price, where it is sweet and new; and this is a fact for good dairymen to be sure to remember. The working is another very important part to be performed in the manufacture of butter. Great care must be used to work it enough and then stop; and to do this requires close attention. Before working the butter, it should be thoroughly washed in good, pure water, until you can see that you cannot do much more to cleanse the buttermilk from the butter. As a rule, I find the finest butter where the maker works tl butter twice before putting the same into the tub for mark The butter is taken from the churn and salted, and work enough to thoroughly work-in the salt, then set away ove night, the next morning taken up and worked until it is cle from buttermilk. Then it is ready for use—either to send market or to keep through the season. I consider the use a butter-worker the best mode of extracting the buttermil although fine butter can be made by working with the hand if they are not so warm as to injure the grain of the butte A sponge can be used with good success in connection wi the butter-worker, to soak up the moisture in the process working. After your butter is ready to pack, get a nice cle tub or box to pack it in, as a clean package is always desir by the purchaser. Never put good butter into an old, dir tub; but give your butter the best tubs the market afford It will pay well in the end, and will be money well expende After you have succeeded in making a choice tub of butter, is always wanted at good prices in the market, and you c readily find a purchaser for all you can manufacture, from t fact that so little excellent butter is made at present. choice tub of butter at this time is sold for 40 cents in t market, while a good fair tub brings 35 cents per pound, a a common one 30, a poor one 25, and so on, down to grea prices. A difference of 5 cents per pound is well worth good amount of time spent to make a choice article. there are over 100,000 cows kept in the State of Vermo and the annual product of the same will average 150lbs. fro a cow, or more, let us calculate the difference of 5 cents pound on the whole amount made in the state. Reckoni 150lbs. to the cow, 15,000,000lbs. would be manufactur annually; and a difference in price of 5 cents per pou would make an addition of 750,000 dollars to the annu wealth of our state—a fine increase to record in the manuf ture of butter. If we only take as much pains in this bran of farming as we have done to improve our breeds of she and cattle, the thing will be done; and when once done, will pay so well, there will be no danger of a reaction, as the sheep business, from the fact that every tub of choi butter is at all times in demand at good prices, there n being enough of such butter made at the present time for t consumer. And, to review what I have said in detail, all me to say, Keep no poor cows, and only those that make go firm yellow butter. Keep them well both summer and wint Use great care in cleanliness in every stage of the manuf ture of this product. Have a good milk-room, keep it pe fectly sweet and clean, and follow the best modes of maki good butter; and if you do not succeed, then go to th who do succeed and find out their method, and in the end y will certainly come off victorious. And now, brother-farme and dairymen, let us all resolve to accomplish the art making choice butter.

PETERBOROUGH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. The following are the chief awards: Hackney mares or ge ings, not exceeding 15½ hands: £7 to Mr. A. Goodm Thorney. Weight-carrying cobs, above 13 hands 2 inch and not exceeding 15 hands: £5 to S. Middleton, Waterne ton. Ponies not exceeding 13½ hands: £5 to A. Leeds, E bury, North. Ponies not exceeding 13½ hands, to be drive £5 to G. Gee, jun., Deeping Fen. Fat oxen: £7 to the E of Lonsdale, Barleythorpe. Bulls, under 2 years old: £7 the Marquis of Exeter, Burghley Park. Cows, having h a calf: £7 to the Marquis of Exeter; and £3 to J. J. Sha Broughton, Kettering. Heifers, in-calf, under 3 years old: to D. Dainty, Belmisthope, Stamford. Heifers under 2 ye old: £5 to J. J. Sharp. Special prize of £5 for pair heifers under 1 year nine months, shown in classes 40 and to J. J. Sharp. Long-woolled rams: £7 to R. Wright, Nocu Heath. Boars of the large breed: £3 to H. A. Kilham, Ty St. Mary. Boars of the small breed: £3 to H. A. Kilham.

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A MISCROPPING CASE.

In the Court of Session, Edinburgh, an action was raised by Mr. Baird, of Ury and Easter Drumkilbo, against Mr. Wm. B. Mount, for damages for alleged miscropping of the farm of Castleton of Eassie, of which the defendant was tenant. The defendant was bound by the lease to have two-fifths of the arable area of the farm in grass during the last three of the nineteen years over which the lease extended. It was complained that there was not enough in second year's grass. In 1872 there were 187 acres in grass, but the greater proportion was in new grass. In other words, less than one-fifth was in second year's grass, though more than two-fifths were in grass. It was contended by the defender that the size of the parks did not admit of any other arrangement, and it was proved that no scouring or hungring policy towards the land had been adopted. Lord Gifford has issued the full interlocutor and note in the tenant's favour.

The Lord Ordinary, having heard parties' procurators, and having considered the closed record, proof adduced, and whole process, assoilzies the defender from the conclusions of the action, and decerns: Finds defender entitled to expenses, and remits the account thereof, when lodged to the auditor of Court to tax the same and to report.

(Signed) AD. GIFFORD.

NOTE.—The question in this case is whether the pursuer is entitled to exact and the defender bound to pay penal, but fractional, extra rent in respect the defender has "deviated from the mode of cropping described and agreed upon" in the lease between the parties. The case involves several points of some difficulty and nicety.

The Lord Ordinary was favoured with an able and instructive argument as to how far fractional rent of a penal nature, such as that stipulated for in the present lease, was subject to equitable modification by the Court, and how far there was reason for the equitable interposition of the Court to restrict the pursuer's claim. The Lord Ordinary is of opinion that if the pursuer can clearly establish the contravention or miscropping, the Court has no power to restrict the liquidated or fractional damages which the parties themselves have fixed and ascertained under the name of additional rent. This doctrine seems to be quite established by a long series of decisions both in this country and in England. See the cases collected in Hunter on Landlord and Tenant, I. 265 (3rd Ed.). One of the leading cases is Miller *v.* Lord Ewyder, 26th May, 1824, affd. H. L. 3rd March, 1826, 2 W. & S. 52; but there are many other cases to the same effect. The principle is that where the parties themselves have agreed upon and liquidated the damages the Court cannot interfere to modify, for this would be setting aside the deliberate bargain of the parties themselves. The terms of the lease in the present case are exceedingly explicit that the penal rent shall not be subject to modification; and although, notwithstanding such a clause, the inherent equitable power of the Court may not be excluded, and exceptional cases for interference may arise, the present does not seem one which can be made an exception from the general rule. See Forrest and Barr *v.* Henderson, 26th Nov., 1869, 8 Macbp. 187. But while the Lord Ordinary is of opinion that the fractional rent is not subject to modification by the Court, if it can be shown that it has been really incurred, he feels that it is a demand of a highly penal nature, and great strictness must be applied in considering whether it has been really incurred or not. The whole proper rent stipulated in the lease has been paid; it was hardly pretended on the part of the pursuer that the defect in the amount of grass of a particular age, of which alone he complains, had led to injury anything like the penal rent claimed, and no attempt was made to prove actual damage from deficiency of grass. In short, it was conceded, at least in argument, that if the tenant was found liable it would be an exceedingly hard case, and no attempt was made to show that the pursuer's demand was to any extent founded in equity. In such circumstances, and where the landlord's severe demand is founded on the precise words of the lease, he cannot complain of a strict interpretation as applied to that lease in ascertaining whether it supports his claim. In short, while the Court will not modify the penal rent, they will equitably consider whether penal rent at all has been incurred. Certainly, on this last point, equity is not excluded, but imperatively called for. Now, on considering the whole structure and terms of the lease, and applying them to the facts established in evidence, the Lord Ordinary has come to be of opinion, though not without difficulty, that the pursuer has failed in sufficiently establishing "miscropping" in the fair sense of the lease, or that the defender has deviated "from the mode of cropping above described and agreed on." The lease is a long and complicated document, and it is a little difficult to read from it what in many respects were the precise duties of the tenant. The clause stipulating for penal rent is not confined, as the pursuer suggested, to the last three years of the lease. On the contrary, it is quite general, and applies to the whole currency of the lease, so that, if incurred, it might have been enforced the very first year; and it is expressly stipulated that the penal rent shall be exigible at the same terms of payment as "the ordinary rent." The clause for penal or fractional rent is in these terms: "And the said Patrick Birrell (the defender's author) binds and obliges himself and his foresaids to labour, manure, and crop each division successively during the currency of the lease, without any departure from the rules above written; and in case the said Patrick Birrell and his foresaids shall deviate from the mode of cropping above prescribed and agreed upon, either in opposition to his landlord or by his tacit consent, he shall be bound, as he hereby binds and obliges himself and his foresaids, not only immediately to restore such part of the lands as may be so miscropped to the notation and course of cropping applicable thereto under this lease, but likewise to pay the proprietor an additional rent of £5 for every imperial acre which shall be cropped differently from the rotation above laid down," and so on. The first observation which occurs is that, although this penal clause speaks of "rotation" and "notation above laid down," the lease does not provide any particular rotation or shift of cropping. It does not require a four-year shift, a five, six, or eight-year shift, or any other shift. The lease confines itself to specifying certain restrictions, and under these restrictions the tenant may follow any shift he pleases. Now, it is at least an awkward thing for the landlord to rely upon a penal clause providing penalty for deviation from a rotation of cropping when no particular rotation is described. The next point is that the tenant is taken bound to crop each "division during the currency of the lease without any departure from the rules above written." What is meant by "division?" The landlord says it is the set or series of fields which constitute a break, being a fifth, a sixth, or other aliquot part of the farm. The tenant says "division" simply means field, the farm being completely divided into separate fields by permanent fences. The Lord Ordinary inclines to the tenant's view as most consistent with the restrictive structure of the lease. It is difficult to suppose that "division" means a new laying out of the farm into exact fifths or sixths, which would necessarily imply new permanent fences. The skilled evidence, so far as competent, confirms the Lord Ordinary in the view that "division" simply means "field." But the main point relied upon by the tenant is that the farm—being a completely enclosed farm, consisting of a definite number of fields separated from each other by permanent fences—it is not possible to lay it out into exact fourths, fifths, or sixths under any of the known shifts or rotations. This really happens in every arable farm; and when, for example, a five-shift is stipulated, this merely means that each field must follow the shift, and that the farm shall be approximately divided into fifths as nearly as the fences will allow. This is universal practice and quite equitable; for although the tenant under a five-shift may have rather more than two-fifths in white crop one year, he will have so much less the next, and so on. The present lease stipulates that there shall never be more than one-half of the farm in crops of corn during the first sixteen years. This seems to point to a four drift rotation; and it is thought in equity that it would be implemented if the farm were divided into four equal breaks, as nearly the size of the fields would permit; so that, though there might be a few acres too many for one year, there would just be so many

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less the next. Now, apply this to the last three years of the lease—the only years complained of by the landlord. The landlord's complaint is thatthe tenant has not enough of grass. Two-fifths of the arable part of the farm are, as nearly as possible, 166 acres, and two-fifths are required to be in two years' and one year's old grass the three last years of the lease. The complaint is that the tenant in 1871 was nine acres short; and in 1872, 36 acres short; and in 1873, 12 acres short of two-year-old grass, although he had in all 187 acres, being an excess of 21 acres of one-year-old grass. It seems proved in evidence that this was as near as the divisions of the fields would admit, unless, indeed, the tenant had gone back a good many years, and cultivated his farm under greater restrictions than the lease imposes. It is proved also that there was no miscropping and no scourging of any one field on the farm; and it further appears from the evidence that, whereas the tenant was not bound to have grass more than two years old, he had, during the last three years considerable quantities of grass three and four years' old. Now, in these circumstances, the Lord Ordinary has come to be of opinion, though he cannot say without difficulty, that there has been substantial implement of the least. He cannot modify the penalty, but he can equitably consider whether any penalty has been incurred or not, according to the fair reading of the instrument. The skilled evidence is all one way. For example, Mr. Goodlet says that he thinks there has been no substantial deviation from the terms of the lease, and speaking of the last three years he says: "If you take an average of the three years, the tenant had 166 acres in such crop. He did not have it every year, but what he wanted in one year he made up for in another. If you go to the green crop, again, he ought to have had 83 acres each year in green crop, but on an average of the three years he had 97 acres in green crop, so that there was an excess of 14 acres in green crop on the whole. That is not considered bad management. It would have been worse if it had been 14 acres of oats or grain crop. Again, he had in grass in three years altogether 160 acres each year on an average. He was bound to have had 166 acres, so that he had a deficiency during the three years of about 18 acres. The deficiency was in grass, and the excess was in green crop; and, according to the way in which he was bound to farm, the one would about make up for the other, so that practically there was no substantial injury." The other skilled witnesses speak to the same effect; and it would be the hardest possible construction against the tenant to hold that, while, for example, in 1871 he had 102 acres in old grass, three and four years' old, whereas he was only bound to have 83, he is to be subjected in a penal fine because he was nine acres short upon the one year's grass to make up the full quantity of 166 acres. The year 1872 is a more difficult year, for here there was a deficiency of thirty-six acres in all, although there were 93 acres of old grass instead of 83; but then in 1873 there was a surplus of 20 acres, so that on the whole there is only a deficiency of 6 acres per annum, and much of the grass was three and four years old, whereas the tenant was only bound to have it two. The Lord Ordinary thinks that on this point of the question he is entitled to look to substantial compliance, and if so the tenant's defence is complete. It is really vain to say that the tenant was bound to run up temporary fences and have the fields cultivated in patches. It is proved that this would have led to great embarrassment and disconcerted the fair cultivation of the farm. It would have done more injury than 6 acres per annum shortcoming in grass. The total arable acreage is 415 acres. There is some force in the defender's plea founded on the discharge for rent. No doubt the landlord's mere silence or not stating objection would not be enough. But seeing that the penal rent is due year by year, and was not reserved when the ordinary rent was received and discharged, each discharge may fairly imply a passing from the penal claim. This defence was expressly sustained in Hunter *v.* Blackwood, 2nd Feb., 1854, 16 D, 441; but perhaps there were specialities which may found a distinction. On the whole, the Lord Ordinary thinks that the landlord has failed to make good his claim. A. G.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH'S BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PROPERTY.—This estate, including the Winchendon farms, was offered at the hammer in London, when it was bought in for £174,000. The chief bidder was Mr. Lambert, one of the members for the county.

THE LONDON CATTLE MARKETS AND SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—At a meeting of the Common Council the Lord Mayor presiding, the town clerk, Mr. Monckton, read a communication, addressed by the Lord Mayor on the 27th of June to Lady Burdett-Coutts, stating that at a recent meeting of the Common Council considerable discussion arose with reference to the position and prospects of Columbia Market; and after various motions had been submitted to the Court, an amendment was agreed to, in effect that, although the Corporation has an unexpired term of two years within which to test the possibility of making Columbia Market successful, yet the Court was of opinion that it would be unfair to every interest concerned, and, therefore, undesirable, for the Corporation to continue the present experiment without first consulting Lady Burdett-Coutts as to her wishes with reference to a transfer of the market to her ladyship. That being the amendment carried, the Lord Mayor in his letter went on to state that, with the knowledge of her ladyship's many efforts to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of the East of London by means of the market, he had thought it only courteous to herself to personally be the medium of communicating that resolution to her, and to ask to be favoured with her ladyship's views and wishes upon the matter, rather than that it should be forwarded through the ordinary official channel. In reply to that communication, the Baroness, after acknowledging the Lord Mayor's politeness and courtesy on the occasion, said the resolution of the Common Council was conceived in the generous spirit with which the Corporation, in the first instance, accepted the market. She understood from the resolution that the Corporation, prior to any further dealing with the market, offered to restore it to her, if she desired to resume the possession of it, in the hope that she might be able to carry out her original plans. Her best thanks, she said, were due both to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation for the frankness and courtesy with which they had treated her in making this offer. Inasmuch, she added, as she still had a great hope that she might be able to effect her object, she would follow the example set her by the Corporation, and frankly at once accept the offer of the Corporation to re-transfer the market to her, in order that she might make another attempt to carry out successfully her original intentions. On the motion of Mr. Rudkin, chairman of the Markets' Committee, it was referred to that committee to make the necessary arrangements for the re-transfer of the market to Lady Burdett-Coutts. In relation to Farringdon Market, Mr. Rudkin asked to have the intended site of the new Farringdon Market more clearly defined than it was at present, in order to obtain the necessary plans. He added he had made the suggestion without any intention to raise a difficulty as to the reconstruction of the market. Mr. Horace Jones, the City architect, undertook to give the necessary information. Mr. Lawley gave notice of his intention to move that the resolution as to the change of site adopted at the last Court be rescinded. On the motion of Mr. Rudkin, it was resolved that it be an instruction to the Cattle Markets' Committee to take prompt and immediate steps to obtain from Her Majesty's Government some concession as to the power to utilise surplus space, or a rectification of charges, with a view to diminish the present heavy loss on the cattle markets. Mr. M'George said he entirely demurred to the policy as stated in the report of the Committee of letting £17,000 go to the capital accounts in relation to Deptford Market. The Markets' Improvement Committee submitted the fifth annual statement of the clerk and superintendent of the Metropolitan Meat and Poultry Market. The total revenue of the market last year amounted to £51,165, being an increase on that of 1873 of £76. The amount received in 1870 was £49,850; in 1871, £50,554; and in 1872, £51,089. While the revenue showed a slight increase, arising from rental, the total amount of toll (£16,818) had been slightly less than that in the previous year (£17,116), but that was probably owing to exceptional circumstances affecting the supply of meat sent to the market during the year. A sum of £8,082 had been paid during the year by the railway companies in respect of the rent of the substructure of the market. The total weight of meat upon which tolls were paid last year was 151,366 tons. The country meat sent to the market amounted to 83,980 tons, and the town and foreign meat to 67,965 tons. The number of loads weighed was 91,561; the average quantity of meat brought into the market weekly was 2,911 tons, and daily 490 tons;

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the *minimum* delivery in any one day was 190 tons, and the *maximum*, being the highest since the opening of the market, 1,095 tons. There was a balance to the good of £6,136, but that result was for the most part due to the payment of rent after seven years' delay by the railway companies. Mr. Fricker, chairman of the Cattle Markets' Committee, brought up a report from them, recommending that they should be authorised to construct from time to time, as might be required, 20 additional slaughter-houses upon ground on the east side of the market, in Copenhagen-fields, contiguous to the Great Northern Railway, at an expense not exceeding £26,000, and to let the same upon lease for 7, 14, or 21 years, at rents varying with the size. In moving its adoption, he said the Court would remember that by the Act of 1844 all private slaughter-houses would become illegal after the end of this year. There might be some attempt to extend the time of the operation of the Act, and also to continue, with some restrictions, private slaughter-houses in the suburban districts; but, however that might be, there could be no doubt that the authorities would insist on their being closed in the crowded streets of the metropolis. There were upwards of 1,500 slaughter-houses in London, but only 28 in the City, most of which were in High-street, Aldgate. He contended that private slaughter-houses were a nuisance, and detrimental to the public health, and he thought, therefore, that it behoved the Corporation to take some steps in the matter, and to provide suitable accommodation for slaughtering in the vicinity of their cattle market. He then explained the plans for the construction of the slaughter-houses, and estimated the annual income from them at nearly £2,000. Upon the motion of Mr. Bone the debate was adjourned.

THE MISAPPLICATION OF POOR-LAW RELIEF.

Just forty years ago there was a great reform in the administration of the English poor-law. It had been shown by a most careful investigation that the former system of administration was pernicious, that it lessened wages, that it demoralised the recipient, and that it pauperised the poor ratepayers. The time was one of suffering and anxiety; a great alarm was felt, and a vigorous struggle was made to resist the evil. And for a time the amendment was remarkable. All the worst evils were lessened and a corresponding good produced. The authors of the reform hoped that it would be permanent, But, unhappily, since then our prosperity has been great and our fears have been lulled, and in consequence the worst practices of the old law have revived upon us with a rapidity and in an intensity which few are aware of. An elaborate report on the system of poor-law relief in the southern counties (by Mr. Woodhouse, a poor-law inspector) has just been published by the Local Government Board, and its contents will dishearten our older readers, who remember former efforts, and who have little idea how far their beneficial results have passed away. The habit of very general, if not of indiscriminate, outdoor relief—the practice formerly most condemned, and that which was thought to have least to say for itself—has again fixed itself over a wide area and in great magnitude. The poor-law inspector tells us "that the workhouse," the legal alternative to illegal outdoor relief, "is no longer offered." "That the workhouse, however, is not offered so frequently as it ought to be, I am convinced not only by the statistics relating to the number of indoor and outdoor paupers, but from my own personal observation of the proceedings of the guardians in this respect, and from the inquiries which I have made upon the subject. It has been stated that the outdoor paupers throughout England are to the indoor in the proportion of eight to one. In many of the unions, however, which I visited the preponderance of persons in receipt of out relief over those maintained in the workhouse is far greater. Thus, to take the three unions, which in the first week of February, 1871, exhibited the highest rate of pauperism in the county of Devonshire—viz., Tiverton, Axminster, and Honiton: In the Tiverton Union at that date the percentage of pauperism upon the population according to the census of 1861, was 8·5 per cent., in Axminster 8·4 per cent., and in Honiton 8·2 per cent. In the Tiverton Union there were on the last day of that week 111 paupers in the workhouse and 2,544 in receipt of out relief; in the Axminister Union there were 145 in the house and 1,518 receiving out relief; and in the Honiton Union the numbers were 90 indoor, against 1,780 outdoor paupers. In the Axminster Union, therefore, less than 5 per cent. of the pauperism was at that date relieved in the workhouse, and in the Tiverton and Honiton Unions less than 5 per cent. Again, taking the expenditure in these unions for the year ended at Lady-day, 1869, I find that out of every £100 expended upon the relief of the poor during that year, £85 in the Axminster Union, £92 in the Tiverton Union, and £93 in the Honiton Union were spent upon out relief. The presumption raised by these statistics, that the workhouse test is not used so frequently as it ought to be, was further confirmed by my own observation and the information I received on the subject, not only in the unions which I have mentioned, but in a very large number of those which I visited. In some unions the guardians acknowledged that although relief in the workhouse only was offered to persons of known bad character, yet the house was not often made use of as a test of destitution' and in many others in which the guardians professed to apply the workhouse test for this purpose it appeared to me from my own observation of the cases disposed of on the day of my visit that out-relief was granted in many cases in which the workhouse might properly have been offered. At Yeovil the chairman, who had been a guardian for thirty-four years, informed me that in the union the workhouse test was not applied nearly so frequently as was formerly the case. At Plymouth I ascertained that during the six months preceding my visit out of about 600 cases disposed of by the guardians in one relief district, orders for admission into the workhouse were given in fifteen cases upon the application of the paupers, while the guardians offered the workhouse as a test in eleven other cases, in not one of which was it accepted." Yet the bad consequences of this system are just now what they were formerly. First, it enables the worst class of employers to obtain labour at a much less price than they otherwise would. Mr. Longley, a local Government inspector, who has reported very ably on Poor-law administration in London, tells us of a case "which occurred in his presence." "A widow, who applied for a renewal of out-relief, stated that her occupation was to clean an office in which she lived rent free, though she received no wages for her work. The relieving officer told the guardians, as indeed was evident, that 'her relief paid her wages,' and that 'if it were discontinued her employer must pay her.' The relief, however, was renewed." Secondly, it reduces most the wages of the poorest and those who can least bear reduction. The same authority tells us of a case where "a chairman of a board of guardians, addressing a widow with two children applying for renewal of relief, said, 'If you can't earn enough to keep you with what we give you, you must come into the workhouse, *we don't profess to give enough to keep you* out of the workhouse.' In another case the view of the guardians was thus frankly explained to me by one of their number: 'Relief in aid is our principle for out-relief, we can only give adequate relief in the workhouse.'" Naturally it is female labour, and the less efficient kinds of male labour, which are exposed to this system. Strong artisans do not ask for it or think of it; and the consequence on the class affected, we are told, may be judged of by the following typical case: "A woman states that she earns from 3s. to 4s. per week, and that she pays 2s. 6d. a week in rent; the weekly relief awarded her, by way compromise, will be 1s. 6d. or 2s., and a loaf of bread, upon which together with the balance of her earnings, it is all but impossible that she can exist." The system fastens on the kind of labour now worst paid, and prevents it from receiving more than the minimum which will support life. Thirdly, we thus encourage thriftlessness and improvidence in ways too obvious to point out at length. Fourthly, it pauperises the poorer ratepayer, for in the end it leads to an expense which he cannot defray. There is indeed an idea that outdoor relief saves money, and there would be an augmented cost if the law were strictly enforced, and if the ablebodied poor were required to go into the workhouse. But Mr. Woodhouse tells us from his experience: "As regards the argument which proceeds upon the ground of economy, I believe that its fallacy may be very readily shown by a simple arithmetical process. This argument

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stated in its simplest form, is as follows: A family applies for relief; if they are given out-relief to the amount of four shillings a week, they will be satisfied; if they come into the workhouse, their maintenance will cost ten shillings a week. The economists therefore argue, that by giving out-relief they will save six shillings a week. Now the very same guardians, who have used this argument, have frequently acknowledged to me, that when the workhouse test is offered, it is not accepted in more than one case out of ten. By offering the workhouse then in ten such cases the guardians would indeed lose six shillings a week in the one case in which it was accepted, but in each of the remaining nine cases they would save four shillings, so that their total gain upon the ten cases would amount to thirty shillings a week. I believe, however, that transparent as the fallacy is, this mistaken notion of economy lies at the root of a large proportion of the out-relief at present given throughout the country, and that if the guardians were generally convinced of the fallacy of the argument employed, they would be more willing than they are at present to make a proper application of the workhouse test." In fact, there is a possibility that the due administration of the law may produce a large augmentation of cost, and therefore the guardians will not risk it, though they know that this large augmentation is most improbable, and that general out-door relief is sure to cause much outlay. They fear the possibility of the larger expenditure, but they do not fear to incur the lesser, though its effect is certain, and in the long run it becomes far more. A commercial firm thus managed would very soon have to be wound up. We fear that in rural districts the Union Chargeability Bill is not working well. Mr. Woodhouse reports on this as follows: "There cannot in the first place fail to be instances in which a guardian, well acquainted with the circumstances of some case from his own parish, is tempted to divest himself of his judicial character as a member of the board, and, assuming that of an advocate of the applicant, to urge some relaxation of the mode in which the guardians would, under ordinary circumstances, deal with the case. His brother guardians are, in the absence of the pauper, unable to support their own views by questioning him, and ascertaining his condition for themselves, and being compelled to rely solely upon the report of the relieving officer, and the opinion which has been expressed by the guardian of the parish, give way against their better judgment, and assent to the relief which he has proposed. The guardian, whose views have thus been adopted, is naturally willing to assent to the wishes of each of his brother guardians in turn under similar circumstances, and thus, without being consciously actuated by any improper motives, Boards of Guardians are constantly led to depart in practice from what they would in theory acknowledge to be sound principles of poor-law administration. At a meeting of a Board of Guardians, which I attended in an agricultural union in the West of England, I took occasion to call their attention to the exceptionally high rate of pauperism which prevailed in their union, and to several points which appeared to me objectionable in their mode of administering relief. A large number of guardians were present, and in the course of the discussion which ensued, one member of the board stated it as his belief that the large majority of the guardians agreed individually with what I had said, and were prepared to assent to the principles which I had endeavoured to enforce, 'but somehow,' he added, 'when we come to act as a board, we don't carry them out.' None of the other guardians expressed any dissent from this statement, and I have no reason to doubt that it was correct." In former times the paupers of each parish were chargeable on that parish only, and then the guardian for that parish who knew them applied all his mind and all his knowledge to prove that they ought not to come upon the rates; but now the charge of the paupers is distributed over the whole union, so that each guardian only thinks of getting the people of his own parish helped in the way they most wish to be helped, and in so burdening the funds of the whole union, the representative of each parish aids all the others. The only comfort which these reports give us is that the magnitude of the evil seems in some places to be working its own cure. People are beginning to be alarmed at it, and to take steps to lessen if not remove it. In some parts of London a considerable reform has already been effected. By taking advantage of a fairly, though not extraordinarily favourable movement, the guardians of a single union at the East End have reduced the number of paupers receiving out-of-door relief in the following extraordinary manner:

NUMBERS IN RECEIPT OF OUT RELIEF.

1st week August, 1872	2,584
— 1873	1,366
Decrease	1,218

or 47 per cent. And in spite of this great reduction in the number receiving outdoor relief, the addition to the number receiving indoor relief was very trifling.

NUMBERS IN THE WORKHOUSE.

1st week August, 1872	720
— 1873	808
Increase	88

which is not to be considered in comparison.

And the effect on the cost of relief has been equally satisfactory:

	£	s.	d.
In 1st week of August, 1872, the cost of outdoor relief was	164	13	10
— 1873	90	16	10
Reduction	73	17	0
And in the same period the 88 additional inmates of the workhouse only cost..	18	6	8
Leaving a net gain on the week of.....	55	11	2

or 33½ per cent.

If so much can be done by care and watchfulness at the East End of London, where there are many poor and few resident rich to attend to them, surely more might be done in such districts as the West End, where the rich are comparatively many, or in the rural districts, where the poor are comparatively few.—*The Economist.*

RIPON AND CLARO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At the show held at Ripon, the only class in which there is a falling off is Shorthorns, several of the most noted exhibitors being absent. A special prize of £10 for the best bull of two years and upwards was gained by Mr. William Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York, with Sir Arthur Ingram; and the second by Bismarc, another animal of Booth blood, the property of Mr. George Yeats, Studley. In Shorthorn cows and heifers a special prize of £5, given by Mrs. Staively, was gained by Lady Louisa, a white animal, of three years and six months, the property of Mr. T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick; and in the same class, Dairy Girl, a roan the property of Mr. Hutchinson, was second. For the best heifer, in-calk or milk, under three years, and for the best heifer above one and under two years, Mr. Hutchinson also stood first with two roans, Lady Playful and Wild Cherry. In the classes for cattle of any breed, or a cross, dairy cows were a fine class, so much so, indeed, that the judges commended the whole lot. Among the horses animals for agricultural purposes showed a great improvement on former years. Much greater attention appears to have been given to the breeding of these horses, and one of the judges considered those exhibited as one hundred per cent. better than those shown on previous occasions. The two and three-year-olds formed the most noted classes. A prize of £10, for the best hunting gelding or mare of any age, was gained by Jester, the property of Mr. T. H. Hutchinson; and a special prize of £10, for the best four-year-old gelding or filly for hunting, by Amontillado, the property of Mr. T. H. Foden, Givendale Grange. The judges were—For horses: T. B. Colton, Newark. E. Hall, Barton, Darlington; J. Johnson, Brigham, Hull; and G. Cooper, Woolley, Wakefield. Cattle: R. Botterill, Wauldby, Brough; and T. Wetherill, Claypath, Durham. Sheep and pigs: T. Stamper, Highfield, Oswaldkirk; and C. Wright, Oglethorpe Hall, Tadcaster.

IRISH CATTLE IN SCOTLAND.—So long as the surplus store cattle of Ireland come so unrestrictedly over to England and Scotland, the endeavours of local authorities to extinguish the disease are not likely to be crowned with success. Unless uniform and stringent measures are adopted on both sides of the Irish Channel, a clean bill of health will be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. It is within the mark to say that about 90 per cent. of the Scotch outbreaks are more or less directly traceable to the importation of Irish cattle.—*The North British Agriculturist.*

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THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

MEETING AT BEDFORD.

Bedford is a circular course; a dead flat and good turf, about two miles from the town—So runs the official description as taken from the pages of WEATHERBY. But Bedford race-course has now been turned to other uses: it is just eighty years since a Duke of Bedford gave a fifty-pound plate for three-year-olds, which has been continued up to the present time by his successors at Woburn Abbey. The new Duke, however, has determined to withhold this annual grant, and the Autumn meeting as something of a consequence has fallen through. The very stand has been converted into a show manufactory, and the local sportsmen who were wont to do battle here for hunters' stakes and farmers' cups have turned their thoughts, like the course itself, into another channel. A Magniac shows a Shorthorn heifer, a Purser a Shire filly, and the Queen's Plate, for which there can be now no call over the alloted three miles, should be transferred to the horse-ring.

As we were enabled to intimate from the ground in our last paper, the number of entries is in some marked excess of the head of stock actually sent on to the show. Indeed, in some of the sections, or more especially amongst the pigs, a large proportion of the pens were vacant; as, if we are to believe all we hear, the Royal pig competition is for a variety of reasons a feature which is fast growing into a disgrace to the meeting. No needy "leg" ever played such tricks on Bedford race-course as were played during the past week, and if the Council will hold its own it must not be content with periodical disqualifications, but at once institute an inquiry with a view to the more thorough reform of an abuse of which everybody but the direction would appear to be cognisant.

Still, in other places the front offered from the first was not a very bold one; and, as we stated last week, the Herefords and Devons are a short show, as also are the Sussex; while the Eastern Counties' red polls, despite the spurt of the new Herd Book, do not not mark much advance in the show-ring. Considering the recognised worth for "general purposes" of the Hereford, the demonstration was at most but moderate, the competition, on an average, not exceeding six or seven in a class, with much of "the quality" but a twice-told tale after Bristol. Thus, Winter-de-Cote, Von Moltke 2nd, King of the Dale, Tredegar, Sunflower, Rosaline, Lady Stanton, and Verbena stood prominently on the prize-list as they previously had done, although occasionally with some little revision. The most noticeable and, to our thinking, the least justifiable of these changes was now placing the low, lengthy, and charming Sunflower below her companion Rosaline; while the well-known Lady Milton separates the Glamorganshire pair. This may be perhaps best explained by the fact that Sunflower has calved since Bristol, and so, what with her travels and travail, has naturally lost some of her bloom; but for fine, true cow character Sunflower is still the best of her class. The tendency is to go too much for mere flesh in a show Hereford, as this was very marked amongst the bulls, some of whom, with the winner Winter-de-Cote amongst them, looked to have fed and thrived beyond any very active service. Old Bachelor, short of coat but otherwise wearing well, again, got into position amongst the all-aged bulls; but the class only ran to four all told, as the other prize was but a foil in such company. The second Moltke has already quite gone behind, and King of the Dale is growing into a plain but useful bull; while the third from Usk way is of nice quality, an Mr. Taylor's best yearling, with a deal of liberty, out promises to make more mark in the ring, if in the interim they do not kill him with kindness. Saving the second, the class was not very strong, but there were two or three smart things amongst the bull-calves beginning again with the stylish "breedy" Regulator. There was only one two-year-old heifer sent, and she won as previously, mainly from want of competition; as with Mr. James not in the entry, Mr. Philip Turner's brace of yearlings followed each other as in the West; but we again sought in vain the Leen beauties, Exquisite and Satellite, and anywhere the show of Herefords in the Midlands was not so good as it should have been when we remember how the steers thrive in the Shires.

The Devons furnished a decidedly more insipid exhibition, as they have lost the master mind at Flitton Barton, and the repute of the once famous North Devon has clearly fled from the home county, by which in eight classes only one first prize was retained. Mr. Farthing, in fact, occasionally against the scantiest opposition, did very much as he pleased, as he was first in the four bull classes, and first and second for two-year-old heifers. Master Harry and Robin and Kingcraft, and the Davy Dukes are household words over whose merits or doings we do not care to tell thrice-told tales; nor are the Dorsetshire Pictures nor the Buckinghamshire Roses hardly less known about; but any such repetition was relieved in the commended class of yearling heifers, where Mr. Perry from Lewdown won with a particularly neat one of his own breeding, Her Majesty, Lord Falmouth, and a Moss Rose giving emphasis to such a victory. The heifer calves were also generally commended, with the Bristol first still first, but with Mr. Smith exhibiting another Picture as the second prize. In the companion class the Stowey Disraeli, very promising and blood-like, was the youngest calf in the class, beating the best of Bristol; and no question amongst the younger animals there was a much-needed infusion of new blood, which did something to relieve the Bedford show of Devons of a certain tameness and sameness consequent on encountering a *few* animals over and over again:

Now Munster beat Worcester—
Now Worcester got first, sir.

The Sussex entry was not so strong as it should have been, an occasional miss or jump in the catalogue showing that some exhibitors were already satisfied: the best cow at Bristol was not shown, and the Stanford's cow which beat her at Reading, was here only highly commended, the winner cropping up in old Colley. Then, the best bull at Bristol was now merely the reserve, without even a commendation, and the then second was here first, and so forth; the two "odd" judges only holding to the previous line over the heifers, where they again placed Auburn first and the Heasman's Marie Stuart second; as of Bristol we thus wrote: "the champion of the Sussex was Mr. Agate's level, blood-like, and really handsome two-year-old, the first yearling at Plymouth, and surely something of a model to improve by"; as since then Auburn has been the only Sussex which has kept her lead on the showground, so that the title of Champion was not much out of place. If Mr. Pitcher represented the red horns Mr. Overman took his nomination for the red polls, of which in all there were about twenty exhibited, with the competition mainly coming

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from Norfolk and all the prizes confined to that county. Drawn from their standings to a hole-and-corner ring, which few people ever found, or tried to find, the public appraisement of this breed of stock created little or no interest, if we except only amongst the exhibitors themselves or their stewards. In truth, with a keen instinct as to popular tastes, the directors so mapped out the ground that the Herefords, the Devons, the Sussex, and the red polls were all put into the shade, while the Shorthorns and the Jerseys took up their positions on the very highway which stretched across the course from the entrance to the horse-ring.

Still fashionable as is the Shorthorn, it is certainly remarkable how carefully the more fashionable herds keep clear of the showground. Mr. Booth has retired, and Colonel Gunter has retired; how long is it since that Grand Duchess was exhibited? and, although Lord Dunmore did once show a heifer or two, his lordship's experience in this way seems to have agreed pretty much with that of the man who was married, who thereon declared that he would never do so any more. There are highly-bred animals led into the ring no question, but the stranger who expected to find here anything of the two or three-thousand-guineas sample would have looked in vain alike through the prize list or the catalogue. Mr. Booth was about the last of the great herd-owners to withdraw, and since then it is only fair to say that we have never seen a Lady Fragrant. Nevertheless, or rather as the very legitimate consequence of great sales and great shows, the improvement, as tested by pedigree, has gradually become very manifest at these annual expositions, for blood is now as essential in a Shorthorn as in a race-horse; and, morever, he must show much of this in his frame, air, and character. So well, then, did the show of this famous breed open at Bedford that the judges were enabled to generally commend the class of old bulls, which included such well-known animals as Telemachus, Lord Irwin, the Earl of Warwickshire, Duke of Aosta, Duke of Wetherby 7th, Leeman and Protector. It took a deal of time to get through the fourteen or fifteen bulls thus paraded, although from the first the race seemed to be between three or four. Of these, the young bull Aosta was much liked, as he has gone on famously, and if not perfect over his quarters, has a good, high-bred bull's look about him, backed by a capital touch. The Knight Templar also showed well, and Leeman, despite the way in which he is occasionally put aside, is an animal of some "presence," with really useful quality. The judges, however, went for their first prize to another of Mr. Linton's breeding—the white Lord Irwin, a wreck of what he was; all odds-and-ends, short in his coat, and sadly lacking style and nobility in his appearance. At five years old he never looked worse; whereas at six years old Telemachus has seldom looked better, having now quite recovered from his illness, and showing to far more advantage than he did at Hull. In fact, as a true-framed, really handsome bull, not over-marked, Telemachus is just now something of a model Shorthorn, and the judges accordingly put Lord Irwin before him! The white may overshadow the roan in mere size—but that is not much of "a point," in a bull—or ragged, rusty, and lathy be thought more fit for use; but by any proper comparison between two animals it was as unseemly and as unpopular a decision as ever was announced. Telemachus first and the Duke of Aosta second would have been a deal better received. Of the fourth-prize Protector we said when he won so unexpectedly at Bristol that "in or out we seldom saw a bull show himself worse: he has a dreary, hang-dog look on parade, and stands as ungainly as can be in his stall. Indeed, he lacks not only style but masculine bearing, and is just a good bit of beef with a broad back and finish quarters, but mean and drooping forward.." It is doubtfu whether Protector had really any claim to stand as high as he did at Bedford; but then one of the Bristol judges came on with him.

The two-year-old Shorthorn bulls were a moderate lot, with a number of plain animals in the class, and nothing very extraordinary in the way of contrast. As showy a bull bull as any out was the third prize, Oxford Cheerboy, of good length, and with a certain smartness of carriage nicely set-off by great liberty of action, which every animal ought to have. The winner, Sir Arthur Ingram, has improved since we first saw him this season, and has a more comely look, but he will never be a very taking bull, and his quality is still his chief merit. The third, housed at Panton, but bred at Aylesby threatens to grow coarse, especially about his head and horn; but there was not much more to pick and choose from. The yearlings. running up in the entry to close upon thirty, were far better, headed as they were by the bull of his year, Lord Godolphin, who had profited much by his few days' rest at Biddenham, and came out again quite fresh, so that his place was a foregone conclusion. He is a very charming, if rather airy bull, but all over a gentleman, to whom the useful Prince Rupert finished but a moderate second, although he fairly beat Rapid Rhone, put above him at Bristol, when we questioned the soundness of the decision. In truth Lady Pigot's young bull is already growing so faulty that his right even to third-best was disputed by one of Mr. George Garne's breed which was making its mark here and there at Bedford. This class was remarkable in one way for the number of yearling bulls bred in or on the borders of the county: by Mr. Fowler at Henlow, Mr. Barnett at Stratton, Mr. Wythes at Ravensden, and Mr. Sartoris at Rushden; but the Bedfordshire Shorthorns could do nothing at Bedford. A large class of bull-calves will probably do a deal more harm than good, as showing calves ranks very much with running two-year-olds; for though a few may wear through the process far more are ruined in the preparation. Colonel Lindsay's Lord Rockville, as at Bristol, was still the prize baby, against stronger competition.

In consequence of Victoria Victrix not having had a calf within the twelve months, she was disqualified, although due to calve in a few weeks; and thus any further contest between her and Vivandiere stands adjourned to the All-Yorkshire show at Sheffield. A deal of the interest in the cow class further evaporated, by the many entries absent, Mr. Foljambe "scratching" his nominations; although Mr. Outhwaite had still to encounter a number of not quite first-class animals like Her Majesty's Cold Cream, Lord Exeter's Moll Gwynne, Mr. Hutchinson's entries, and one or two more from the Strattons. The second best, however, turned up in a pretty milking kind of cow, but getting gandy behind, from Mr. George Garne's herd; with another nice dappled roan bred by Mr. Hutchinson for third, the white from Catterick being too big to travel far. On the whole, it was a still a comparatively large rather than a particularly good class of Shorthorn cows.

"In the heifer class, Lady Pigot's red heifer, the famous Rose of Wytham, has been overdone, and, as she threatened last season, is now showing coarse, steery, and lumpy; so that she was well beaten by Messrs. Hosken's white, a straight symmetrical Oxford, showing rather light and lathy from having been a deal about of late, first at Barnstable in one week, and not only first again but the champion cow or heifer at St. Austell in the week following, and that immediately preceding Bristol. At Barnstaple our report, written by an accomplished Shorthorn breeder, declared that 'in the heifers not exceeding three years old Messrs. Hosken exhibited a perfect gem—thick, mellow, tubular, and worthy of competition

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anywhere;' as again, our special correspondent at St. Austell, another Shorthorn breeder, said 'Moss Rose takes the cup as the best female in any class of cattle, and a charming heifer she is.' So that she goes on to Bedford with a character, not merely from about home, as she also beat here Baroness Conyers, the third prize to the Rose of Wytham at Hull, and now growing into quite a grand heifer, with a fine straight top, as considered by many the best of the class, which included two or three more smart things." It was thus that we wrote at Bristol amonth or so since, and now the highly-commended heifer is placed first, and the then first only highly-commended; another example of Mr. Aylmer's inconsequential impartiality, as he did not appear to be making any great stand for the white at Bedford. With more scale Baroness Conyers was perhaps properly preferred to the Cornwall Moss Rose, but that so elegant a heifer as the white can be beaten again, just for size and coarseness, by the third or fourth prizes here, we do not believe; nor is there much to fancy in the flashy Irish heifer put second. If they all go on as they are going now, the transplanted Moss Rose will have her revenge, and yet do something for Bedfordshire.

Amongst the yearlings another Wytham was put out in favour of Lord Sudeley's improving Seraphina, although neither of these nor Mr. Statter's Moss Rose could make any stand against the Dorset Queen Mary, by Grand Duke of Oxford (28763), out of Queen Anne, by Lord Stanley 2nd (26745), still the champion Shorthorn of the time, if, as with the Sussex, a somewhat peculiar title for a heifer to maintain. There were two or three well-merited commendations in the class, but these were nothing to an animal which has already beaten Telemachus, Vivandiere, Victoria Victrix, Lord Godolphin, and Baroness Conyers on their merits. The heifer-calves have been put about again with inconsequential impartiality; but it is a significant sign that but few herds of any great eminence are represented here; and, as at Bristol, we question whether the lot will prove worth much hereafter. Colonel Lloyd Lindsay, however, holds these two small trumps—the best bull-calf and the best heifer-calf—in his hand.

Last year, and if we remember aright for some years previously, "the cattle of any breed" were specified to be cows and heifers "for breeding and milking purposes;" but the conditions have now been revised to cows and heifers "not eligible for entry in any Herd Book." We cannot say that this alteration is on the face of it an improvement, but rather an innovation opposed to the first principles of the Society. Cattle without pure pedigrees or mere crosses should not be recognised at our great national breeding show, where in any such extra classes the aim should be, as it was originally so intended, to encourage or to direct more attention to the development of milk-producing properties. With no such instructions the levelest-looking or best got-up win, and all the prizes in the two classes went to Shorthorns, some with high-sounding pedigrees attached to their names; whilst amongst the others opposed to this breed were crosses, Ayrshires, a Kerry, and a Jersey. It would be instructive to hear the grounds upon which the judges—the two odd men—arrived at the conclusions they did, and whether they took milk into much account? There is quite a sufficiency of beefy cows and heifers amongst the several breeds as so arranged, and these extras under the new arrangement are labouring under a mistake. Such classes would seem to have no purpose whatever, unless it be the inducement to drop half a pedigree or to substitute a pure-bred for a cross-bred. On the turf nothing ever led to the practice of so much petty roguery as cocktail racing, or, in other words, the introduction of stakes for horses *not* thorough-bred.

"There is a great entry of Alderneys," as we reported from the ground on Monday last; as, in fact, for numerical strength the Jerseys are far away before the Devons or Sussex, as they count up to more than even the Herefords, although competing only in three classes against eight of the "established breeds." The merit, moreover, is proportionately great, as was demonstrated not only by the many proved good animals in the ring, but by the prizes going occasionally clean away from such famous herds as those of Messrs. Gilby, Simpson, Digby, and others. Thus, in the bull class the best of all was declared to be a grey two-year-old from the neighbouring herd at Luton Hoo, but *island-bred*, as by the best bull in all Jersey of a season or two since; and Fitz-Yankee looks his lineage, being full of style and courage. The second prize is of Mr. Simpson's sort, from which herd the well-known Crocus was placed third; but amongst the heifers Mr. Leigh again came to the front with a fawn, bred at the Hoo, very ladylike, straight, and taking, while Duchess was the preferred of Mr. Gilby's team, the judges further holding much to their reserve, Lord Braybrooke's Flame, the heifer of which we spoke so highly when she came out the other day at Stratford. Messrs. Simpson and Middleton were here doing their best, although the great show of Jerseys, the best perhaps ever seen in this country, was that of the cows, which was so good that it might have been reasonably and fairly commended. There was almost everything in it but old Milkmaid, which Mr. Gilby had entered amongst the other breeds, though he was still strong enough to take first and second in "the best of all good company;" as the prize list will tell of Duchess, Medora, Tal, and Pretty Maid, further backed by the reserve, Mr. Morton Shaw's grandly-framed old cow, quite in show form, and, if anything, going too much to beef. The entry ran up to twenty-five, with Mr. Leigh, Lord Chesham, Mr. Ramsden, and Lord Braybrook here making no mark. The decisions, it must be said, created a deal of discussion, while the judges themselves will make a formal protest through their report to the objectionable practice of "stocking" the cows' udders, of which there were many cases at Bedford. There was, however, no colouring amongst the Guernseys, of which Mr. Watson was the only exhibitor, Lord Vernon's capital Jersey bull having been entered by mistake as a Guernsey; or against his own breed Billy might have done something. With many Jersey fanciers springing up, Mr. Gilby would be still much missed, although his herd may be dispersed should he leave Stanstead, as is now threatened.

Admirably arranged were the shedding for the horses and the three rings for judging and showing off their paces, while nothing could be in better taste than the stand, which was open from end to end at the same fee to the "dook" and the "mock dook." And this went a great way in making this part of the show so much more pleasant than dull, as when people are penned off like other breeds, which at an agricultural show, where landlord and a distinctive tenant are supposed to meet in friendly competition for the good cause, is almost as ridiculous as the introduction of caste into a cemetery. Great credit is due to the two Centaurs, Messrs. Leeds and Milward, for the manner in which they performed their onerous duties; but still we think the Royalists ought to set an example to other shows, as they need it, by fining the owners of skulking grooms who shuffle out of the parade: while one steward could not resist a practical exhibition of his sense of the ridiculous, by actually jumping up behind Mr. C. Wilson when on his grey cob, which, with two to one on him, cantered round the ring! The melodious strains of the Arcadian nightingales, assisted by the mules, seemed to be the call of the roll, for during their trumpetings the thorough-bred, roadster and agricultural stallions marched into separate rings. The entry of

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horses was one of the largest the Society has ever had, numbering 404; but of these there were several absentees, and we think the 384 at Manchester in 1869 a better show at least of thorough-bred stallions and hunters.

In fact, the thorough-bred stallions and hunters have fallen away, and we do not wonder at it, for as a rule the judges, like greedy little boys among the tarts, pounce upon the largest, and the owners of the right sort get disgusted; while tip-top hunters, well known in the Midlands and Yorkshire, have not stood a chance with some sleek, fed-up, heavy machiner, or gay, peacocky flatcatchers, which never did a day's work or saw a fence, because the tried good ones may have had a scar or two, or showed the effects of work, or thorns in the legs. If this is the way to encourage the right sort, we might as well choose our commander-in-chief by weight, and make generals of every man-milliner, so as to induce men of spirit to enter the army—or rather to keep out of it. There were seven thorough-bred staillions—viz., Christmas Carol, twelve years old, by Rataplan out of Mistletoe, by Melbourne, a deep compact-made horse, whose grand quarters, great thighs, and beautifully-placed hind legs almost make up for a tendency to take after his sire in the shoulders; but he went fumbling to what he did at Cardiff, where he was second, as he was also to Gladiateur when nine-and-twenty started for the Derby, where he struck us as a remarkably nice stout-built horse. If Laughing Stock, by Stockwell out of Gaiety by Touchstone, had quarters, thighs, and hocks like Christmas Carol, and as well placed, with deep well-laid shoulders instead of short Touchstone ones, and his sternum below the elbow instead of above it, with longer arms and shorter cannon-bones—and if he struck out from the shoulder instead of that up-and-down pump-handle business which comes so natural to short-armed horses,—we might fall in love with him as a hunter stallion. Citadel, by Stockwell out of Sortie, is a great horse, but too long in the back while Masinissa, a nice-sized nag by the Flying Dutchman, out of Calpurnia by Ion, was preferred to him by some judges from a county which has gained greater fame for calves than horses. King John by Kingston, out of Dinah, by Clarion, is very handsome, and free from lumber, with capital loins. He looks like a gentleman, and when four years old was as gay a stepper as we ever saw. Some judges who have acted in the ring would have put him first, but it would take a side of the paper to put down the different opinions. Stockdale, by Stockwell, out of Hesse Homburg, by Robert de Gorham, and Thunderer, by Thunderbolt, out of Homily by Surplice, are not likely to increase their owners' store in the show ring; though still, we remember Laughing Stock as leggy as the chesnut, but Thunderer has not the flash, flatcatching, pump-handle action which may be attained with a lunging rein, sand-bags on the feet, and logs of timber placed three feet apart. Lessons daily! In a good class of hunting brood mares, the well-known prize mare, Lady Derwent, took first honours, seconded by Lady Line, which was not so great a favourite with us as The Wren, well known in Lincolnshire, or Mr. Spraggon's Jess. Mr. Horrocks Miller's Flora is a nice mare; and the well known Go-ahead as a prize mare was also among the lot, but she has seen her day in the ring. The two-year-old hunting fillies were not grand, and we preferred the second to the first. Tom King, in a little better class, is a good looking two-year-old gelding by Dalesman; and Mr. Westley Richards' gelding by Knight of Khars, very neat, with a hunting forehand. Mr. H. Miller's Victor II. has legs, and is more likely to gain a name in the Cocksure Cavalry than as a hunter, as for that he wants more of the cut of Mr. Cooper's Lord Liverpool. Ebor Witch, the first three-year-old hunting filly, is a strapping one, while the second, Honeydew, showed breed on a short leg, and Sabina useful looks with action. The three-year-old geldings were headed by Sober Truth, a mover, and second at Alexandra Park; the Black Prince, which beat him, there being in the catalogue but "a *non est* man." Lord Spencer's chestnut by Dalesman, is quite a chip of the old block; Mr. J. Booth's Berwick deep-topped and up to weight, and Mr. H. Miller's Victor showing blood, but Mr. Chas. Cooper Hayward, on Wellington, did not remind us of the Iron Duke's varmint seat. There were three decent hunting four-year-old mares, and as many prizes: the first being a deep-topped one by King Christian; the second, Rosebud, very nice, with breed; and the third, Magic, with good hind-leg action. The four-year-old geldings, numbering sixteen, were a very fair class, the winner turning up in King of Diamonds, a second in the London district. He is an even-made, short-legged horse with a plain head, and his hind legs too far away from him. Cornishman—a gentleman to look at—galloped quick and even round the ring with his groom; but Mr. Jacob Smith, a good horseman, did not get the handling of his mouth, as he never went a yard while the judge was up in any pace. How often have we remarked that it is impossible for the finest horseman to get on friendly terms in a short time with some new mounts! and how long would a dealer's man hold office had he made such a show for a master! Yet, when talking about the nags to some judges, who for their country's sake and the breed of horses we should not like to see joining in polo, and still always feel more comfortable when they are on terra firma, they who wind up with "Ah! but I've ridden him.' Reindeer, a long light one of Mr. Trueman Mills, galloped in style with a reaching stride; and Mr. Horrell's Emperor, a neat, compact little horse went in a way to make one think it would be a pleasure to own such a nag; Mr. Hutchinson's Breakaway could move, and with breed was a very showy gentleman; while Mr. Westley Richards had some neat blood-like light weights in this class, and Mr. S. Jefferies' Black Prince, Mr. W. Bradburn's Gunstone, and Mr. C. Hayward's Richelieu were worthy of notice.

By the looks of those up in not an extraordinary class of five-year-olds we should say they could not see the joke of giving the Jester the red ribbon, though a first prize horse at Harrowgate, who also beat Joe Bennett at Alexandra. The second, Yellow Jack, is a tight-made hunting-like horse, and the third a capital goer, as a nag to be desired, being full of blood, the property of Mr. Westley Richards. Of his highly-commended, Weston, we are sorry we cannot speak in the same strain, as he is a fearful disher and if you look at him from behind, his fore-feet are at least a yard and a half apart. Mr. T. Percival's Dolly Varden, Mr. T. Battams' The Baron, Mr. R. Horrell's Gay Lass, and some others were worthy of notice; while Ruby, from Thetford, was not to be daunted by his mishap at Islington. The five-year-olds and upwards were good, The Baron being a compact clever-looking horse, without lumber; and Rufus, also from the same stable, was a very nice stamp of horse, and we think the best goer, but Mullingar is a nice-made one, and a good goer; he has a good length of pastern, which some people consider an advantage to a horse, as they are generally very pleasant riding; but his pasterns are not near so long as Landmark's, the great prize-taker of a year or two back. Mr. Hutton's Iron King, a second weight-carrier at Islington and ridden by the judges, had no luck here or at Alexandra. Mr. Armstrong's The Banker was in the catalogue, but not present, as his owner parted with him at a good price, after a successful career in the show ring.

This year there were no prizes for pony stallions

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although there were some for mares, which we think a mistake, as we do not see how the breed is to be encouraged without the stallion. Sir George, a constant attendant at the Royal, and a pony which we have so often described as a model, is well worth the £15 to show people the kind of nag required, and though there was no pony stallion prize, Mr. Wilson was not be stalled off with four first Royals, and so entered him in the hackney stallions, and to his delight his fourteen hands of horseflesh for which he has refused £500 was king of the lot! looking like a pocket Hercules even by the side of the Great Gun, the Orson of roadsters, of which Sir George is Valentine. Mr. Lepper, the well-known veterinarian of the Vale of Aylesbury, was second with Rapid Roan, a refined specimen of the Norfolk roadster, and a grand easy goer, a nag pretty well known in the ring some years back, and once first at Islington. The third was a neat chesnut from Hasketon; and as there is a strike in that part of the country, we should think the Major had imported his groom from Holland. Mr. Branwhite's Defiance, Mr. Balderston's Norfolk Hero, Mr. Lockhart's Dick Turpin, and several other well-known show horses were in the gathering. There was a small but good class of hackney mares with foals; and Major Quentin, so well known in the lists, was declared the champion knight in a capital muster of hackney mares and geldings up to not less than 12 stone with Sparkling Moselle, a very high-stepping park hack, whose hind-leg action scarcely corresponded with that of her fore. Mr. Stephenson's Princess, a very stylish-stepping dark chesnut mare, which was second at Hull last year, and third at Alexandra Park this year was second here, while Mr. F. C. Matthews's handsome brown mare Ozone is a first at Hull, unnoticed at Islington, a queen at Alexandra, and nobody at Bedford. Does the mare lose her action at one place and gain it at another? or is it simply the freedom of opinion which we love so much? although that miserable poltroon, Mr. Toady, says, "It's absurd to differ with the judges," or, in other words, we should have a blind belief in everything. The third prize, Maud, was a very nice mare, and so was Ladylike from the same stable, as we noticed in our Essex report. Then Mr. Hornsby was represented by his stylish-stepping grey Ballet Girl, Mr. Spraggon with Duchess of Tyne, Mr. Purser with a three-year-old chesnut, Polly, and Mr. Day with Rockross.

In the hackney geldings or mares up to not less than 14 stone, it was "enter prize" when Mr. Harvey Bayly's thickset clever horse came into the ring, Mr. Frisby's old mare Filbert playing second, and Mr. W. Richards' nice black third, with the merry-going Kitty of Mr. Grout, the well-known dealer of Woodbridge, commended. There were two nice lots of ponies, the battle in the first lot being between Princess Louise and Princess Polo, well-known on the London circuit; the first, a very clever roan, and the second, a nice stepping iron grey, spoilt by a hog mane; while the third, King-fisher, is a very showy, thick-set black.

One hundred pounds given for jackasses and mules, and nothing for stallion ponies! while the only benefit we derived from an inspection of the shaggy strangers was to make everything else appear more beautiful, and to be grateful that we lived in a country where such monsters are not required. Is it absolutely necessary that the ass for agricultural purposes should be the ugliest and dullest-looking brute to be found in creation? or that a cart-horse must have a large coffin head and a small pig eye, to make him docile? for in the noisy streets of London we see hundreds of nags that can do their twelve miles an hour with neat heads and a full, intelligent eye, driven up to customers' doors, all of which, with the exception of tossing their heads up and down, showing they take a delight in the business, stand quieter than jackasses. In fact, there is no darkness but ignorance, and the more dull the animal the more difficult he is to manage; as we hope, when compulsory education gains a footing, that these old prejudices will be things of the past.

The agricultural horses made a strong show, but some of the decisions caused a little astonishment, not that we find fault with the judges for giving an unbiassed opinion, but rather admire them for it, right or wrong, as there is nothing so bad as a follow-my-leader bench, and nothing can do more injury to the good cause. Among the two-year-old agricultural stallions not qualified to compete as a Clydesdale or Suffolk, were some useful horses, Grand Prince, first at Cambridge and Essex, being a well-built horse, but Mr. Golden's Champion was light in his thighs, and Mr. Russell's dark bay not much to look at. Mr. Hipwell's red roan is nicely made, and Mr. Sander's Active very properly named, and a good stamp of light cart horse. A very grand class was the agricultural stallions, foaled before 1872, not including Clydesdale or Suffolk, where that model of a cart horse, Le Bon, and well-known rival of Honest Tom and Young Champion, of Stand Hall, was soon drafted, as was Mr. Stokes' Young Champion, in which we quite agree, and said as much in our notice of Alexandra Park, where he was first, Mr. Statter's Champion second, and Le Bon third; while Pride of England at the Park is highly commended, but not thought worthy of it here, and the commended King Tom at Alexandra comes in for third honours at Bedford. Such is the change in events in one short week. Yet it is absurd to differ with judges! The first youngster, Heart of Oak, preferred to the old horses, is a very fine-grown, good-looking three-year-old, bred by Mr. Foster, of Brooklands, Cambridge; and King Tom, also by Honest Tom, which was bought for £20 as a yearling, is a nice light, active colt, and the second two-year-old at Hull. There were many, very many, really nice horses in an entry of twenty-five, and if the judges had commended half of them they would not have been over gracious. The two-year-old Clydesdale colt was a level, short-legged animal, but his opponent Prince Arthur, the property of the Queen, was sent empty away as having no merit. Who shall say this is not a free country? Young Lofty, once the pride of the Clydesdales and the show yard, and now in his thirteenth year, does not look so grand, as he has begun to fade, as many country stallions do long before they get to that age. But we cannot always be young and gay, and his good looks have gained him some enemies, he and Sensation, the grand stepping grey, being the great aversion of one judge who breeds cart horses remarkable for their heavy sack—full looking tops, the weakest of thighs, short-horn forelegs, and infirm feet—flatcatchers in fact—Three years in succession, the Duke, a seven-year-old Clydesdale, well made, and a mover, takes the second honours against four others. The Suffolk two-year-olds were good with about ten of them. The Templar, a big colt, has the old-fashioned shoulder into the neck, and heavy at the points, with all the weight thrown forward, so that he appears to be always industrious whether in or out of harness, standing at ease or lying down. It may be the right conformation, but we always fancy a horse made so looks more like going on his head than going a-head. The second is a handsome colt, while another of Major Garrett's is a promising one, which we spoke favourably of in Essex, though only commended here. Defendant is a smart nag, and Mr. Byford's reserve could move. The Suffolk mares in foal or with foal at foot were a good class, and they pleased us better than the entire horses; while in the mares of any breed, in a small class the chesnuts played

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second and reserve to Mr. G. Street's good-looking roan, Cardiff Lass. There were three or four nice two-year-old Suffolk fillies, one being a bay by Mr. J. Rist's Emperor, which Mr. Derham of Hazlewood, Southgate, says is a pure-bred one. There was a grand class of mares in-foal or with foals, the first being the well-known Lincolnshire Royal Duchess, and the second the quite-as-well-known free-stepping roan Beauty of Bedford, who was second in this class at Cardiff to Mr. Crowe's Smart, and again at Hull, in the same place, to his Flower, where she beat Royal Duchess, which was third. Honest Lass, about which there was such a to-do at Ipswich, as first in Essex, where Royal Duchess was highly commended, is the reserve number here. But if we keep on shifting them about in this way, we shall get into a muddle, so leave it to the next bench to decide which is the best. Diamond, a black cart mare for which we have often said a good word, is now the property of Messrs. James and Frederick Howard. A fair show of Clydesdale mares was headed by the celebrated Mrs. Muir, the late Mr. Muir having bred her. We do not quite see the joke of christening horses after the breeders and their wives, or those that might have sold them, as if jackasses and mules come into fashion, naming them after people who brought them into note, might give offence. There were two or three yearling cart fillies of any breed, a capital class of two-year-old fillies of any breed, the first and second being very good, and the third rather leggy; Mr. F. Street's highly-commended Smart, having a deep top with power, and Mr. Stamford's Belle, was very nice. The geldings of any breed, three-year-old, had Dragon, a very good-looking grey cart-horse, and Drayman might be more suited to the dray; while the third was the very useful, active Roger, of Messrs. J. and F. Howard. This firm had also a very handsome pair of agricultural horses, Colonel and Captain, which backed Mr. Charles Howard's very useful agriculturists, though not quite a pair, beat some of the most famous show horses in the kingdom, including Sensation, which has regained her action, and was highly commended, Warwick, Tommy Dodd, and several others. As there were three rings going at the same time, it is only fair to say it is very probable that we, like the judges, have left many a good horse unnoticed.

Immediately after the Hull meeting we insisted on the desirability of an occasional change in the composition of the Shropshire bench of judges, as that even Shropshire breeders might be in turn selected for the office; and at Bedford accordingly two judges were taken from the home county—the first time in eight years that a Salopian has been appointed. It is satisfactory to say that with a deal to do, for the shearling class was a bumper, the work has been rarely done better than by Messrs. Evans, Cureton, and Coxon. We heard of few mistakes, and we found none. Lord Chesham's first prize is at all points no doubt the best sheep they ever turned out at Latimer, as with plenty of high-breeding he shows more thorough Shropshire character than some of the "neater" rams which have figured in his Lordship's name on the prize list. For looks, mutton, scale, and wool, the great-grandson of the Duke of Manchester is equally admirable; although the flock went further for size and weight with a coarser sheep which reached to 18st. 5lb., whilst one of Mr. Pilgrim's shearlings beat this by one or two stone. Messrs. Mansell's second prize is a particularly handsome sheep, beginning with a ood head and lively eye, and altogether a very smart ample of the sort; while the Shrawardine third throws back a bit to the older type of Shropshire, and is full of useful qualities, but Mrs. Beach's reserve is but a moderate one, and far better have been reared at the Hattons. Indeed, after drafting out some incongruous lots, here and there with faces as black as thunder, there were still many good rams to dwell over, such as those shown from that fast-rising flock in Herefordshire, if Mr. Pulley cannot yet manage to make them quite match, an objection which may be also urged against Lord Wenlock after a longer apprenticeship. In the older class the Mansells improve on their position with a very complete clever two-shear, carrying a famous fleece on a broad back; but the second prize, an animal of great size, looked to be rather overdone, though we did not see him up; and Lord Chesham was third with his Bristol sheep, who spent a season in Ireland. Two of the best-matched Shropshires in the show were both bred in Ireland, and from precisely the same strains; as they were so true to each other, that we should have a difficulty in distinguishing the high from the simple commendation with which they were severally and deservedly honoured. There is always a deal of good about the Shropshires which Mr. German shows, if with hardly fashion enough to stand very high on the prize list, but they are of a very serviceable sort. Mrs. Beach's ewes made up one of the handsomest and sortiest pens on the ground, and as one of Lord Chesham's five was in hospital, it was a nice thing as to which should have been put first, the failing ewe rather giving it against the Latimers, when both pens were otherwise so level and so good. They would seem to be growing sheep to more size at Sutton Maddock, and Mr. Farmer from Ludlow offers an illustration of what a Shropshire was once upon a time. It was a truly good show, well appraised, and with only one disqualification from a little too much fancy for the oil and colour trade—a dirty habit which the inspectors have determined to discountenance.

The show of Oxfordshire Downs was not so thoroughly strong as might have been expected, considering that these sheep are cultivated as carefully in Bedfordshire as in Oxfordshire, and the chief prizes went, as at Witney and Bristol, to the Duke of Marlborough, Mr. John Treadwell, and Mr. Milton Druce; such flockmasters as Mr. Charles Howard and Mr. Street being hardly up to their usual form. In fact, Bedfordshire was everywhere out of luck. Nevertheless the judges were very liberal with their commendations, passing a general compliment on the old rams, where Mr. Treadwell was first with the renowned Guildford and second with Gillett, a somewhat over-marked three-shear; as for use Mr. Druce's smart sheep of the same age should have the call. Amongst the ewes the Duke had lost one of his matches, and even the professional barber who travels the country could not pull the Shifford pen together, and so Eynsham won with a very pretty lot all of a stamp; the renowned Bidden ham ewes for once reaching no nearer than a reserve. Some of the Oxfordshire Down flockmasters would seem to have gone more for the extra or special classes; but these odds-and-ends rarely tell much at a national meeting, and the pens of lambs and of wether lambs and of shearling wethers, and so forth, commanded but little attention.

It takes time, even with the clever people they have at Merton, to revive or re-establish a flock, and the supremacy of the Walsingham Southdowns is not yet again so generally acknowledged as of yore. Nevertheless, we should say they are going for a higher character of sheep, of more style and less weight, as illustrated by the handsome old ram put first, or the very bloodlike pen of ewes, which also accredited another first to Merton, against some capital ewes shown by Sir William Throckmorton, if not best but an odd lot, with one or two out of place; while another Norfolk pen from Carrow, also showing more fashion than mere mutton, were on the prize list. Amongst the rams, however, it was something of a see-saw between Hove and Merton, Mr. Rigden being first and commended twice over for shearling

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and second for old rams; and Lord Walsingham second and third for shearlings and first for old sheep; as it was even said that the two Southdown judges agreed to split their differences in this way. The Hove shearling is famously furnished from his quarters down to his hock, and so good behind as to look a little weak forward, but he is a sheep which will go on; while the Mertons are here again of the same smarter type, set-off, as some said, by a suspicion of dark wool; but we hate a mealy-faced Southdown. The Hessman's reserve shearling took a prize at Reading, and Mr. Rigden's famous four-shear, the best at Bristol, was suffering much from the sting of a wasp on the ear, and so gave way to a companion, a useful ram enough, but not with the style of the old sheep. A two-shear from Sandringham reached to the reserve, and one of Mr. Foljambe's shearlings was highly commended, but neither of these flocks showed to much advantage: they should be smarter in their looks, air, and carriage.

The Southdown judges also undertook the Hampshires as well as the Oxfords; but beyond the three prize shearlings, as shown by Mr. Morrison and the Messrs. Russell, there was very little merit; whilst Mr. Saunders' two old sheep encountered no opposition, and the four pens of ewes served mainly to remind one, by way of contrast, of the beautiful pens of Hampshire and Wiltshire Downs, with which Mr. Rawlence and the late Mr. Canning would set off these classes.

It says much for the school in which George Turner the younger was brought up, that he was only beaten in one class of Leicesters at Bedford, and then by his own father. In the shearlings the Thorpelands flock took all the prizes, the first and second rams being placed again as at Bristol; as there can, indeed, be no question as to the superiority of the first, a deep robust sheep, showing great constitution, and at the same time all the blood-like points of a true Leicester—a combination not so easily achieved, for often enough, even the show sheep are either on the one hand too *fine*, or, on the other, bred away into coarse crossed-looking animals. These sheep, it was satisfactory to see, were all of the same type, while in the old class the elder Turner fairly turned the tables with a compactly-framed, still more high-bred looking ram, who proved his more manifest excellences by a capital firm touch, so that Leicester mutton may still be really worth eating. Mr. Borton was not up to his previous form, or more probably the Turners were in greater force than ever, and thus the famous Yorkshire flock, now about to be dispersed, had to be content with such honours as second, third, or simple commendations. Over the pens of ewes, however, it was quite a race with the four placed, as Mr. Turner's first are weak about their necks, and the third prize pen, also from Thorpelands, wrong about their heads, so that either Mr. Borton or Mr. Hutchinson, with fresh judges, might have won. The Catterick ewes were, in fact, a very neat uniform lot, symmetrical in their frames, and of good thoroughbred character. But there were some curious samples of Leicesters about alike from the Midlands or further afield; while one Yorkshire exhibitor saw his pen of ewes put aside from an artistic tendency to colouring in oils.

The Royal show of Cotswolds now depends mainly for its merit on a Norfolk flock, which, however, is bred closely from the best hill-men who are well content to see themselves represented in this way. In short, as the Turners are with the Leicesters, so is Brown, of Marham, with the Cotswolds, taking all the prizes for shearlings, two for old rams, and not caring to show ewes. So uniformly good are these Norfolk—wolds that any of them are good enough to win, as we believe neither the first nor second shearlings at the Bedford Royal were ever noticed the other day in Norwich; while the two prize old sheep in the East have now changed places. They are all of a great, grand type, with the strong recommendation of showing even better out than in, and there was nothing near them, although an up-and-down dreary-looking sheep from the Cirencester College intervened in the older class. By the way, is it not something of an anomaly that these College sheep and pigs should be continually entered and spoken to in the name of the farm manager, with no more reason to be thus paraded than that of any other farm steward? The few pens of ewes were all moderate, the Kilkennies having lost something of their Bristol bloom.

The judges of Lincolns, with only one Lincoln man amongst them, looked to go chiefly for size; at any rate their fancy in a large class of shearlings was a coarse, loose sheep of little or no style, as his main recommendations, like the bagman's brandy and water, seemed to centre on "hot, strong, and plenty of it." Still, it struck us that the shearlings, running them through, were but a rough lot, useful enough no doubt, and, perhaps, more true to the old original Lincoln than the finer-bred sheep seen about of late; but some heretofore-successful flocks were put out. The first prize old sheep, Mr. Pears' *four* shear, also in the prize list at Hull, was of a smarter stamp, his appearance being backed by a good skin and fleece, and, indeed, the few old sheep were altogether superior to the shearlings; while Mr. Gunnell's first pen of ewes were not well sorted, and as show sheep, for uniformity and character, Mr. Pears's third prize pen here and first prize at Doncaster looked still to have the best of it; as one is the more inclined to say so much before a mixed bench of magistrates. One pen of ewes were here again disqualified, and very properly too, as wool of any growth goes a long way in judging a Lincoln. The Border Leicester, further than as a curious compound, has not much business in the Midlands, or perhaps anywhere else on this side of the Border; although the wonder of the show was Mr. Foster's four shear, who had a class to himself, which he well filled. Of extraordinary weight, breadth, and height, this sheep is still more remarkable for his symmetry and activity; preserving a capital frame he manages to maintain a more cheerful air and carriage than many a shearling; and is in every way quite a model of a well-preserved, good-looking old gentelman.

So far as the respectability of the Society is concerned, there can be no question, but the Council must take immediate and strong action over the pig show. Some of the leading exhibitors were disqualified, in certain cases over and over again, although it is only fair to add that neither Mr. Duckering nor Mr. Sexton were amongst these offenders, as that there was only one disqualification in the Berkshire classes. Beyond this we may from our experience of the past assume that nothing will be done. The direction will take especial care that the names of these disqualified exhibitors shall *not* be published under its authority either in the *Journal* or elsewhere, and thus the penalty becomes little more than a farce. But we say that if the Council wishes to stand well with its members and the general public, it must institute inquiries into such matters as these: Were there pigs exhibited at Birmingham in December last at close upon six months old which were exhibited at Bedford last week as something over seven months old? Was there a pig exhibited at Bristol at about eight months old which had reached to just double that age at Bedford? Were there pigs competing, or even winning, as breeding pigs which had previously been exhibited as fat pigs? Were pigs entered as bred by men who did not breed them? Was the same pig entered in two classes, of course with a different age to suit either he

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went for? All this and more was the common talk at Bedford, and coming as this did on numerous disqualifications, we say again that the Council is bound to make the fullest inquiries, and then to publish the fullest reports, giving the name with every disqualified number, and the reasons for such disqualification. Otherwise a Royal pig show will become a farce and a disgrace, where the awards of judges will be systematically stultified, and anything like fair or thorough criticism rendered impossible. In fact, we feel very much inclined to pass the section over, and leave it to an official prize list which does not tell half the story. Every disqualification should be registered in full as religiously as every commendation.

The young boars of the large white breed were an indifferent lot, not excepting the winner; but the best old pig, a very old one, was long, level, and good; while the Messrs. Howard's pigs have gone off, carrying little coat, and in no way so kindly or taking as they have been. In the pens of three young breeding sows, three pens exhibited by very successful men were disqualified, and the prizes went anyhow. As a contemporary mildly puts it, "some of the *best* lots were disqualified." What in the name of common sense does he mean by the *best* in a class with the age restricted to under eight months old, where pigs above that age were entered? The all-aged old sows were good, but with some funny stories floating about as to the difference between a breeding sow and a fat sow. In the young boars of a small white breed two were disqualified, and possibly these were the *best* again! In the older class—a very good one in places—Mr. Sexton's Disturbance repeated his Hull victory, and there were a few nice pens of three; while the older sows ran up to a smart class, marred by a disqualification, and the Duckerings getting second with a very good sow of capital quality. Over the young black boars Mr. Sexton had it pretty much to himself, nor in the older class of boars or with the pens of young sows did the competition extend much further; while some of the numbers were removed in the older class of black sows, and we decline to meddle with it further. Perhaps the stewards will explain? The judges went for the coarser, heavier-coated sort of Berkshires, and the best old sow looked to be something on a par with the notorious Cardiff award in the same class, as Mr. Walker's winner here was never noticed at Bristol; some other of the awards in the West being reversed, and Mr. Hewer's best boar, still far away the best of his class, "unaccountably" put out, as, indeed, was Mr. Stewart's beautiful sow. But, as somebody says, there is nothing like changing the judges, though exhibitors may be puzzled what to go for. Good generally as were the Berkshires, the sows of a middle breed ran up to one of the best classes in the show, as it was generally commended, and where the Duckerings won with perhaps the best pig in the show—finely-framed, with a capital top, and of admirable quality. The heat as well as the doctor, *alias* the veterinary inspector, thinned out the pig show, although there are people still about who would dispense with the services of these inspectors, either of shearing or teething! And what then?

PRIZE LIST.

HORSES.

AGRICULTURAL HORSES.

JUDGES.—N. G. Barthropp, Hacheston, Wickham Market.
T. Gibbons, Burnfoot-on-Esk, Cumberland.
H. Lowe, Comberford, Tamworth.

HUNTERS.

W. Forster, Burradon, Morpeth.
E. Paddison, Ingleby, Lincoln.
J. Smith, Humberston, Boroughbridge.

HACKNEYS, COACH HORSES, PONIES, JACKASSES, AND MULES.

H. Beevor, Blyth, Worksop.
G. Botham, Wexham Court, Slough.
J. Parrington, Brancepeth, Durham.

Agricultural stallion, foaled in the year 1872 (not qualified to compete as Clydesdale or Suffolk).—First prize, £20, G. E. Daintree, Fenton, Huntingdon (Grand Prince); second, £10, C. Golden, the Grange, Ramsey, Hunts (Champion); third, £5, T. Russell, Lower Shuckburgh, Daventry. Reserve and highly commended: W. J. Hipwell, Station Road, Rugby. Commended: T. Sanders, Wilby Hall, Wellingborough (Active).

Agricultural stallion, foaled before 1st January, 1872 (not qualified to compete as Clydesdale or Suffolk).—First prize, £25, T. Briggs, Babraham, Cambridge (Heart of Oak); second, £15, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Manchester (Young Champion); third, £5, T. Statter (King Tom). Reserve and highly commended: C. Brookes, Claxby Grange, Alford, Lincolnshire (Honest Tom 2nd). Commended: Rev. J. N. Mickleth waite, Taverham Hall, Norwich (Prince of Wales).

Clydesdale stallion, foaled in the year 1872.—First prize, £20, R. Tweedie, The Forest, Catterick, Yorkshire (Tam o' Shanter).

Clydesdale stallion, foaled before the 1st of January, 1872.—First prize, £25, T. Tagg, Newhall, Burton-on-Trent (Young Lofty); second, £15, E. and A. Stanford, Eatons, Steyning, Sussex (The Duke); third, £5, E. Pease, Greencroft West, Darlington, Durham (Emperor). Reserve: J. F. Crowther, Knowl Grove, Mirfield, Yorkshire (Sir Roger).

Suffolk stallion, foaled in the year 1872.—First prize, £20, M. Biddell, Playford, Ipswich (The Templar); second, £10, R. Garrett, Carleton, Saxmundham; third, £5, J. Toller, Blaxhall, Wickham Market (Defendant). Reserve and highly commended: W. Byford, The Court, Glemsford, Suffolk. Highly commended: W. Toller, Gedgrave, Wickham Market.

Suffolk stallion, foaled before the 1st of January, 1872.—First prize, £25, C. Frost, Whersted, Ipswich (Cupbearer 2nd); second, £15, Lieut.-Col. F. M. Wilson, Stowlangto t Hall, Bury St. Edmunds (Heir Apparent); third, £5, R. Garrett (Claimant). Reserve and highly commended: W. Byford (The Statesman). Highly commended: S. Wolton, Butley Abbey, Wickham Market, Suffolk (Royal Duke 2nd).

Stallion suitable for getting hackneys.—First prize, £20, C. W. Wilson, High Park, Kendal, Westmoreland (Sir George); second, £10, G. A. Lepper, Aylesbury (Rapid Roan); third, £5, F. Barlow, Hasketon, Woodbridge (President). Reserve and highly commended: F. Branwhite, Chapel House, Long Melford, Sudbury (Defiance). Highly commended: J. Tibbett, Askham House, Doddington, Cambridgeshire (Cambridgeshire Cob).

Thoroughbred stallion, suitable for getting hunters.—First prize, £50, F. Barlow, Hasketon (Citadel); second, £25, R. Hutton, 74, Gloucester-place, Portman-square, London (Laughing Stock); third, £10, W. Blenkiron, Middle Park, Eltham, Kent (King John). Reserve: F. Barlow (Massanissa).

Agricultural mare, in foal, or with foal at foot (not qualified to compete as Clydesdale or Suffolk).—First prize, £20, C. Lister, Coleby Lodge, Lincoln (Royal Duchess); second, £10, F. Street, Harrowden House, Bedford (Beauty); third, £5, A. Tomlinson, Stenson House, Derby (Smiler). Reserve and highly commended: H. Purser, Wilington Manor, Bedford (Honest Lass). Highly commended: J. Warth, Westmoreland House, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (Diamond). Commended: W. Lavender, Biddenham, Bedford (Young Honest Lass); Commended: J. and F. Howard, Park, Clapham, Bedford (Diamond).

Clydesdale mare, in foal, or with foal at foot.—First prize, £20, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Whitefield, Manchester (Mrs. Muir); second, £10, Lieut. Colonel R. Loyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P., Lockinge Park (Darling); third, £5, Lieut-Colonel R. Loyd-Lindsay. Reserve, W. Wilson, High Park, Kendal, Westmoreland (Highland Lassie).

Suffolk Mare, in foal, or with foal at foot.—First prize, £20, H. Wolton, Newbourn Hall, Woodbridge (Pride); second, £10, Sir W. Throckmorton, Bart., Buckland, Faringdon, Berks (Jolley); third, £5, G. A. Colson, The Faye, Fingringhoe, Essex (Violet). Reserve and highly commended: Lieut.-Colonel Wilson (Violet).

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Mare and foal, of any breed, for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £15, G. Street, Maulden, Ampthill, Beds (Cardiff Lass); second, £10, Marquess of Bristol, Ickworth Park, Bury St. Edmunds (Brisk). Reserve and highly commended: Marquess of Bristol (Diamond).

Mare, in foal, or with foal at foot, suitable for breeding coach horses.—First prize, £20, R. Hutton, Gloucester-place (Pauline); third, £5, J. Hornsby, Castlegate House, Grantham, Lincolnshire (Lady Tichborne).

Mare, in foal, or with foal at foot, suitable for breeding Hackneys.—First prize, £20, A. E. W. Darby, Little Ness, Shrewsbury (Kitty); second, £10, T. H. Miller, Singleton Park, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire (Mabel Gray); third, £5, W. C. Branford, The Heritage, Upton, Southwell, Notts (Acherner). Reserve and highly commended: J. Warth, Westmoreland House, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (Gentle Annie). Commended: J. Walker, Goldington, Bedford (Fanny).

Mare, in foal, or with foal at foot, suitable for breeding Hunters.—First prize, £25, E. Hornby, Flotmanby, Ganton, Yorkshire (Lady Derwent); second, £15, J. Moffat, Kirkliston Park, Carlisle, Camberland (Lady Line); third, £5, G. S. Smith, Stowe Farm, Stamford, Lincolnshire (The Wren). Reserve and highly commended: T. H. Miller, Singleton, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire (Flora). Highly commended: B. Spraggon, Wafferton, Stocksfield-on-Tyne (Jess).

Yearling gelding, of any breed, for agricultural purposes.—Prize, £10, G. Hine, jun., Oakley, Bedford (Royal).

Yearling cart filly, of any breed, for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £10, J. Walker, Goldington; second, £5, H. Parser, Willington Manor (Grand Duchess). Reserve: T. Statter, Stand Hall (Miss Honesty).

Agricultural gelding (including Clydesdale and Suffolk), two years old.—First prize, £15, D. Henman, Kempston, Hardwicke, Bedford (Prince); second, £10, F. Allwood, Walleworth Farm, Hitchin; third, £5, T. Arch, Bloxwich, Walsall, Staffordshire (Sampson). Reserve and highly commended: F. Allwood.

Agricultural filly (including Clydesdale and Suffolk), two years old.—First prize, £15, T. H. Vergette, Boro' Fen, Peterborough (Violet); second, £10, W. Nix, jun., White Hall, Somersham, St. Ives, Hunts; third, £5, S. Morton, Upwell, Isle of Ely, Cambs (Jewel). Reserve and highly commended: F. Street (Smart). Highly commended: J. Morton, New Bridge Farm, Stow Bardolph (Smart). Commended: E. and A. Stanford (The Belle).

Suffolk filly, two years old (County of Suffolk prize, offered by breeders of Suffolk horses). First prize, £25, M. Biddell, Playford (Jewel); second, £10, W. Wilson, Baylham Hall, Ipswich (Smart). Reserve and commended: R. E. Lofft, Troston, Bury St. Edmunds (Blossom).

Agricultural gelding (including Clydesdale and Suffolk), three years old.—First prize, £15, T. Plowright, jun., The Hall, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire (Dragon); second, £10, F. Cartwright, The Grove, Drakelow, Burton-on-Trent (Drayman); third, £5, J. and F. Howard (Roger). Reserve and highly commended: J. Bays, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (Prince).

Agricultural filly (including Clydesdale and Suffolk), three years old.—First prize, £15, T. H. Vergette, jun., Peterborough (Gipsy); second, £10, J. Lester, Barway, Thetford (Blossom); third, £5, H. Middleton, Catteslowe, Oxford (Flower Girl). Reserve and highly commended: J. and F. Howard (Jess). Reserve: J. Toller, Blaxhall, Wickhom Market, Suffolk (Scot).

Pair of agricultural horses (mares or geldings), not under four years old, used solely for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £20, J. and F. Howard (Colonel and Captain); second, £10, C. Howard, Biddenham, Bedford (Lion and Dodman); third, £5, C. W. Brierley, Rhodes House (The Shah and Dick). Reserve and highly commended: C. W. Brierley (Sensation and Honesty).

Hunter filly, two years old.—First prize, £15, C. Hickman, Carlington, Bedford (Silver Cloud); second, £10, J. B. Jones, Eaudon House, Baschurch, Shrewsbury (Bessie). Reserve: E. and A. Stanford.

Hunter gelding, two years old.—First prize, £15, W. Kenning, Braddon, Towcester, Northamptonshire (Tom King); second, £10, W. Richards, Ashwell, Oakham, Rutland. Reserve: T. H. Miller, Singleton Park, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire (Victor II.)

Hunter mare, three years old.—First prize, £20, T. Darrell Spickers Hill, West Ayton, Yorkshire (Ebor Witch); second £15, G. B. Lynes, Bedford (Honeydew); third, £10, E. and A. Stanford (Sabina).

Hunter gelding, three years old.—First prize, £20, T. F. Jackson, Tattenhall Hall, Chester (Sober Truth); second, £15, Earl Spencer, Althorpe Park, Northampton; third, £10, J. B. Booth, Killerby Hall, Catterick, Yorkshire (Berwick). Reserve: J. B. Booth (Baidersby).

Hunter mare, four years old.—First prize, £30, L. T. White, Goldington; second, £20, J. T. Mills, Clermont, Thetford, Norfolk (Rosebud).

Hunter gelding, four years old.—First prize, £30, T. Darrell (King of Diamonds); second, £20, W. Wright, Wollaton, Nottingham; third, £10, F. Barlow, Hasketon (Cornishman). Reserve: T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick, Yorkshire (Breakaway).

Hunter mare or gelding, five years old and upwards, up to not less than 13 stone.—First prize, £30, T. H. Hutchinson (Jester); second, £20, J. N. Sanders, Wollaston, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (Yellow Jack); third, £10, W. Richards, Ashwell, Oakham (Viceroy). Reserve: W. Richards (Weston).

Hunter mare or gelding, five years old and upwards, up to not less than 14 stone.—First prize, £30, W. Whitehead, Wollaston, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (Baron); second, £20, T. Percival, Wansford, Northamptonshire (Mullingar); third, £10, W. Whitehead (Rufus). Reserve: L. Croson, Lidlington, Ampthill (Young Rothschild).

Hackney mare or gelding, up to not less than 13 stone.—First prize, £20, Major G. A. F. Quentin, Woodleigh, Cheltenham (Sparkling Moselle); second, £10, W. Stephenson, Cottingham, Hull (Princess); third, £5, W. Gilbey, Hargrave Park, Stanstead, Essex (Maud). Reserve and highly commended: S. Day, St. Neots, Hunts (Rockrose). Highly commended: W. Parser, Cople, Wood End, Bedford (Polly). Commended: W. Gilbey (Ladylike); B. Spraggon, Nafferton, Stocksfield-on-Tyne, Northumberland (Duchess of Tyne); J. Hornsby, Grantham, Lincolnshire (Ballet Girl); J. Hall, Little Barford, St. Neots, Hunts (Colonel).

Hackney mare or gelding, up to not less than 14 stone.—First prize, £20, T. H. D. Bayly, Edwinstow House, Ollerton, Notts (Enterprise); second, £10, H. Frisby, 13, James-street, Buckingham Gate, London (Filbert); third, £5, W. Richards (Black Friar). Reserve and highly commended: J. Grout, Woodbridge, Suffolk (Kitty).

Pony mare or gelding, above 13 hands 2 inches, and not exceeding 14 hands 2 inches.—First prize, £15, J. Higgins, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (Princess Louise); second, £10, H. Frisby (Princess Polo); third, £5, W. R. Cockle, Hillrow, Haddenham, Cambs (Kingfisher). Reserve and highly commended: R. Weight, 72, Regent-road, Salford, Manchester (Young Apricot).

Pony mare or gelding, not exceeding 13 hands 2 inches.—First prize, £15, R. L. Parker, North Kilworth, Rugby (Whimsical); second, £10, W. N. Saberton, Wilburton, Ely Cambs. (The Shah); third, £5, T. L. Senior, Broughton, Aylesbury, Bucks (Pride of the Vale). Reserve and highly commended: C. W. Wilson, High Park, Kendal, Westmoreland (Bobby).

Jackasses, not under 13 hands, for getting mules for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £25, C. L. Sutherland, Coombe, Croydon (Jago); second, £15, S. Lang, 108, Pembroke-road, Clifton, Bristol (Lad of Poitou).

Mule, not under 15 hands, for agricultural purposes.—Firs prize, £25, C. L. Sutherland, (Rousseau); second £15, S. Lang, (Lass of Poitou); third, £10, C. L. Sutherland (Blossom). Reserve: C. L. Sutherland (Robin).

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

JUDGES.—H. Aylmer, West Dereham Abbey, Stoke Ferry.
E. Bowly, Siddington House, Cirencester.
H. Smith, Esko Hall, Durham.

Bull, above three years old.—First prize, £30, R. Bruce Newton-Struthers, Forres, Morayshire (Lord Irwin); second, £20, Marquis of Exeter, K.G., Burghley Park, Stamford, (Telemachus); third, £15, A. H. Browne, Doxford, Chathill, Northumberland (Duke of Aosta); fourth, £10, R. Stratton, The Duffryn, Newport, Monmouthshire (Protector). Reserve and highly commended: The Earl of Lichfield, Shugborough Hall, Stafford (Knight Templar the 3rd). Highly commended: J. W. Wilson, Austen House, Broadway, Worcestershire (Earl of Warwickshire 3rd). The class commended.

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Bull, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £25, W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York (Sir Arthur Ingram); second, £15, W. and H. Dudding, Panton House, Wragby, Lincolnshire (Robert Stephenson); third, £10, T. Statter, Stand Hall (Oxford Cheerboy); fourth, £5, T. Willis, Manor House, Carperby, Bedale, Yorkshire (Prince of Cashmere). Reserve and highly commended: B. St. John Ackars, Prinknash Park, Painswick, Gloucestershire (Cymbeline). Commended: R. Moss, Whisby, Lincoln (General Wharfdale).

Yearling bull, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £25, J. Outhwaite, Bainesse, Catterick, Yorkshire (Lord Godolphin); second £15, Lieut.-Colonel R. Lloyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P., Lockinge Park, Wantage, Berks (Prince Ruffert); third, £10, Emily, Lady Pigot, Branches Park, Newmarket (Rapid Rhone); fourth, £5, Willian G. Garne, Broadmoor, Northleach, Gloucestershere (Aachen). Reserve and highly commended: G. J. Day, Horsford House, Norwich (Charon). Commended: A. H. Browne, Boxford, Chathill, Northumberland (Rosario). Commended: T. Willis (Windsor's Crown).

Bull calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £15, Lieut.-Colonel R. Loyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P., (Lord Rockville); second, £10, J. Outhwaite (Duke of Chamburgh); third of £5, W. G. Garne (Ranger Prince). Reserve and highly commended: C. J. Webb, Elford, Tamworth, Staffs. (Royal Oxford Gwynne). Commended: Emily, Lady Pigot (May King); T. Rose Melton Magna, Wymondham, Norfolk (Bright Knight).

Cow, above three years old.—First prize, £30, J. Outhwaite (Vivandiere); second, £10, G. Garne, Churchill Heath, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire (Butterfly's Duchess); third, £5, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick (Dairygirl). Reserve and highly commended: R. Stratton, The Duffryn (Rosalind). Highly commended: Marquis of Exeter, K.G (Moll Gwynne). Commended: Her Majesty the Queen, Windsor Castle (Coldcream 4th); E. Whitehouse, White House Farm, Kingsbury, Tamworth (Lady Margaret); W. Lavender, Biddenham (Lady Valentine).

Heifer, in milk or in calf, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £20, J. Outhwaite (Baroness Conyers); second, £15, J. Thom, Larkhill, Chorley, Lancashire (Royal Rose); third, £18, Emily, Lady Pigot, (Rose of Wytham); fourth, £5, R. Stratton (Nectarine Bud). Reserve: W. and H. Dudding (Blooming Bride). Highly commended: Emily, Lady Pigot (Victoria Matutina); B. S. John Ackers (Queen of the Georgias); J. How, Broughton, Huntingdon (Lady Butterfly); T. H. Hutchinson (Lady Playful); J. A. Mumford, Brill House, Thame, Oxon (Edith Emily); C. Magniac, Colworth, Bedford (Moss Rose II.).

Yearling heifer, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £20, Rev. R. B. Kennard, Marnhull, Blandford, Dorset (Queen Mary); second, £15, T. Statter, Stand Hall, (Robin's Rose); third, £10, Lord Suedley, Toddington, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire (Seraphina Bella 2nd); fourth, £5, T. Statter (Robin's Stanley Rose). Reserve and highly commended: R. E. Oliver, Sholebroke Lodge, Towcester, Northamptonshire (Orange Chips). Highly commended: J. Downing, Ashfield, Fermoy, Ireland (Verbena Royal); Emily, Lady Pigot (Princess of Wytham).

Heifer calf, above six and under twelve months old.—First prize, £15, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Loyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P. (Diana); second, £10, Emily, Lady Pigot (Moorish Captive); third, £5. R. Stratton (Regalia). Reserve and highly commended: Sir T. C. Constable, Bart., Burton Constable Hull (Evelina). Highly commended: R. Lodge, The Thorns, Southport, Lancashire (Wild Rose 2nd).

HEREFORDS.

JUDGES.—F. Evans, Bredwardine, Hereford.
S. P. Newbury, Plympton St. Mary.
T. Pope, Horningham, Warminster.

Bull, above three years old.—First prize, £25, Sarah Edwards, Wintercott, Leominster, Herefordshire (Winter de Cote); second, £15, T. Fenn, Stonebrook House, Ludlow, and J. Harding, The Greenhouse, Bridgnorth (Bachelor); third, £5, W. C. Davy, Horn Park, Beaminster, Dorset (Chevalier). Reserve: J. and G. Crane, Benthall, Shrewsbury (Oliver).

Bull, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £25, W. Evans, Llandowlais, Usk, Monmouthshire (Von Moltke 2nd); second, £15, H. J. Bailey, Rosedale, Tenbury, Herefordshire (King of the Dale); third, £5, E. Lister, Coin Ila, Usk, Monmouthshire (Troubadour). Reserved and commended: E. Lister (Black Eagle).

Yearling bull, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £25, W. Taylor, Showle Court, Ledbury, Herefordshire (Tredegar); second, £15, G. Child, Westonbury, Pembridge, Herefordshire (Treasure Trove); third, £5, H. N. Edwards, Broadward (Alfred). Reserved and highly commended: H. N. Edwards (Concord). Commended: J. Harding, The Greenhouse, Bridgnorth, Salop.

Bull-calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, W. Tudge, Adforton, Leintwardine, Herefordshire (Regulator); second, £5, T. Fenn. Reserved and commended: Sarah Edwards, (Plato).

Cow, above three years old.—First prize, £20, T. Thomas, St. Hilary, Cowbridge (Rosaline); second, £10, R. Tanner, Frodesley, Dorrington, Salop (Lady Milton); third, £5, T. Thomas (Sunflower). Reserved and highly commended: Sarah Edwards (Young Mermaid 2nd).

Heifer, in-milk or in-calf, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £15, T. Fenn (Lady Stanton). No competition.

Yearling heifer, above one and not exceeding two years old. First prize, £15, P. Turner, The Leen, Pembridge, Herefordshire (Verbena); second, £10, P. Turner (Isabel); third, £5. H. N. Edwards (Dolly). Reserved and commended: J. Harding (Greenhouse Lass).

Heifer calf, above six and under twelve months old.—First prize, £10, T. J. Carwardine, Stockton Bury, Leominster, Herefordshire (Helena); second, £5, H. N. Edwards (Cary), Reserved and highly commended: W. Taylor, Showle Court. Commended: W. Taylor.

DEVONS.

JUDGES.—(As for Herefords).

Bull, above three years old.—First prize, £25, W. Farthing, Stowey Court, Bridgwater, Somersetshire (Master Harry); second, £15, Viscount Falmouth, Tregothnan, Probus, Cornwall (Kingcraft); third, £5, Mrs. Maria Langdon, Flitton Barton, North Molton, Devon (Duke of Flitton 8th).

Bull, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £25, W. Farthing (Master Robin).

Yearling bull, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £25, W. Farthing (The Shah); second, £15, Mrs. M. Langdon (Duke of Plymouth); third, £5, J. Gould, Bamfylde Lodge, Exeter (Bampfylde). Reserved and highly commended: W. Farthing (Master Willie).

Bull-calf, above six and not exceeding twelve month old.—First prize, £10, W. Farthing (Mr. Disraeli); second, £5, J. A. Smith, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester, (Albert Victor). Reserved and highly commended: J. A. Smith (Duke of York). Highly commended: Mrs. M. Landdon (Duke of Bedford). The class commended.

Cow, above three years old.—First prize, £20, J. A. Smith (Picture); second, £10, T. Lee Senior, Broughton (Moss Rose); third, £5, W. Taylor, Glynleigh, Eastbourne, Sussex (Abbess). Reserve and highly commended, G. Turner, Bampford, Speke, Exeter (Marguerite).

Heifer, in-milk or in-calf, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £15, W. Farthing, (Nellie); second, £10, W. Farthing (Duchess); third, £5, W. Taylor (Lady Love 3rd).

Yearling heifer, above one and not exceeding two years old—First prize, £15, W. Perry, Alder, Lewdown, Devon (Camellia); second, £10, Viscount Falmouth (Plymouth Queen); third, £5, Trevor Lee, Senior (Moss Rose 1st). Reserve and highly commended: Her Majesty the Queen (Princess Victoria Louise.) The class commended.

Heifer-calf, above six and under twelve months old.—First prize, £10, T. Lee Senior (Moss Rose 2nd); second, £5, J. A. Smith (Picture). Reserve and highly commended J. A. Smith (Honest); highly commended, G. Turner (Grand Duchess Marie). The class commended.

JERSEY.

JUDGES.—J. Dumbrell, Ditchling, Hurstpierpoint.
C. P. Le Cornu, La Hague Manor, Jersey.

Bull above one year old.—First prize, £10, J. G. Leigh, Luton Hoo, Luton Beds., (Fits-Yankee); second, £5, J. C. F. Ramsden, Busbridge Hall, Goldming (Surrey Modoc). Reserve and highly commended, G. Simpson, Wray Park, Reigate, Surrey (Prince Crocus). Highly commended, J. G. Hubbard, Addington Manor, Winslow, Bucks (Bandit). Commended, Lord Chesham, Latimer,

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Chesham, Bucks (Sambo); W. Gilbey, Hargrave Park. Stanstead, Essex (Ducal).

Cow, above three years old.—First prize, £10, W. Gilbey (Duchess); second, £5, W. Gilbey (Medora). Reserve and highly commended, Rev. Morton Shaw, Rougham Rectory, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, (Pansy). Highly commended, G. Simpson (Pretty Maid). Commended, W. Gilbey (Tal).

Heifer, in-milk or in-calf, not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £10, J. G. Leigh (Bonny); second, £5, W. Gilbey (Duchy). Reserve and highly commended, Lord Braybrooke, Audley End (Flame). Commended, G. Simpson (Prettylass); W. Gilbey (Milkgirl).

GUERNSEY.

JUDGES.—(As for Jerseys).

Bull, above one year old.—First prize, £10, Rev. Joshua R. Watson, La Favorita, Guernsey (Cloth of Gold); second, £5 Rev. Joshua R. Watson (No. 3 Cloth of Gold).

Cow, above three years old.—First prize, £10, Rev. Joshua R. Watson (Portia).

Heifer, in-milk or in-calf, above three years old.—First prize, £10, Rev. Joshua R. Watson (Esmeralda).

SUSSEX.

JUDGES.—H. Overman, Weasenham, Norfolk.
J. Pitcher, Hailsham, Sussex.

Bull, above two years old.—First prize, £20, J. Turvill, Hartley Park Farm, Alton, Hants (Hartley); second, £10, G. Smith, Paddockhurst, Crawley, Sussex (Lion). Reserve: A. Agate, West Street, Horsham, Sussex (Alfred Second).

Bull, above one year old.—First prize, £15, J. and A. Heasman, Angmering, Arundel, Sussex (Bristol); second, £10, E. and A. Stanford, Ashurst, Steyning, Sussex.

Cow, above three years old.—First prize, £15, J. Turvill, Hartley Park Farm, Alton, Hampshire (Colley); second, £10, A. Agate, West Street, Horsham, Sussex (Lofty). Highly commended, E. and A. Stanford (Mary Fern). Commended: P. H. Ellis, Clayton Court (Julia).

Heifer, in-milk or in-calf, above two years old.—First prize, £15, A. Agate (Auburn); second, £10, J. and A. Heasman (Marie Stuart). Highly commended: G. Smith (Pride of the Family). Commended: J. Braby, Maybanks (Lilac).

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK.

JUDGES.—(As for Sussex).

Bull, above two years old.—First prize, £20, J. J. Colman, M.P., Carrow House, Norwich (Powell); second, £10, Lord Sondes, Elmham Hall, Dereham, Norfolk (The Palmer). Highly commended: T. Brown, Marham Hall (The Bean). Commended: H. Birkbeck, Stoke Holy Cross, Norwich (Young Duke).

Bull, above one year old.—First prize, £15, J. J. Colman, M.P. (Elmham Duke); second, £10, H. Birkbeck (Suffolk). Reserve and commended: J. J. Colman (Easton Duke).

Cow, above three years old.—First prize, £15, J. J. Colman, M.P. (Easton Nelly); second, £10, Lord Sondes (Skeleton). Reserve: Sir W. Jones, Bart., Cranmer Hall, Fakenham, Norfolk (Cherry).

Heifer, in-milk or in-calf, above two years old.—First prize, £15, Lord Sondes (Fanny); second, £10, B. Brown, Thursford, Dereham, Norfolk (Nopareil). Reserve and highly commended: H. Birkbeck (Wave).

ANY OTHER BREED.

JUDGES.—(As for Sussex).

Cow of any breed, in-milk or in-calf, not eligible for entry in any Herd Book.—First prize, £15, W. Looker, Wyton Manor, Huntingdon (White Rose); second, £10, T. Kingsley, Bearscroft, Tring, Herts (Seraphina). Reserve and highly commended: T. Statter, Stand Hall, (Buttercup). Commended: T. Kingsley (Lady Knightley First).

Heifer, of any breed, in-milk or in-calf, not exceeding three years old, not eligible for entry in any Herd Book.—First prize, £15, R. Stratton, the Duffryn (Brilliance); second, £10, W. Looker (Lottery). Reserve and highly commended: T. Kingsley (Lady Thynne Third).

SHEEP.

LEICESTERS.

JUDGES.—J. Painter, Belgrave House, Nottingham.
R. Salter, Lower Westcott, Cullompton.
J. H. Burbery, Kenilworth.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £20, G. Turner, jun., Thorpelands; second, £10, G. Turner, jun.; third, £5, G. Turner, jun. Reserve and highly commended: J. Borton, Barton House. Commended: W. Brown, Highgate House, Holme-on-Spalding Moor; J. Borton, Barton House; G. Turner, jun.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £20, G. Turner, Brampford Speke; second, £10, G. Turner, jun.; third, £5, J. Borton, Barton House. Reserved and highly commended: J. Borton. Commended: G. Turner, jun.; T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; J. Borton.

Pen of five shearling ewes, of the same flock.—First prize, £15, G. Turner, jun.; second, £10, J. Borton; third, £5, G. Turner, jun. Reserve: T. H. Hutchinson.

COTSWOLDS.

JUDGES.—W. Garne, Manor House, South Cerney, Cirencester.
H. Mackinder, Langton Grange, Spilsby.
R. J. Newton, Campsfield Farm, Woodstock.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £20, T. Brown, Marham Hall, Downham Market, Norfolk; second, £10, T. Brown; third, £5, T. Brown. Reserve and highly commended: T. Brown. Highly commended: Royal Agricultural College Farm. Commended: T. and S. G. Gillett, Kilkenny (for three sheep), T. Brown.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £20, T. Brown, Marham; second, £10, Royal Agricultural College Farm; third, £5, T. Brown. Reserve: H. E. Raynbird, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Pen of five shearling ewes, of the same flock.—First prize, £15, Royal Agricultural College Farm; second, £10, T. and S. G. Gillett; third, £5, T. and S. G. Gillett. Reserve: T. Thomas, St. Hilary.

LINCOLNS.

JUDGES.—(As for Cotswolds).

Shearling ram.—First prize, £30, E. J. Howard, Nocton Rise; second, £10, J. Pears, Mere, Lincoln; third, £5, R. Wright, Nocton Heath. Reserved and highly commended: T. Cartwright, Dunstan Pillar, Lincoln. Commended: J. H. Caswell, Laughton, Folkingham, Lincolnshire (Profit); C. Clarke, Ashby-de-la-Launde; J. Byron, Kirkby Green, Sleaford; A. P. Hope, Bordlands.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £20, J. Pears; second, £10, R. Wright, Nocton Heath, Lincoln; third, £5, R. Wright. Reserved and highly commeded: W. and H. Dudding, Panton House. Commended: W. F. Marshall, Branston, Lincoln.

Pen of five shearling ewes of the same flock.—First prize, £15, T. Gunnell, Milton, Cambridge; second, £10, J. Byron; third, £5, J. Pears. Reserve and highly commended: C. Clarke.

BORDER LEICESTER.

JUDGES.—R. C. Chrisp, Hawkhill, Alnwick.
W. C. Thomson, Dilston Haugh, Corbridge.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £20, T. Foster, jun., Ellingham; second, £10, T. Foster, jun.; third, £5, W. Purves, Linton Burnfoot. Reserve and commended: W. Purves.

Ram of any other age.—Prize, £20, T. Foster, jun. (Royal Exchange).

Pen of five shearling ewes of the same flock.—First prize, £15, W. Purves; second, £10, H. Newby-Fraser, Hay Close, Penrith, Cumberland; third, £5, R. Tweedie, The Forest, Catterick, Yorkshire.

OXFORDSHIRE DOWNS.

JUDGES.—H. Fookes, Whitchurch, Blandford.
W. Parsons, Hill Farm, Elsfield, Oxford.
J. S. Turner, Chyngton, Seaford, Lewes.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £20, Duke of Marlborough, Blenheim Palace; second, £10, A. F. Milton Druce, Twelve Acres, Eynsham, Oxon; third, £5, Duke of Marlborough. Reserve and highly commended: G. Wallis, Old Shifford. Highly commended: J. Treadwell, Upper Winchendon. Commended: J. Treadwell; F. Street, Harrowden; C. Hobbs, Maisey Hampton; C. Howard, Biddenham.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £30, J. Treadwell (Guildford); second, £10, J. Treadwell (Gillett); third, £5, A. F. M. Druce. Reserve and highly commended: C. Howard.—The class highly commended.

Pen of five shearling ewes of the same flock.—First prize, £15, A. F. M. Druce; second, £10, Duke of Marlborough, third, £5, G. Wallis. Reserve and highly commended: C. Howard. Highly commended: F. Street.

SOUTHDOWNS.

JUDGES.—(As for Oxfordshire Downs).

Shearling ram.—First prize, £20, W. Rigden, Hove,

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Brighton; second, £10, Lord Walsingham, Merton Hall, Thetford; third, £5, Lord Walsingham. Reserve and highly commended: J. and A. Heasman, Angmering. Highly commended: W. Rigden; F. J. S. Foljambie, M.P., Osberton Hall, Notts. Commended: W. Rigden.

Ram of any otherage.—First prize, £20, Lord Walsingham; second, £10, W. Rigden; third, £5, Sir W. Throckmorton, Bart., Buckland, Faringdon, Berkshire. Reserve and highly commended: The Prince of Wales, Sandringham.

Pen of five shearling ewes, of the same flock.—First prize, £15, Lord Walsingham; second, £10, Sir W. Throckmorton; third, £5, J. J. Colman, M.P., Carrow. Reserve and highly commended: H. S. Waller, Farmington, Northleach, Gloucestershire. Commended: G. Smith, Paddockhurst; Lord Sondes, Elmham.

SHROPSHIRES.

JUDGES.—J. Coxon, Freeford, Lichfield.
J. Evans, Uffington, Shrewsbury.
G. Cureton, Beam House, Shrewsbury.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £20, Lord Chesham, Latimer. Chesham, Bucks; second, £10, T. and T. J. Mansell, Ercall Park; third, £5, E. Crane, Shrawardine. Reserve and highly commended: Sarah Beach. Highly commended, T. and J. Mansell; J. Pulley, Lower Eaton, Hereford.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £20, T. and T. J. Mansell, Adcott Hall, Baschurch, Salop; second, E. Crane, Shrawardine, Shrewsbury, Salop; third, £5, * Lord Chesham. (Paddy) Reserve and highly commended: W. German, Measham Lodge, Atherstone, Derbyshire (The Ruler). Highly commended: C. W. Hamilton, Hamwood, Clonee, Meath (Bryan Boru). Commended: C. W. Hamilton (Nobleman).

Pen of Five Shearling Ewes, of the same flock.—First prize, £15, Lord Chesham; second, £10, Mrs. Sarah Beach, The Hattons, Brewood, Penkridge, Staffs; third, £5. J. Pulley, Lower Eaton, Hereford. Reserve and highly commended: W. O. Foster, Apley Park Farm, Shifnal, Salop. Highly commended: W. F. Firmstone, Rockingham Hall, Hagley, Worcestershire; W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone, Warwickshire. Commended: Mrs. Harriet Smith, New House, Sutton Maddock, Shifnal.

HAMPSHIRE AND OTHER SHORTWOOLLED BREEDS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £20, A. Morrison, Fonthill House (Hampshire Down); second, £10, A. Morrison, (Hampshire Down); third, R. and J. Russell. Horton Kirby, Dartford, Kent (Hampshire Down). Reserve and highly commended: R. Coles, Middleton Farm, (Hampshire Down). Commended: R. Coles, Middleton Farm, Warminster, Wiltshire (Hampshire Down).

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £20, T. C. Saunders, Watercombe (Hampshire Down); second prize, £10, T. C. Saunders (Hampshire Down).

Pen of five shearling ewes, of the same Flock.—First prize, £15, T. C. Saunders (Hampshire Down); second, £10, W. Parsons, Monk Sherborne, Basingstoke, (Hampshire Down); third, £5, J. Walter, M.P., Bearwood, Wokingham, Berkshire (Hampshire Down). Reserve, W. S. Gardner, French Hall, Moulton, Newmarket, Suffolk (Black-faced Suffolk).

LONG-WOOLLED.

JUDGES.—(As for Cotswolds).

Pen of ten breeding ewes of any age, which shall have suckled lambs up to June 1st, 1874.—First prize, £12, T. and S. G. Gillett, Kilkenny (Cotswold); second, £8, T. Gunnell, Milton (Lincoln). Reserve: C. Clarke, Ashby-de-la-Launde, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (Lincoln).

Pen of ten ewe lambs.—First prize, £12, F. Allwood, Walsworth Farm, Hitchin (Lincoln); second, £8, F. Ellis, Manor Farm, Chesterton, Cambridge (Long-woolled).

Pen of ten wether lambs.—No competition.

SHORT-WOOLLED.

JUDGES.—(As for Oxfordshire Downs).

Pen of five shearling wethers.—First prize, £10, C. Crawshay, Hingham, Attleboro', Norfolk (cross bred); second, £5, J. Newman, Harrowden (Improved Leicesters). Reserve: T. Gunnell (Lincoln).

Pen of ten breeding ewes of any age, which shall have suckled lambs up to June 1st, 1874.—First prize, £12, Duke of Marlborough (Oxfordshire Down); second, £8, J. B. Jones, Easdon House, Shrewsbury, Salop (Shropshires). Reserve: C. Howard, (Oxfordshire Downs).

Pen of ten ewe lambs.—First prize, £12, T. Nock, Sutton House, Shifnal, Salop (Shropshire); second, £8, F. Street, (Oxfordshire Down). Reserve and highly commended: T. and T. J. Mansell (Shropshire).

Pen of ten wether lambs.—First prize, £12, J. and F. Howard (Oxfordshire Down); second, £8, G. Street (Oxfordshire Down). Reserve and highly commended: Lord Sondes, (Southdown).

Pen of five shearling wethers.—First prize, £12, Executors of the late S. Druce, Eynsham, Oxon (Oxfordshire Down); second, £8, Duke of Marlborough (Oxfordshire Down). Reserve: C. Sturgeon, South Ockendon Hall, Romford, Essex. Highly commended: G. Street (Oxfordshire Down). Commended: G. Smith, Paddockhurst, Crawley, Sussex (Southdown).

PIGS.

JUDGES.—J. Angus, Whitefield, Morpeth.
J. Lynn, Stroxton, Grantham.
J. Smith, Henley-in-Arden.

LARGE WHITE.

Boar, above six months and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, Earl of Ellesmere, Worsley Hall, Manchester; second, £5, R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton-Lindsey, Lincolnshire (10th Cultivator).

Boar, above twelve months old.—First prize, £10, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds, Pyke House, Littleborough, Lancashire (Velocipede); second, £5, Earl of Ellesmere (Cultivator 9th). Reserve and highly commended: J. and F. Howard (Duke). Commended: Earl of Ellesmere (Jerry).

Pen of three breeding sow pigs of the same litter, above four and under eight months old.—First prize, £10, M. Walker, Stockley Park, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire (Minnie, Mina, Myra); second, £5, J. and F. Howard (The Three Damsels). Reserve: T. Satchwell, Hernfield House, Knowle, Warwickshire.

Breeding sow.—First prize, £10, Earl of Ellesmere; second, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds (Acorn). Reserve and highly commended: J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire (Young Princess). Commended: R. E. Duckering.

SMALL WHITE.

Boar, above six months and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, J. Dove, Hambrook House, Hambrook (Curly Jolly Boy); second, £5, Earl of Ellesmere. Reserve: G. M. Sexton, Wherstead Hall, Ipswich, Suffolk (The Czar).

Boar, above twelve months old.—First prize, £10, G. M. Sexton (Disturbance); second, £5, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds (Cupid). Reserve and highly commended: Earl of Ellesmere (Curly Locks). Commended: R. E. Duckering (Royal Duke).

Pen of three breeding sow pigs of the same litter, above four and under eight months old.—First prize, £10, Earl of Ellesmere; second, £5, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds. Reserve and highly commended: J. Dove, (Three Princesses).

Breeding sow.—First prize, £10, Earl of Ellesmere; second, £5, R. E. Duckering. Reserve and highly commended: C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds (Venus). Highly commended: P. Eden, Cross Lane, Salford, Manchester (Rosie); F. W. Meynell, Coxbench Hall (Daisy)

SMALL BLACK.

Boar, above six months and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, G. M. Sexton (The Shah); second, £5, G. M. Sexton (The Ashantee).

Boar above twelve months old.—First prize, £10, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds (Indian Chief); second, £5, G. Turner, jun., Thorpelands, Northampton.

Pen of three breeding sow pigs of the same litter, above four and under eight months old).—First prize, £10, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, £5, G. M. Sexton (Truth in breeding).

Breeding sow.—First prize, £10, J. Wheeler, Long Compton (Miss Chester); second, £5, G. M. Sexton (Apology). Reserve and highly commended: G. M. Sexton (Coomassie).

BERKSHIRE.

Boar, above six months and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, A. Stewart, Saint Bridge Farm (Prince); second, £5, Royal Agricultural College Farm (Young Liverpool).

Boar, above twelve months old.—First prize, £10, W. Hewer, Sevenhampton (Hector); second, £5, W. Hewer

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(Cardiff Hero). Reserve and highly commended: H. Humfrey, Kingston Farm, Shrivenham (Sir D. C.).

Pen of three breeding sow pigs of the same litter, above four and under eight months old.—First prize, £10, Royal Agricultural College Farm, Cirencester; second, £5, J. Looker, Hemingford Abbots, St. Ives, Hunts. Reserve and highly commended: H. Humfrey (Nos. 454 A B C). Commended: A. C. Baily, Swindon.

Breeding sow.—First prize, £10, M. Walker (Gipsy); second, £5, A. Stewart (Helen). Reserve and highly commended: Cirencester College (Sally VII.). The class commended.

OTHER BREEDS.

Boar, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, Earl of Ellesmere; second, £5, P. Eden Cross-lane (Fire King). Reserve and highly commended: R. E. Duckering.

Boar, above twelve months old.—First prize, £10, Earl of Ellesmere (Pride of Idle); second, £5, Earl of Ellesmere (Pretender). Reserve and highly commended: R. E. Duckering.

Pen of three breeding sow pigs of the same litter, above four and under eight months old.—First prize, £10, P. Eden; second, £5, Earl of Ellesmere. Reserve and highly commended: J. Dove. The class commended.

Breeding sow.—First prize, £10, R. E. Duckering; second, £5, Earl of Ellesmere. Reserve and highly commended: P. Eden (Cerito). The class commended.

BEDFORDSHIRE FARMS.

JUDGES.—T. Plowright, Jun., Pinchbeck Hall, Spalding.
J. Rawlence, Bulbridge, Wilton, Salisbury.
G. H. Sandy, Holme Pierrepont, Notts.

First prize, a silver cup, value £50, with a purse of fifty sovereigns, given by Lord Charles J. F. Russell for the best-managed farm in the county of Bedford, R. Checkley, Brogborough, Woburn; second, £50, by the Royal Agricultural Society, T. Crouch, Boughton End Farm, Lidlington, Ampthill. Specially commended for gold medal, C. Howard, Biddenham and Bromham farms. Highly commended: Z. Phillips, Birchmoor, Woburn; G. Street, Maulden, Ampthill; J. Lilley, Knotting Green; U. Paine, Elms Farm, Goldington. Commended: J. Henman, Stagsden West End; W. Leaberry, Hill Farm, Stagsden; J. Lester, Kempston.

INSPECTORS OF SHEARING.—H. Bone, Bisterne, Ringwood.
W. Jobson, Buteland, Bellingham.
J. B. Workman, Ridon, Pershore.

STEWARDS OF LIVE STOCK—R. Leeds, Castleacre, Brandon.
M. W. Ridley, M.P., Blagdon, Cramlington.
W. H. Wakefield, Sedgwick, Kendal.
Hon. Wilbraham Egerton, M.P., Rostherne Manor, Knutsford.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR.—Professor Brown, Royal Veterinary College.

HON. DIRECTOR OF THE SHOW.—B. T. Brandreth Gibbs, Half-Moon-street, Piccadilly, London.

THE IMPLEMENT TRIALS.

THE OPENING DAY.

The implements which come into competition this year are drills, horse-hoes, manure distributors, waggons, and carts; with further prizes for shepherds' huts, sleeping vans, and thrashing-machine safety-guards.

The last trials of waggons, carts, and manure distributors were at Manchester in 1869, when amongst the chief winners of premiums for waggons were W. Crosskill and Sons, Hayes and Son, and the Beverley Iron Works Company; while for carts the most successful competitors were Hayes, Corbett, Crosskill, Ball and Son, Milford, and the Beverley Company. For manure distributors James of Cheltenham and Baker of Compton took the prizes.

The drills and horse-hoes would seem to have lost their turn, as they have not been on trial since the Plymouth meeting in 1865, when amongst the prize-winners for drills were Hornsby and Sons, Priest and Woolnough, Coultas, Sainty, Holmes and Son, Gower and Sons, Reeves and Germans; and of horse-hoes the best tried were exhibited by Sainty, Priest and Woolnough, Smith (of Kettering), Carson and Toon, Tinkler, Page and Co., and Eaton and Sons.

The following table shows the number of entries for trial at Bedford:

	Number for Trial.	Number in section.	Machines entered in two classes.
Section I.—Drills.			
Class.			
1. General purpose drills	7		
2. Corn drills	26		2
3. Adaptation to a corn drill for hillside delivery	11		
4. Corn drills for small occupations	16		
5. Drills for turnips and other roots on the flat	12		1
6. Drills for turnips and other roots on the ridge	11		
7. Drills for turnips and other roots on the ridge, without manure box	20		
8. Water Drills	5		
9. Drills for small seeds	9		
10. Barrows for sowing small seeds	12		
11. Drill pressers	3		1
12. Potato drills	6	135 drills.	
Section II.—Horse-hoes.			
13. Horse-hoes for general purposes	29		1
14. Horse-hoes combined with drill for small seeds	5		
15. Single-row horse-hoes for ridge and flat	29		1
16. Single-row grubbers	19		
17. Horse-hoes for thinning turnips	24	105 horse-hoes.	
Section III.—Manure distributors.			
18. Distributors for liquid manure	9		1
19. Distributors for dry manure	10	16 manure distributors.	
Section IV.—Waggons.			
20. Pair-horse waggons	9		
21. Light waggons on springs	4		
22. Other waggons	6	19 waggons.	
Section V.—Carts.			
23. Single-horse carts for general agricultural purposes	21		
24. Harvest carts	4		
25. Market carts on springs	10		
26. Carts for the conveyance of water, with pump attached	10		
27. Other carts	15	60 carts.	
Section VI.—Stock and Implement Carts.			
28. Low-bodied carts on springs, for conveyance of stock	1		
29. Lorries, or other vehicles, for the conveyance of implements	6		
30. Carts with crank axle and low body	7	14 stock and implement carts.	

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	Number on Trial.	Number in section.	
Section VII.—Movable huts.			
31. Shepherds' huts on wheels	4		
32. Vans for men engaged in steam cultivation, with fittings	3	7 huts.	
Special prize.			
33. Guard or appliance to the drum of a thrashing machine for preventing accidents to the people employed	15	15 guards to the drum of a thrashing machine.	
Total	378	371	

The following is a list of the exhibitors of implements at Bedford: Affleck; Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operative Association; Albion Iron Works Company; Allchin; Allcock; Alway and Son; Armitage, S. C.; Arnold and Sons; Ashby, Jeffery, and Luke; Ashton; Atmospheric Churn Company; Aveling and Porter; Bailey Brother; Baker and Co; Baker, J.; Baker, T.; Ball; Ball and Son, Barford and Perkins; Barford, V.; Barnard, Bishop, and Barnard; Barnard; Barrows and Stewart; Barton; Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss; Beach and Co.; Beare, Son, and Co.; Belcher, Gee, and Co.; Bell and Co.; Bellamy; Bentall; Beverley Iron and Waggon Campany; Bickerton and Sons; Bigg; Biphosphated Guano Company (Limited); Boby; Boulton and Co.; Boyall; Bradford and Co.; Braggins; Brigham and Co.; Bristol Waggon Works Company; Broomhall; Brown and Co.; Brown and May; Burgess and Key; Burney and Co.; Burrell; Cambridge and Parham; Campion; Carson and Toone; Canter Brothers; Chambers, H.; Chambers, H.; Cheavin; Clarke and Odling; Clarke; Clarke; Clay; Clayton and Shuttleworth; Clemow and Co.; Coleman and Morton; Coleman; Cooch; Cooke; Corbett and Peele; Corbett, S., and Son; Corcoran, Witt, and Co.; Cottam and Co.; Cottis and Sons; Cottrell and Co.; Coulson and Weor; Coultas; Couteau; Cox; Cranston and Luck; Crawley; Crosskill and Sons; Crowley and Co.; Crump; Davies; Davis and Co.; Davey, Paxman, and Co.; Day and Sons; Day, Son, and Hewitt; De Leon and Co.; Dean; Denne and Son; Dell and Son, Dening and Co.; Dennis and Co.; Denton; Dodge and Co.; Dodman; Down and Co.; Driffield Linseed Cake Company; Duffield, Eagles; Eastwood; Edgington and Co.; Edginton and Co.; Edlington; Elliman and Co.; Fairbanks and Co.; Farmers' Supply Association; Faulks; Fisken; Fison; Follows and Bate; Foster and Co.; Fowler, J., and Co.; Gardner; Garrett and Sons; Gatward: Gibbons; Gibbs and Co.; Gibson; Gilbert; Gillitt; Glover and Sons; Gooday; Gold Brothers; Gower and Son (Winchfield); Gower and Son (Market Drayton); Grant; Green and Sons; Guest; Hall and Co; Hall; Hamilton and Co.; Hamilton, Woods, and Co.; Hancock, H., and Co.; Hancock, J. L., and Co.; Harrison McGregor Co.; Harrison; Hart and Co.; Hartley and Sugden; Hayes and Son; Hayes; Haynes and Sons; Hayward, Tyler and Co.; Head, Wrightson, and Co.; Headly and Son; Heard; Hempsted and Co.; Hepburn and Sons; Heron, Gresham, and Craven; Hill and Smith; Hollings, Brothers; Holmes and Sons; Hope; Hopperton; Horley; Hornsby, R., and Sons; Howard, J.; Howard, J. and F.; Howes and Sons; Hughes; Humphries; Hunt and Tawell; Hunter; Hydes and Wigfull; Iles; Ingold; Inman; Inwood; James and Son; Johnston Harvester Co.; Jones, J. M.; Jordan, E.; Kearsley, H. and G.; Kell; Kennan and Sons; Keyworth and Co.; Kilpin and Billson; King, W.; Kittmer, B.; Koppel, L.; Larkworthy and Co.; Laughland and Co.; Le Butt. J.; Le Grand, A.; Lewis and Son: Lillie and Elder; London, Provincial, and Foreign-Sanitary Co.; Lyon, A.; Main and Co.; Maldon Iron Works Co.; Marsden; Marshall, Sons and Co.; Marston and Co.; Massey and Hill; Matthews, J.; Matthews, Son, and Co.; Mattison, W.; May and Mountain; Maynard, R.; Maythorn, J.; M'Kenzie and Sons; Mellard's Trent Foundry; Milburn and Co.; Milford and Son; Milford, Frank P.; Mills and Co.; Mitchell and Co.; Moore and Co.; Morgan and Co.; Morris and Griffin; Mortlock; Morton, Francis, and Co.; Moser; Mote, F.; Moule's Earth Closet Co.; Moulton, E. L.; Murray and Co.; Murton and Turner; Musgrave and Co.; Nalder and Nalder; Negus; Newton, Chambers, and Co.; Nicholson and Son; Nickerson; Nock; Norris and Co.; Ohlendorff and Co.; Oldham and Booth; Osborne and Co.; Packard and Co.; Page and Co.; Page and Girling; Parham; Parker; Payne and Son; Pearce, C.; Peirce, A. C.; Penney and Co.; Perkins and Co.; Phillips-Smith and Co.; Pickering; Picksley, Sims, and Co.; Pinfold; Powis and Co.; Priest, Woolnough, and Michell; Pyke; Rainforth and Son; Randell; Ransome, S. and E., and Co.; Ransomes, Sims, and Head; Ravensthorpe Engineering Company; Raywood; Reading Ironworks; Reeves and Son; Reid and Co.; Rendle; Reynolds and Co.; Riband Telegraph Post Company; Richards; Riches and Watts, Richmond and Chandler; Roberts; Robey and Co.; Robinson and Richardson; Rodway; Rollins and Co.; Russell and Co.; Ruston, Proctor, and Co.; Samuelson and Co.; Sawney; Schaffer and Budenburg; Sears and Co.; Sharman and Ladbury; Sheath; Sherwood; Silvester; Simpson and Co.; Smith and Grace; Smith, R., and Co.; Smith, W.; Smyth and Sons; Snowden; Spong and Co.; Staniland; Staynes & Sons; Stone; St. Pancras Iron Work Co.; Summerscales and Sons; Sutton and Sons; Symonds; Tangye and Holman; Tasker and Sons; Taylor's Sewing Machine Co.; Thomas and Taylor; Thorn; Thorough Washing Machine Co.; Thwaites and Carbutt; Tipper; Tomlinson, Hayward, and Bishop; Tucker; Turner; Underhill; Unite; Vipan and Headly; Waide; Walker and Son; Walker, Fyfe, and Co.; Wallis and Steevens; Walworth and Co.; Wandley and Robb; Ward and Silver; Warsop and Hill; Watson; Watts and Co.; Webb and Son; Weighill; Weir; Welland Vale Co.; Wheeler and Son; Wheeler and Wilson; White and Co.; Whitehead and Co.; Whitehouse; Wilkerson; Willacy; Williams and Co.; Williams; Williams, Jones, and Co.; Williamson; Windover; Wood; Woods, Cocksedge, and Co.; Wray; Wright, H.; Wright and Co.; Wright. W. T.; Wurr and Lewis; Zimdars.

THE TRIAL WEEK.

The implement trials this year have been carried out under great personal inconvenience to the judges, exhibitors, and all concerned, from the intense heat of the weather, and the parched and dry nature of the ground, owing to the continued want of rain. The trial-fields were, however, conveniently chosen, some close to the show-yard and the others at no great distance; but marching over the ground was like walking on pebbles and the intense direct rays of the sun, with but seldom a breath of air, made the long day's labours scarcely bearable. The judges, however, stuck to their work unflinchingly from early morning to almost dusk—a measure

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absolutely requisite to get through the numerous implements and vehicles submitted for trial, which numbered nearly four hundred. The fields selected were, for the trials of drills, two fields near the show-yard; and for the horse-hoes, two others reaching towards Elstow. The backward state of the turnip crop threw a difficulty in the way of the Society in obtaining a suitable plot for trial of turnip-thinners, as the plants in the field originally selected were not sufficiently forward; but arrangements were made with Mr. Poole for one of his fields better circumstanced, although by no means in a satisfactory condition for a good trial. The exhibition of implements coming on for competition this year is large, may be thus summarised:

Drills of various kinds	229
Horse-hoes and grubbers	45
Manure distributors	6
Carts and waggons	209
Movable huts	8

The trials of the general-purpose drills were limited to five makers, and did not give much trouble. The corn drills, however, in class 2 were very numerous, and occupied the judges several days in coming to a determination, after repeated trials and the free use of the dynamometer. The drills ranged in price from £19 up to £36—the charge for a Canandian patent made by Hollings Brothers, of Swindon. The trials of these were watched with great interest, although the work of burying the seed was performed under difficulties, but the poor judges, who had to follow the course of the implements over the hard knobbly clayey soil, were to be pitied; they got through their work, however, on Thursday, and were able to announce their decision on Friday. By far the greater number of the seed drills work in the old-fashioned way—the corn, or turnips, or mangold seed being lifted in little cups, get round a disc, on short arms, the seed being spilled over from the highest point into two funnels, one at each side of the disc, and so conveyed to the land behind the coulters, which open the furrows. Many of the machines combine a manure with a seed-box; and several different devices are used for inducing guano and superphosphate to flow through a comparatively small aperture and fall down a spout in advance of the seed. The machines were tried, not with real manure, but with coal dust, which answers pretty well. A somewhat startling fact has already been arrived at, namely, that machines by good makers in the best adjustment will sow 7 oz. of seed in one drill while going a given distance, and perhaps 9 oz. in the next drill; this was discovered by the simple expedient of fastening small bags over the delivery spouts, so that the seed went into the bags and was weighed, instead of going into the ground and being covered up out of sight. This is a matter of the utmost importance, as too much care cannot be taken to distribute seed evenly. A great defect in all drills constructed on what may be termed the "Persian wheel" system, is that if the horses stop the seed falls out of the cups, and when they go on again the machine must move a foot or two before more seed can be picked up and brought to the top of the wheel. The feeding discs run slowly, and they must make half a revolution before they begin to sow again after a stoppage. This is not the case with various other systems of construction which appears to possess general advantages over the Persian wheel arrangement, although the latter is the most popular with agricultural implement makers at present.

The trials in class 3 for the best adaptation of a corn drill for hill-side delivery were made on Thursday, and there were eleven entries, only one maker sending two implements. The corn drills for small occupations, class 4, were also tried on Thursday. The range of price for these implements varied between the extremes of £14 and £31. There were fifteen separate makers entered.

The drills for turnips and other roots on the flat, class 5, were tested in the field near the show-yard on Monday, and the trials completed of the twelve entries, so as to enable the judges to determine their awards on the following day. Nineteen makers competed, and there were twelve entries in the class.

The competitions in classes 6 and 7—drills for turnips and other roots on the ridge, with or without manure—were carried on in the fields at Elstow. In the first class there were eleven entries, and in the second twenty. The prices of these implements made by various makers vary widely. Those in class 6 range between the two extremes of £6 10s. and £20, and in class 7 from £5 5s. to £11 11s.

The water-drills tried in class 8 were very few, there being only five entries, and one maker sent two. The range of price of these implements was also wide, being between £25 and £41.

Class 9, drills for small seeds, included some cheap and useful implements; indeed, some very low priced.

The barrows for sowing small seeds, class 10, also contained some useful articles. Only three drill pressers, class 11, competed, and there were but six potato-drills tried. One or two of these are well known; but there was also a novelty in a French implement, shown by a M. Couteau. It consists of a travelling hopper, delivering potatoes of any size at distances varying at will, from 12 to 28 inches. A row is planted at a time, and the seed covered as deposited. The drill, 9 feet long and 4 feet wide, is worked by one horse. Bickerton and Sons', of Berwick, is constructed in toothed sections, and is only £8. Wright's machine, made by Coultas, of Grantham, plants, manures, and covers up two rows at one operation. The price is £31, a little more than the French implement. Murray's is £16, while Corbett and Peele supply one at £20, and that of Coultas is sold at £45.

The largest exhibitors of drills of various kinds for trial in the several classes were Messrs. Gower and Son, 28; T. Harrison, 10; J. Coultas, 10; Holmes and Son, and Corbett and Peele, 8 each; Rainforth and Sons, 6; Murton and Turner, and Underhill, 5 each; Dening and Co., J. F. Clemow and Co., Walker and Son, G. W. Murray, and Kell, 3 each.

On Tuesday Messrs. J. and F. Howard commenced cutting a fine field of rye, near the road, with some of their reaping machines, and on Friday and Saturday they had several sets of their newest steam-cultivating apparatus at work in fields near the show-yard. Their iron works and farms were also thrown open to visitors.

Messrs. Barford and Perkins also exhibited on Wednesday two sets of their steam ploughing and cultivating tackle at work on strong land, half a mile from the show-yard, in the occupation of Mr. Risely, of Elstow. One set was driven by an ordinary 8-horse power portable engine, and the other, Savage's patent, on an entirely new plan, by a traction engine, the hind wheels of which are converted into winding drums, thus dispensing with the ordinary windlass, and two men can strip the wheels in half-an-hour.

On Tuesday the judges were occupied all the morning with the trials of class 7, small ridge drills with manure. In the afternoon they took up and finished class 6, then commenced with class 15, single row horse hoes for ridge and flat, which was resumed at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

On Thursday morning the judges proceeded with the trials of horse-hoes for general purposes, and those combined with drills for small seeds, and those for thinning turnips, in Mr. Prole's fields, at Elstow. At 8 o'clock the corn drills trials were resumed, the following imple-

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ments being taken in succession: B. Reid and Co., W. Walker, Dening and Co., Kells, Thos. Harrison, W. Gilbert, Holmes and Son, Gowers, W. Coleman, J. Coultas, W. Rainforth.

The judges of carts, &c., at 9 resumed the inspection of the vans in class 32.

The judges for miscellaneous objects for the silver medals commenced their labours at nine o'clock on Tuesday, and by one had got through 42 stands. They commenced at two o'clock with No. 43 stand, and by the evening had reached 100. On Wednesday morning they resumed their labours at stand 101, and got through more than 100 stands in the course of the day, recommencing on Thursday morning with stand 213.

This year, to avoid the former complaints made by competitors of only a few of the prize implements of the year having been exhibited in the centre of the show-yard, a special shed, prominently situated, has been set apart by the Society for their exclusive display, and to afford better facilities for the general inspection of the public.

Thos. Hunter's turnip-thinning machine had the honour of being the first placed in the shed on Thursday.

Turning now to "Section II.—Horse hoes," this embraced a large class of implements for the judges to deal with, there being 106 entries in the section, comprising 29 for general purposes (class 13), 5 combined with small seed drill (class 14), 29 single-row hoes for ridge and flat (class 15), 19 grubbers (class 16), and 24 turnip-thinners (class 17).

On Thursday morning the judges resumed the trials of turnip-thinners and of horse hoes for general purposes and those combined with drills for small seeds in Mr. Poole's field at Elstow. The awards in classes 5, 6, 7, and 15 and 16, were issued in the course of the morning.

On Friday, at nine o'clock, the judges commenced with horse hoes for general purposes in No. 5 field, and in the afternoon took up the trials of Class 19, distributors of dry manure. At 8 o'clock, Class 4, corn-drills for small occupations, were taken up.

At nine the judges in carts, vans, and huts, resumed their experimental trials and examinations. The miscellaneous judges had progressed so far as to be able to commence at nine with Stand No. 273, the other 80 or 90 stands being chiefly miscellaneous articles, not agricultural.

Last year a rotation of trials of implements, to extend over nine years, was commenced at the Hull Meeting, and this year the trials consist of implements suited for cultivation and carrying of crops; next year machines and implements used in the harvesting of grass crops, such as mowing machines, horse-rakes, haymakers, collectors, and elevators. In the following year, 1876, machines and implements used in the harvesting of grain and root crops will have their turn.

Gaining wisdom by experience, there has been issued and circulated this year in advance a programme of the points of merit to be awarded for perfection in various qualifications to the implements presented for trial. This is a manifest advantage not only to competitors, but to the public, and especially that portion which is most concerned in the perfection of machinery and implements for agricultural work.

Classes 13 and 15 mustered strong, there being nearly sixty entries of implements in the two classes. In horse-hoes for general purposes, class 13, several of the principal makers sent more than one, and there were some few novelties or improved implements by Wandley and Robb of Wisbeach, Barford and Perkins, Armitage, Smith and Grace, F. Mote, G. O. Gooday, Reid of Aberdeen, and Vipam and Headly. Wandly and Robb have done away with the long bar under the levers; Barford and Perkins showed an improved Savage's hoe; Armitage had a patent parallel steerage, the share self-adapting to irregularities; Gooday's had an improved method of altering the depth; Reid's had a new arrangement for securing the blades to the shanks.

In class 14, horse-hoes combined with drill, for small seeds, the entries were but few, only five makers competing with implements varying in price from £11 10s. to £40.

Class 15, single-row horse-hoes for ridge and flat, was taken up at three o'clock on Tuesday in the Elstow field, but there were few weeds to operate upon. The implements were, however, fairly tested by the judges, and Corbett and Peele's new pattern hoes especially commended; while those of W. Ashton of Horncastle, one of Gillett's of Northampton (of wrought iron, for use on hard ground), and one of Snowden's of Doncaster (with three shares and two tines) did their work well.

For class 16, single-row grubbers, there was a good field of entries. Five were described as new implements; but there was not much novelty or advantage apparent in any of the so-called improvements. The leading makers were all represented.

Class 17, horse-hoes for thinning turnips, was one regarded with much interest, because no effective implement has yet been constructed, and, indeed, it is a difficult one to deal with. All varieties of plans for working the horse-hoes were shown; but a cross chop in this instance will not do. Mr. Prote's field of turnips—the best that could be obtained—was very thin and backward, and offered no fair test for the trials, and the dust and turnips were thrown about very extensively by most of the revolving machines.

Thomas Hunter, of Maybole, had two implements of Hanson's patent, for one and two drills respectively, which work by two revolving sets of hoes on a frame.

Smith, of Kettering, entered several thinners, in which the hoes are placed diagonally, and ranging in price from £6 10s. to £11 10s. Some of these will thin the width of a six-foot drill, and others do two rows at once Holmes and Son, of Norwich, had several on trial: in one the motion was vertical on a horizontal shaft, in another horizontal on a vertical shaft, while in a third the cutting was done by fixed hoes worked on a crank.

The Dublin firm of Kennan's had three of what they call their Clydone hoe, with from 3 to 6 cutters each, the hoes covering different spaces of ground, and in the large ones having plants a foot or more apart.

Underhill, of Newport, had a two-row thinner, which he introduced more than 20 years ago, which works by two sets of revolving hoes or cutters.

Morton and Turner, of Thetford, had one which cuts on the principle of ordinary hand-hoeing.

Thomas Chambers, of Fakenham, had a patented implement of his own, made by Holmes and Son, which works two sets of their revolving hoes, and is easily reversed.

Ransomes brought forward a large and rather expensive implement, £20, working easily on the cross-cut principle, like an ordinary hand-hoe, and well under management. With some improvements, this implement may be found useful.

Baker and Co., of Kimbolton, entered one of their ordinary horse-hoes which works across the fields at right angles to the rows.

Class 18.—Distributors for Liquid Manures.—There were only nine entries for trial in this class, three exhibitors sending two carts each. The average price was about £21, the range being from £17 to £24 15s., one sent by Willacy without a cart at £5 scarcely needing notice. Baker's two were iron cylinders. Reeves and Son had two, and James and Son two wooden distributors.

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In the next, Class 18, distributors for dry manure, the competition was more varied, for out of the ten entries only one maker sent two. The prices ranged from £12 10s. to £20 15s.

Passing to the next, "Section 4—Waggons," ther was an active competition, and we have seldom seen such an effective display of strong, useful, and moderate-priced vehicles.

In the cart and waggon competition several of the large makers, such as the Bristol Waggon Company, the Beverley Iron and Waggon Company, Crosskill and Sons, and others did not enter. The entries comprised the following numbers from each maker: Hayes and Sons, 20; W. Ball and Son, 12; Woods and Cocksedge, 9; F. P. Milford, 8; J. S. Stone, 6; G. Ball, 4; Page and Girling, 4; Vipan and Headley, 3; W. Glover and Son, 3; Howes and Sons, 3; J. Fowler, 2; H. Inman, 2; J. Negus, 2; Affleck, 2; Corbett and Peele, 2; Lillie and Elder, 2; T. Baker, 3; Thos. Milford and Son, 2. All the carts and waggons entered for competition were severely tested by the consulting engineer's dynamometer, mounted on a pair of wheels, arranged to draw as nearly as possible from the same height and at the same angle as horses and two-wheeled carts, and the load on the horse's back was also determined. The carts were loaded according to their capacity, build, and strength, with straw, roots, or corn in sacks.

The results obtained by the dynamometer promises to put our knowledge of all that concerns the draught of wheel-carriages at last on a satisfactory footing. Thus it has been found that, with one form of vehicle hitherto considered very satisfactory, the act of drawing a ton brought up the load on the horse's back to about 160lbs. Four times as much power is required to drag a loaded waggon on a hard field as on a macadamised field. What the resistance would be if the field were soft may be imagined. It would appear that horses really do much more work in hauling than is generally supposed, and the results of these trials, when worked out, cannot fail to prove both interesting and useful in no ordinary degree, both to the designers and builders of waggons, carts, and and other vehicles, and to all those who use horses, either for business or pleasure.

Class 20, pair-horse waggons. Out of the nine entries only two makers sent two waggons. They were all good serviceable vehicles, ranging in price from £29 to £53. To enter into detailed descriptions of those shown is unnecessary, for the awards will speak for themselves.

Class 21, light waggons on springs. The competition here was entirely between the two principal makers, Hayes and Son, of Stamford, who entered three, and W. Ball and Son, of Rothwell, Kettering, who entered one.

Class 22, other waggons. Here there were six entries by different makers.

Section V., Carts.—Class 23, single-horse carts for general agricultural purposes. The carts—taken as a whole—sent in by the principal makers were excellent, ranging in price from the lowest, £12 10s. (Woods and Cocksedge) to £19 (Hayes and Son). The competition in this class was severe, the entries for trial numbering twenty-one; and several makers sent in varieties, differing a little in price and general construction.

Class 24, harvest carts. There were only four competitors for the £10 prize, which was carried off by Hayes and Son for one of their already rewarded Society's prize-carts, with head and tail ladders, price £18 10s.; whilst one by F. Milford, of Devonshire, was highly commended by the judges.

Class 25, Market carts on springs.—The competition in this class laid among a few exhibitors, Howes and Sons, of Norwich, entering three; and Hayes and Son, of Stamford, four; the other competitors being J. S. Stone, W. Ball and Son, and Corbett and Peele, of Shrewsbury, who exhibited the cheapest, £19 10s.; some of those shown ran up to £42.

Class 26, Carts for the conveyance of water with pump attached.—In the ten carts shown there were great varieties of form—some were square wooden low-bodied, others iron cylindrical revolving, and set on the frame in different ways. J. Fowler, T. Baker, Woods and Cocksedge, W. Affleck, Reeves, and Negus were the makers: several were taken out to the fields and practically tested by the judges.

Class 27, Other carts.—Several of the fifteen carts entered under this class were examined and reported upon in other classes for which they were found suitable. Woods and Cocksedge, of Stowmarket, showed several of their make, with the improved tipping apparatus, and of excellent materials, and they did not fall into the error of some makers of painting their carts, seeing that soundness and quality of materials count for 200 points with the judges. Ball and Son, T. Milford and Son, Hayes and Son, and other firms were exhibitors.

Section 6, Stock and implement carts.—In the first division of the section, Class 28, low bodied carts on springs for the conveyance of stock, there was only one entry, a good useful cart of Corbett and Peele's, of Shrewsbury, which had already received the £15 prize at Manchester, and also received the £10 prize on this occasion.

Class 29, lorries or other vehicles for the conveyance of implements, called out from makers who sent in 6 vehicles: Henry Inuman, of Manchester, two; Hayes and Son, two; W. Ball and Son, and F. P. Milford one each, the latter carrying off the £10 prize for a lorry suited for harvest purposes in hill-side districts, the price of which was only £20.

Class 30, Carts with crank axle and low body.—This called out 7 entries, at prices ranging from £20 to £40, the £10 prize being awarded to the cheapest one, made by W. Ball and Son.

Class 31, Shepherd's huts on wheels.—A compact and well-constructed hut by J. P. Fison, of Cambridge, at £18, carried off the £10 prize; the second of £5, to one of Mr. H. Inman's construction at £12. G. O. Gooday showed a small miserable affair, intended more as a medium of showing his system of thatching than for any other special merit.

Class 32, Vans for men engaged in steam-cultivation, with fittings.—Only three illustrations of these were submitted to the judges: two by makers who have had experience in the necessary requirements; J. Fowler and Co., one at £95; Aveling and Porter one at £85; and the third by M. Faulks, of Bingham, was higher priced, being £110.

The last subject for notice is the competition for the gold medal special prize offered for a guard or protector to the drum of a thrashing machine. Fifteen different plans were submitted by thirteen makers. Woods, Cocksedge, and Co.'s fence consists of a wooden-spiked roller placed in the feeding mouth just over the drum, and driven by a belt from the stacker-shaft at about forty-five revolutions a minute. Ruston and Proctor's consists of three small wooden-spiked rollers, arranged side by side, parallel with the drum-shaft on the top. These are geared together by five wheels, and revolve all in the same direction. Messrs. Marshalls' guard consists of an elevated box mouth, down which the corn has to be thrown. Ransomes, Sims, and Head have as a guard a combination of rollers placed in the vertical mouth of a hood. The one, is a six-sided wooden roller, and is run at rather high speed by a strap. Above it and parallel runs a fixed shaft on which are loosely strung a number of heavy wooden discs about ten inches in diameter, covered with leather.

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J. P. Fison uses a plain roller about one foot in diameter, with wood strips parallel to the axis running above the drum.

F. Savage, of King's Lynn, uses a curved hood of sheet iron of the simplest kind, which can be set at any required angle by moving it on hinges.

E. Humphries covers the drum with a hood, and provides a set of short chains and spikes which carry the corn into the hood.

Messrs. Hornsby have a regular rail fence or dock within which the man feeding sits.

These are some few of the plans adopted or suggested for safety; but the question for discussion was wide and complicated, it being necessary also to determine whether the guard, being a self-acting feeder, did or did not work so well as to allow the machine to be worked as efficiently with as without.

IMPLEMENT PRIZES.

Judges for drills, hoes, and manure distributors are Colonel Grantham, Messrs. Kimber, Savidge, Ogilvie, Hicken, and Outhwaite; for waggons, carts and moveable huts, Messrs. Colman, Wheatley, and Turnbull; Miscellaneous, Messrs. Cantrell, Ford, and Hemaley. The stewards of implements are Mr. J. C. Booth, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Jabez Turner, and Mr. Bowen Jones.

Class. SECTION I.—DRILLS.

1. General purpose drills.
   First prize, £10, James Coultas, Grantham (2790).
   Second, £5, Thos. Harrison (851).
2. Corn drills.
   First prize, £15, James Coultas.
   Second, £10, Holmes and Son, Norwich.
   Commended.—A. W. Gower and Sons, Winchfield; and Walker and Son, Tithby, Bingham.
3. Adaptation to a corn drill for hill-side delivery.
   Prize, £10, C. Dening and Co., Chard.
4. Corn drills for small occupations.
   First prize, £10, W. Walker and Son, Nottingham (3413).
   Second, £5, A. W. Gower and Sons, Winchfield (2849).
   Highly commended.—W. Gilbert, Abingdon (177); James Coultas, Grantham (2794); Wm. Coleman, Northampton (5001).
5. Drills for turnips and other roots on the flat.
   First prize, £10, James Coultas (2795).
   Second, £5, R. J. Reeves and Son (1587).
6. Drills for turnips and other roots on the ridge.
   First prize, £10, James Coultas (2796).
   Second, £5, R. J. Reeves and Son (1588).
7. Drills for turnips and other roots on the ridge, without manure-box.
   First prize, £10, J. D. Snowden (364).
   Second, £5, G. W. Murray and Co. (4265).
   Commended.—Corbett and Peele (1375).
8. Water drills.
   First prize, £10, R. J. Reeves and Son, Westbury.
   Second, £5, J. Coultas, Grantham.
9. Drills for small seeds.
   First prize, £10, J. Coultas, Grantham.
   Second, £5, Walker and Son, Bingham, near Nottingham.
10. Barrows for sowing small seeds.
    Prize, £5, Corbett and Peele, Shrewsbury.
    Highly Commended, A. W. Gower and Son, Market Drayton.
11. Drill pressers.
    Prize, £5, A. W. Gower and Son, Market Drayton.
12. Potato drills.
    First prize, £15, J. Coultas, Grantham.
    No second prize awarded.

SECTION II.—HORSE HOES.

13. Horse hoes for general purposes.
    First prize, £10, Smith and Grace, Thrapston.
    Second, £5, Fordham Mote, March.
    Highly commended.—Vipan and Headley, Leicester.
    Commended.—G. Lewis and Sons, Kettering.
14. Horse hoes combined with drill, for small seeds.
    Prize, £5, Corbett and Peel, Shrewsbury.
    Commended.—W. Smith, Kettering.
15. Single-row horse hoes for ridge and flat.
    First prize, £10, Corbett and Peele (1386).
    Second, £5, Vipan and Headly (779).
    Highly commended.—Carson and Toone (4884); Corbett and Peale (1388).
    Commended.—J. D. Snowden (365); James Gillett (759); W. Ashton (768).
16. Single-row grubbers.
    Prize, £5, Mellard's Trent Foundry.
    Commended.—Corbett and Peele, Shrewsbury.
17. Horse hoes for thinning turnips.
    First prize, £15, W. Smith, Kettering.
    Second, £10, W. Smith.
    Highly commended.—W. Smith.
    Commended.—W. Holmes and Son, Norwich.

SECTION III.—MANURE DISTRIBUTORS.

18. Distributors for liquid manure.
    Prize, £10, R. J. Reeves and Son, Westbury.
    Highly commended.—J. Coultas, Grantham.
19. Distributors for dry manure.
    Prize, £5, Thomas Chambers, Fakenham.
    Highly commended.—J. Coultas, Grantham.
    Commended.—Reeves and Son, Westbury.

SECTION IV.—WAGGONS.

20. Pair-horse waggons.
    First prize, £15, Thos. Milford and Son, Cullompton.
    Second, £10, W. Ball and Son, Kettering.
    Highly commended. — W. Glover and Sons, Warwick.
21. Light waggons on springs.
    First prize, £10, Hayes and Son, Stamford.
    Second, £5, W. Ball and Son, Kettering.
22. Other waggons.
    Prize, £10, W. Ball and Son, Kettering.
    Highly commended.—George Ball, Rugby; Thos. Milford and Son, Cullompton.

SECTION V.—CARTS.

23. Single-horse carts for general agricultural purposes.
    First prize, £10, W. Ball and Son, Rothwell, Kettering (1309).
    Second, £5, F. P. Milford, Exeter (5039).
    Highly commended.—Thos. Milford and Son, Collumpton (4877); George Ball, North Kilworth (1241); Hayes and Son, Stamford (1437).
24. Harvest carts.
    Prize, £10, Hayes and Son, Stamford.
    Highly commended. —F. P. Milford, Haldon, Devon.
25. Market carts on springs.
    Prize, £10, Hayes and Son, Stamford (1440).
    Commended.—Corbett and Peele, Shrewsbury (1392).
26. Carts for the conveyance of water, with pump attached.
    First prize, £10, R. J. Reeves and Son, Wes bury (1594).
    Second, £5, Wm. Affleck, Swindon (1860).
    Highly commended.—W. Affleck (1861), for carrying water to farm stock; J. Fowler and Co., Leeds (994), for steam cultivating purposes.

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27. Other carts.
Prize, £10, F. P. Milford, Kenn, Exeter.
Highly commended.—George Ball, North Kilworth, Rugby.
Commended.—Hayes and Son, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

SECTION VI.—STOCK AND IMPLEMENT CARTS.

28. Low-bodied carts, on springs, for conveyance of stock.
Prize, £10, Corbett and Peele, Shrewsbury.
29. Lorries, or other vehicles, for the conveyance of implements.
Prize, £10, F. P. Milford, Haldon, Devon.
30. Carts with crank-axle and low body.
Prize, £10, W. Ball and Son, Kettering.

SECTION VII.—MOVABLE HUTS.

31. Shepherds' huts on wheels.
First prize, £10, J. P. Fison, Cambridge.
Second, £5, H. Inman, Manchester.
32. Vans for men engaged in steam cultivation, with fittings.
First prize, £15, J. Fowler and Co., Leeds (992).
Second, £10, Aveling and Porter, Rochester (5047).
Highly commended.—Michael Faulks (5861), for ventilating and sleeping accommodation.

SPECIAL PRIZE.

Appliance or guard to the drum of a thrashing machine for preventing accidents to people employed.
The Society's large gold medal.—[Prize withheld; judges recommend another year's trial.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

Awards to agricultural articles not included in the ordinary rotation.
Silver medals to
The Reading Iron Works, Limited, for their patent "Nozzle" vertical boiler with horizontal engine.
J. Fowler and Co., Leeds, for their 4-wheel windlass for steam cultivation on the roundabout system, with self-moving or driving forward anchor and turning cultivators.
W. N. Nicholson and Son, Newark, for their combined self-acting and manual delivery horse rake, which received the first prize at the competition at Chorley.
Barford and Perkins, Peterborough, for Savages' Agricultural locomotive engine, adapted for steam ploughing, the driving wheels being utilised as winding drums.
G. Lewis and Son, Kettering, for their new patent machine for elevating, shooting, loading and unloading sacks of corn, &c.
Fairbanks and Co., of King William-street, London, for their 8-ton weighbridge for carts and waggons.
W. R. Dell and Son, 26, Mark-lane, London, for their duplex grain-sorter for separating round seeds from wheat.
Ransomes, Sims, and Head, Ipswich, for their 10-horse power expansion portable steam-engine, fitted with Head and Schemioth's patent straw-burning apparatus.
Clayton and Shuttleworth, Lincoln, for their 7-horse power portable steam-engine, with variable expansion gear, water-heater, and other recent improvements.
Davy, Paxman, and Co., Colchester, for their water-heater, adapted to nearly all classes of high and low pressure and condensing engines.

The special or gold medal for an appliance to the drum of a thrashing machine was not awarded, the judges sending in a memorandum to the effect that they were unable to satisfy themselves as to the efficiency of any of the plans submitted as a guard or appliance to the drum of a thrashing machine for preventing accidents to the people employed; but they recommend that at any future trials two prizes should be offered—one for a combined guard and feeder, and another for a guard or protection only.

THE IMPLEMENT STANDS.

The show of implements increases year by year—an evidence of the growing importance of agricultural machinery and engineering skill, which has done so much already to lighten the manual work of the agricultural labourer. The farmer finds himself compelled to have the best, newest, and most effective machines, and every useful implement that will save hand-labour. Steam, too, has, and will continue, largely to supersede horse labour. The shedding, this year, for the implements and seeds covers 2,000 more feet, and the machinery in motion 600 more feet. The Society is doing all it can to keep down the increased demands for space from outsiders or dealers in miscellaneous articles, having little or no connection with agriculture; and there are 400 or 500 less feet given to them, notwithstanding the 10s. per foot space which they are willing to pay.

The following figures show the proportional space occupied at Bedford and Hull:

	Bedford. Feet.	Hull. Feet.
Implement shedding	11,400	9,000
Machinery in motion	2,600	2,000
Lands and models' shedding	700	1,100
Cattle shedding	2,900	2,400
Sheep and pig shedding	3,150	2,500

And there were enclosed boxes for 420 horses against 330 at Hull.

Let us now proceed to notice the principal stands, placing the names of exhibitors in alphabetical order for more easy reference of those interested.

Wm. Affleck, of Swindon, had a couple of his water carts, which were submitted for trial, and obtained the second prize and a high commendation; a small vertical engine and boiler; some loose tires on mowing machine wheels, with which the machine will travel with ease and smoothness, they are fixed or moved in two minutes; a double-action haymaking machine, suitable for light or heavy crops.

The Albion Iron Works Company, Rugeley, exhibited several of their chaff-cutters (one a new machine); several of their British grist mills, first introduced at the Wolverhampton meeting, and which will grind or kibble twice as fast as a mill with stones. They will also split large foreign beans and kibble Indian corn. The firm had also many excellent curd mills and cheese presses; some lawn cultivators; horse hoes; and a new horse rake, with improved tines.

W. Allchin, Northampton, an eight-horse portable engine, with steam-jacketed cylinder, with feed-water apparatus; a seven-horse steam-jacketed cylinder traction engine, with patent arrangement of driving gear; and a small 8½-horse portable engine, with water heater; also an improved corn-grinding mill, with 4-feet grey stones.

Alway and Son, of Pentonville, a fine collection of barrel and other churns, railway milk cans, pails, &c.

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Abraham Armitage, Bury, two ten-row general purpose drills; and an improved 6 feet 6 inches corn drill, fitted with a corn barrel; and a set of press levers and chains.

S. C. Armitage, Chatteris, March, a lever steerage horse hoe, and an improved turnip-thinner, which we described among the trial implements last week.

Ashby, Jeffery, and Luke, Stamford, showed numerous specimens of their celebrated prize haymakers; horse rakes, with high wheels; chaff cutters, with wrought iron frames and wrought angle iron legs, said to be the strongest and most durable machines in use. Our special attention was directed to the great advantages of their improved light-draught solid axle, double spring, and double-action haymakers; their special adaptability to heavy crops, from the fact of each fork having two strong springs arranged so as to take the bearing near the two ends of the fork bar instead of the middle, as in the case of the ordinary haymaker; the simple plan for cleaning the machine without taking it off its wheels, and the easy method of reversing the action. The new improved compound leverage lately introduced into their horse-rake renders this one of the lightest lifting rakes out. The introduction of wrought iron frame to chaff-cutters (as well as wrought-iron legs), was first adapted by this firm, and is, we believe, confined to them. The frequent breakages of cast-iron frames, especially in horse and steam-power machines, has been a constant source of annoyance and expense, and this is put forth as a likely step towards the remedy. The excellent vertical steam engines and powerful wrought-iron frame chaff-cutter, with an excellent plan of preventing accidents by a foot lever for reversing the rollers, attracted much attention.

Wm. Ashton, of Horncastle, had a general purposes horse hoe, a single row horse hoe, commended by the judges, and a grubber; several of Seel's patent duck-foot harrows, and chisel and other harrows.

Aveling and Porter, Rochester, besides their van for men, which carried off the second prize in competition at this meeting, had a 6-horse power road locomotive crane engine with spring tire driving wheels on Brydges Adam's patent, with compensating motion for turning sharp curves; an 8-horse and a 10-horse power agricultural locomotive, the latter adapted especially for steam ploughing on the roundabout system, for thrashing and the general hauling work of a farm, with a waggon, which received the first prize at the Wolverhampton meeting; one of a pair of 12-horse engines to work a double engine set of ploughing machines, and a 10-ton steam roller. This firm has received no less than seven gold medals, besides money prizes, during the past four years for their steam ploughing machinery.

J. L. Baker and Co., Hargrave, Kimbolton, had a good display of lever horse hoes, combined drills, &c.

John Baker, Wisbeach, several excellent corn dressing and screening machines.

Thomas Baker, Compton, is noted for his cylindrical water and manure carts, of which he exhibited several, besides two or three corn dressing and blowing machines.

George Ball, North Kilworth, near Rugby, had a waggon and several excellent carts, three of which were highly commended after trial by the judges.

W. Ball and Sons, of Rothwell, Kettering, made a magnificent display of waggons and carts, numbering about seventeen, and carried off no less than four first prizes and one second in the competition in Section 4.

Barford and Perkins, Peterborough, who have been so successful in different departments at previous Royal Shows, obtained the special silver medal for their 10-horse agricultural locomotive, manufactured by F. Savage, Lynn, the driving wheels being utilised as winding drums. Besides numerous other powerful steam cultivating apparatus, they exhibited an improved general horse hoe and a single blast thrashing machine, also by Savage; several improved elevators or stacking machines, and their prize steam cooking apparatus, and various other useful articles.

V. Barford, of St. Neots, had some portable farmers boilers and steamers.

Barrows and Stewart, Banbury, showed double cylinder 12-horse power portable steam cultivating engine, and several thrashing and finishing machines, a straw and hay elevator, and one of Andrew's stacking machines which will elevate a waggon-load in five minutes.

Beare, Son and Co., of Newton Abbott, exhibited three new implements—a patent drill for roots with manure on the flat 7 feet wide, with a self-acting appliance to seed box to ensure a regular distribution in hilly districts; a machine for distributing manure broadcast in small or large quantities; and a double speed back-action haymaker, in which the working heads extend beyond the travelling wheels, thereby turning the hay after the wheels have passed over it, and turning a larger space.

John Bellamy, of Millwall, had on his stand a good many of his wrought-iron cisterns, feeding and drinking troughs, and water cart bodies.

E. H. Bentall, of Maldon, exhibited, as usual, a large collection of his chaff cutters, turnip cutters, root pulpers, and corn and seed crushers, in several of which improvements had been made. A set of horse gear was also shown in which no intermediate is required.

The Beverley Iron and Waggon Company had a large display on their stand of carts, waggons and railway trucks, sheaf-delivery reapers, field rollers and crushers.

R. Bickerton and Sons, Berwick-on-Tweed, besides a drill roller and presser, had several reaping and mowing machines, with new improvements in them.

Robert Boby, Bury St. Edmunds, had a new spring lever horse-hoe, two new horse-rakes, and some double-action haymakers, and a number of screens and other useful machines and implements.

Brigham and Co., Berwick, exhibited a grass-mowing machine, a self-acting reaper, and a drill roller or presser in separate sections, on the principle of the Cambridge rollers.

The Bristol Waggon Company had a good many of their solidly-made carts, waggons, and floats, several steel-tooth horse-rakes, and corn-dressing machines.

Brown and May, Devizes, exhibited four of their portable engines, ranging from 10 to 2½-horse power, working several of Nalder and Nalder's thrashing machines.

Burgess and Key, London, two of their self-raker reapers, with Hughes' hand corn-lifters, a two-horse mowing machine, a combined reaper and mower, and a one-horse manual delivery reaper. The width of cut is five feet.

Charles Burrell, Whitford, Norfolk, one or two road locomotives, several single cylinder traction engines, two 8-horse power portable engines working thrashing machines, a harvest elevating machine, and a straw elevating machine worked by horse gear.

Cambridge and Parham, Bristol, had a good assortment on their stand, comprising two portable engines of their own, driving one of Nalder and Nalder's combined thrashing machines, and an improved hay, corn, and straw elevator. In this the principle of raising the trough is entirely new, and done by drawing together the front and hind travelling wheels by a chain and windlass. The top can be half-turned back without lowering the elevator. Several of their notched-wheel rollers and clod-crushers, and of their Hull Royal prize chain harrows were shown. They are made in three parts, connected with the patent spreaders, which are so arranged as to bring each jointed

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row of links in the three parts into separate tracks. They also showed some tine harrows and duck-foot scuffle drags.

George Campion, of Ramsey, had a great many novelties and varieties of drag harrows.

Carson and Toone, Warminster, sent several horse-hoes and grubbers: one of the former was highly commended on trial by the judges. They also had several chaff-cutting engines, turnip-cutters, and cheese presses, and some sets of horse gear, besides their well-known automatic lamb creep.

Carter Brothers, of Mark Lane, showed several of Norton and Hawksley's grinding and disintegrating mills, worked by one of Lewin's 8-horse portable engines, a new flour mixer, and several other improved minor implements.

Thomas Chambers, Fakenham, a new turnip-thinner and two broadcast manure distributors, one of which carried off the £5 prize on the trials.

Wm. Clarke, Ipswich, exhibited several counterbalance horse-rakes, a Scotch cart, and some improved cultivators.

Clay, Wakefield, exhibited several of his cultivators, similar to that which took the Society's prize at Hull last year. One for general purposes had a width of cut of 5 feet, with 7 tines, the selling price being £15. Another with 5 tines and levers to wheels, width of cut with shares 4 feet, fitted with all improvements, was £13. He also showed a Norwegian harrow, and some chisel harrows, light in draught for the width taken.

Clayton and Shuttleworth, Lincoln, had in the machinery in motion department a fine selection of their steam-engines, thrashing, and stacking machines. They also added to their former honorary rewards the silver medal of the Society this year, for the variable expansion gear, water-heaters, and other recent improvements to their engines. The price of the expansion gear separate is £7.

J. F. Clemow and Co., of Padstow, showed two new corn and seed drills, one 7 feet 6 inches wide, with 15 rows. Another 6 feet, with 13 rows.

Coleman and Morton, Chelmsford, made a good display of horse-hoes, liquid manure carts, prize cultivators, corn screens, hop syringing machine, and a horse pitch-fork for unloading and stacking hay, straw, and loose corn.

W. Coleman, of Northampton, showed some Woburn corn drills, one of which, on trial, was highly commended by the judges; a turnip drill, some horse hoes, and scuffle harrows. The seed hopper of the corn drill is entirely self-acting, and preserves its level and even position when drilling up and down hills as on the flat, thus ensuring an equal delivery of seed.

J. Cooch, Harlestone, had two or three corn dressing machines, which gained the Society's prize at Cardiff, and a couple of elevators for working with them.

John Cooke, Lincoln, made a large display of 30 or 40 ploughs of various kinds.

Corbett and Peele, of Shrewsbury, not only had a large and varied number of implements and machines, but were remarkably successful in their competitive trials, carrying off one first prize, three other prizes, two high commendations, and two commendations. They were especially successful in root drills, horse hoes, and grubbers.

S. Corbett and Son, of Wellington, exhibited a 4-horse portable engine, several grinding mills, root pulpers and strippers, some new potato diggers, and ploughs.

W. Cottis and Sons, Epping, entered a single row horse hoe and a grubber for trial.

Cottrell and Co., of Hungerford, showed a patent folding hay, corn, and straw elevator, with a horse-gear to work it.

Coulson and Wear, of Stamford, had a traction engine of 8-horse power, single cylinder, designed expressly for steam cultivation and thrashing, and a straw elevator with globular gear wheels, which will deliver straw to a height of 25 feet.

James Coultas, of Grantham, was one of the most successful of the exhibitors on the trial field, carrying off £78 in eight money prizes, and three high commendations; out of 16 implements entered for trial more than half were rewarded, principally drills and manure distributors, and Wright's potato planter. This valuable implement has already been rewarded with many prizes, and received the Society's silver medal at Hull. He also exhibited some horse hoes and grubbers, and an elevator for stacking.

W. Crosskill and Sons, Beverley, made a large display on their stand of clod-crushers and rollers, carts, waggons, and lorries, &c., but did not compete for the prizes offered.

John Crowley and Co., Sheffield, had several of S. Edwards's new safety lever chaff-cutters. In this the entire absence of any retaining pins to keep the starting lever in position, enables the man feeding the machine to stop it: even if both his hands were fast in the feed rollers, he could instantly stop it with his body, by bringing it in contact with the lever, which is placed in a convenient position for that purpose.

Davey, Paxman, and Co., Colchester, had several of their vertical engines and boilers, which occupy little room, and are highly efficient and economical. They also had on show several of their water-heaters, adapted to small or large power engines. A variety of contrivances, more or less perfect, have been suggested for this purpose, but none ever brought before the public which combine with these all the requisite qualities of a perfect water-heater, and which led the judges on this occassion to award it a silver medal. The water-heaters are of two descriptions—in one the steam is condensed and returned to the feed-tank, when the water is pumped into the boiler at a temperature of 200 Fah.; in the other the water is made hot between the pump and the boiler, and is therefore adapted to nearly all classes of high and low pressure and condensing engines. These heaters not only save fuel, but act as incrustation traps, thereby saving the boiler. A progress medal at Vienna and the silver medal at Bremen have been awarded to this heater.

Dietz and Co., lamp manufacturers, of St. Paul's Church-yard, had a farmers' tubular lantern, which has done good service the show-yard at the various tents at night, and in use by the local fire brigade.

W. R. Dell and Son, of Mark-lane, London, exhibited several smut machines and separators, Houghton's double aspirator, and some millstones. They were also awarded by the judges a silver medal for a French grain-sorter.

C. Dening and Co., of Chard, Somerset, besides some horse gear and miscellaneous articles, had several chain corn drills, one of which carried off the tenth prize on trial in class 3.

Dennis and Co., of Chelmsford, besides some good and cheap greenhouses, exhibited some new and ingenious steam or water valves for high pressures.

A. Dodman, of King's Lynn, had on his stand a portable 8-horse engine fitted with variable expansive gear, and a small 3-horse combined vertical engine and boiler.

F. Eastwood, of Blackburn, besides two small vertical engines of his make, exhibited several compound-action churns, tub, barrel, and other churns of various sizes.

W. and S. Eddington and Co., Chelmsford, had in motion a double-blast finishing thrashing machine (driven by one of their 8-horse portable engines), an as-

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sortment of driving bands, and some powerful screw lifting jacks.

J. B. and T. Edlington, Gainsborough, had, besides several mowing machines, a self-raking, side-delivering reaper, on an entirely new principle, the frame-work wholly constructed of wood, and so arranged that the attendant can raise and lower the machine, or dip the platform up or down while at work to suit laid or uneven crops.

Fairbanks and Co., King William-street, London, who are celebrated for their different American weighing machines, steel-yards, &c., received from the judges a silver medal for their 3-ton weighbridge for carts and waggons, which was employed in the test trials.

T. R. H. Fisken, of Hunslet, sent a new double windlass, light set of steam-ploughing tackle, and a five-tined cultivator.

J. P. Fison, Cambridge, exhibited an 8-horse and a 4-horse engine, a double-blast thrashing machine, fitted with an Archimedian corn elevator and chaff-bagger, a simple safety feeder guard, several harrows and ploughs, and the shepherd's hut which received the £10 prize in competition.

Follows and Bate, Manchester, had several improved implements, among others a cheap wheat-grinding mill for domestic use, a gorse-cutting and bruising machine for rendering furze safe and valuable as cattle-food, and a 8-horse vertical engine and boiler of their make.

J. Fowler and Co., Leeds, made a display of their machinery, much of which was in practical operation during the show. These are a collection of ten self-moving steam-engines, of various power and dimensions, and about thirty-five large implements, intended to perform every requisite operation on fields of every description. They had a 16-horse and an 18-horse steam ploughing engine. One of the features in these engines is the very extensive use of steel in the whole machinery, shafts, and gearing throughout, and every part more liable to wear and breakage being of this material. The advantages are greater strength and durability and lightness. A second noteworthy peculiarity is the exclusive employment of single-cylinder engines. The different implements worked by the engines are essentially of three classes — balance implements, turning implements, and implements which go backward and forward, without either turning or lifting, as ordinary harrows, &c. The balance principle is chiefly applied for ordinary ploughs. All these implements are entirely of wrought iron and steel, the skifes being cast steel, and only the shares of chilled cast iron. Each one can be fitted with different kinds of ploughs, by either exchanging the shares or the mouldboards, or both, to suit the peculiarities of the soil or the requirements of the crops. The width of the furrows, which can be altered by shifting the ploughs along the bevelled frame, whilst by simply substituting scarifying or digging breasts for the mould boards, the ploughs can be transformed into cultivators and digging implements. The principal implements made to turn round at the headlands, working with one set of tools in both directions, are cultivators. Of these we found one 11, three 9, two 7, and two 5-tine cultivators. A perfectly new type of implement was represented by an 8-furrow turn-wrest plough, adapted for shallow work.

R. Garrett and Sons, Saxmundham, had 6, 8, and 12-horse portable engines working their thrashing and corn-dressing machines, some corn, seed, and manure drills. They have applied a self-acting drum-guard, which protects the feeder and other attendants on the stage of the thrashing machine while at work. The guard, on the man leaving the feeding-box, closes completely over the drum, leaving only a grating through which the loose corn can be swept, thus preventing the possibility of those accidents which so often occur whilst the machine is emptying itself, and the operation of clearing down the stage is going on.

John Gatwood, Hitchin, made a large display of cultivating implements, drills, horse hoes, harrows, and clod-crushers, ploughs, and horse rakes.

P. and H. P. Gibbons, Wantage, had three engines of their make, driving, thrashing, and dressing machines, in the machinery in motion division of the yard.

W. Gilbert, of Shippon, Abingdon, had several Suffolk corn drills for trial, one of which, a 9-row small occupation drill, was highly commended by the judges.

James Gillitt, of Northampton, entered a number of new implements, horse hoes, and grubbers for trial, one of which was commended by the judges.

W. Glover and Sons, Warwick, sent in two well-made carts, and a pair-horse general purpose waggon, which on trial was highly commended,

A. W. Gower and Son, Winchfield, exhibited four corn drills for trial, one carrying off the £5 prize, and another larger one being commended. Their barrow seed-sowing machine has received several special and distinguished awards. The same firm, at Market Drayton, had several drills for trial, and also carried off a £5 prize and a high commendation for their two-furrow drill presser, and their broadcast seed machine.

John Guest, Bedford, exhibited a few drills, and a model of an elevator to build three or more stacks at one standing, without moving the driving power, as it moves from right to left.

J. Hall and Co., of Lincoln, had several corn grinding mills, and a coprolite mill fitted with French burr stones, &c.

Hamilton, Woods, and Co., of Salford, exhibited four horizontal and vertical engines of moderate power, one of Turner's gas engines, some hop presses, and an improved malt mill.

Harrison, McGregor, and Co., Leigh, exhibited a number of their one and two horse mowers and reapers, chaff-cutters, root pulpers, and slicers. Their Albion mowers were very successful in competitive trials last year, against those of many of the leading makers.

Thomas Harrison, Lincoln, entered several new implements for trial, and his large general purpose drill carried off the second prize for these.

Hunt and Co., of the City Road, London, had several weighing machines of various kinds for stock, bags, &c.

H. Hayes and Son, Stamford, made a large display of excellent carts and waggons, and carried off in competition two ten-pound prizes, a commendation, and a high commendation.

Edward Hayes, of Stony Stratford, showed some steam-cultivating tackle, &c., comprising a twelve-horse power engine, two self-acting windlasses, a pair of self-moving actors, some rope porters, and a five-tined cultivator.

Head, Wrightson, and Co., of Stockton-on-Tees, exhibited several of Moore's patent pulley blocks, of 10 to 40 cwt., and some of their hand hoists with brake, to enable one man to lift heavy weights with ease.

Hempsted and Co., Grantham, had on their stand an eight-horse power driving and finishing thrashing machine, also a straw elevator and stacker, and swivel drills.

Hill and Smith, Brierley Hill, entered a couple of horse hoes and a grubber for trial, and had a display of gates and fencing.

Holmes and Sons, of Norwich, had a fine collection of drills, horse hoes, and manure distributors. They carried off the second prize in the trials for general purpose

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drills, and their turnip thinner was highly commended by the judges after trial.

R. Hornsby and Sons, of Grantham, had two of their engines at work driving their famous thrashing machines. By improved arrangements the whole of the machinery is driven with very few belts and without gearing. They also exhibited several mowers and reapers, and these are now constructed so as with ordinary management to be entirely free from breakages. Their self-rakers have all the latest improvements. Of their new patent double-furrow ploughs several were shown. These are constructed on principles differing materially from anything before known, and the important improvements introduced appear to be a great advance over those generally in use.

J. and F. Howard, being on their own ground, made an enormous display of machines and implements: not only were two entire sheds in the show-yard filled, but the fields and yards adjoining their works were filled with specimens of their implements; but they had at work, as we stated in our last, their reaping machines cutting rye, and their steam ploughs turning up the soil afterwards, for the information of visitors passing to and from the show-yard. The Howards manufacture four kinds of machinery for steam cultivating. The first kind is that which they have made for so many years, consisting of a detached windlass and tackle on the stationary system, which can be worked by an ordinary portable or traction engine of ten or twelve horse-power. This apparatus requires one engine-driver, two anchor-men, a ploughman, and two rope-porter lads. The second arrangement consists of an ordinary traction or portable engine, with a new patent self-coiling windlass and self-moving anchors. This apparatus has the advantages peculiar to the stationary system, but the labour and expense of working are reduced. The men required are one engine-driver, a ploughman, and two rope-porter lads. The third consists of two ploughing or traction engines, with a winding barrel to each, working along opposite headlands, and drawing a plough, cultivator, or other implement from one engine to the other alternately. This arrangement is worked with two enginemen, a ploughman, and one or two rope-porter lads. One of the novelties shown was an arrangement of windlass constructed so that it can be attached behind the portable engine by which it is driven, the power being communicated by a belt. The firm also show one of their self-coiling windlasses, in which the drums have a traverse motion on their shaft, so as to ensure the rope coiling properly. One of the most interesting novelties they have introduced is a balance plough for horses, intended to turn the furrow always the same way. It is an ordinary steam plough in miniature, and has been specially designed for use in Kent. Another substantial improvement is a new folding reaper with self-acting rakes. Hitherto it has been a troublesome job to get the self-rakers along a road, owing to the great width occupied; but in this new machine the whole delivery platform, rakes and all, can be turned up without trouble and secured by a couple of bolts, so that the machine can traverse the narrowest roads, and yet can be put to work in a very few minutes.

Howes and Sons, of Norwich, exhibited a market or baggage cart, which has received many first-class prizes, besides other carts and cars.

A. Hughes, of Market Harborough, exhibited several of his patent laid corn lifters, which can be applied to any reaping machine, self rakers or hand delivery by the drivers in the field, and adjusted to the nature of the ground, or the condition of the crop,

D. Humphries, Pershore, had in the machinery in motion department several single and double blast thrashing machines, and a portable elevator.

Hunt and Tawell, Earl's Colne, besides many sets of horse gears, had a varied assortment of machines, mills, pulpers, and other implements.

T. Hunter, Maybole, had a number of horse hoes, potato diggers, and other implements.

T. W. Inwood, St. Albans, had on his stand an agricultural one-horse cart, market car, and other vehicles.

James and Son, of Chilton, have made a good display of water carts and manure distributors, pumps, &c.

H. and G. Kearsley, Ripon, showed several mowers and reapers of their manufacture.

S. A. and H. Kell, Gloucester, in their exhibits restricted themselves chiefly to corn drills. Several of their implements were entered for trial.

Kennan and Sons, of Dublin, confined themselves to their Clydone horse hoe of several patterns for thinning turnips.

B. Kittmer, of Louth, had three corn dressing and blowing machines, and an elevator for bagging the corn from the machine.

J. L. Larkworthy and Co., Worcester, had a variety of ploughs, harrows, and other useful implements, but calling for no special notice.

Laughland and Co., Warrington, showed a hand press for baling hay, straw, and esparto grass, and a machine for weighing the bales.

Josiah Le Butt, Bury St. Edmunds, exhibited a number of his corn screens, malt screen, and malt plough, and a hand seed drill.

Lewis and Son, Kettering, besides a corn drill for small occupations, showed several horse hoes, none of which was nommended. They also received from the Miscellaneous judges a silver medal for a cheap sack lifter, with which a strong lad (not able to lift or carry a sack of corn) can shoot sacks of corn at the rate of 12 or 15 qrs. per hour without any assistance, thereby saving the labour of two men, and doing the work without waste.

Lillie and Elder, Berwick-on-Tweed, exhibited a corn drill and turnip-sowing machine, one of two reapers and mowers, and two carts.

The Maldon Ironworks Company had several sets of horse gears, a mangel plough, chaff cutters, and disc pulpers. This company lately received the silver medal at Bremen for their food-preparing machinery.

Marshall, Sons, and Co., Gainsborough, made, as usual, a fine display of their engines, having no less than six on their stand, working thrashing machines and straw elevators.

Wm. Mattieson, Bedale, had three of his improved Yorkshire Champion reaping machines.

R. Maynard, Whittlesford, had a miscellaneous assortment of elevators, drills, horse-hoes, &c.

Mellard's Trent Foundry, Rugeley, had a very large collection of chaff-cutters, revolving mould-board ploughs, and a 3-tined grubber, which carried off the £5 prize in competition.

Milford and Son, of Cullompton, were very successful in their display of carts and waggons, carrying off the first prize of £15 and a high commendation.

F. P. Milford, of Kenn, near Exeter, also had a fine display of carts and waggons, receiving from the judges a £10 prize for a harvest cart, a £5 prize for a general purpose cart, and a commendation for a pair-horse waggon.

Mills and Co., Wellingborough, had several of their registered chaff-cutters and some cheese presses.

Morris and Griffin, of Wolverhampton, had an excellent display of the various artificial manures in the manufacture of which they are so largely engaged.

Murray and Co., Banff, entered, as we stated in our last, several new implements for trial, and carried off the £5 prize for ridge turnip-sowing machines. The delivery

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is regular and certain in all descriptions of land, the cups in the brass delivery-disc never failing to fill evenly. Their tiny thrashing machines are most efficient. The construction is quite new, the thrashing, shaking, and dressing being put in a very compact form.

Murton and Turner, of Thetford, exhibited several corn drills and horse-hoes for general purposes and for turnip thinning.

The Ravensthorpe Engineering Company exhibit a 3-furrow balance plough, and a 5-tine turning cultivator on a new principle. The chief peculiarity of the plough is in the frame, which is composed of three parallel bars of Bessemer steel running from extreme end to end, swelled in the middle and bent to the proper angle. These frame bars are set to a proper width to turn a furrow ten inches wide, and they are strongly stayed and braced to one another by wrought-iron staysing placed in each case so as to relieve the frame of the twisted strain imparted by the skife coming in contact with impediments, such as stones or roots. The cultivator exhibited by this company is the invention of Mr. James Backhouse, and has been produced to meet a want long felt by owners of steam ploughing tackle (especially on the roundabout system) for an effective implement, to turn round at the headlands, and which, while being strong enough for moderate heavy work, shall be light enough for their small engines.

Nalder and Nalder, Limited, Wantage, had three of their finishing thrashing machines, drawn by some of Brown and May's engines.

W. N. Nicholson and Son, Newark, made a display of their haymakers and patent horse rakes, root-cutting pulpers, and other machines, and had six small power engines. The judges awarded this firm a silver medal for their combined self-acting and manual delivery rake. Inquiries for the future will doubtless be for self-acting rakes. They are labour-saving appliances that must follow in the wake of self-raking reapers.

Oldham and Booth, Kingston-on-Hull, had two bone-crushing machines, worked by one of Robey's 8-horse engines.

D. M. Osborne and Co., Liverpool, had three of their American Kirby combined mowers and reapers, and a Burdick independent reaper.

E. Page and Co., Bedford, had on their stand a large collection of implements of their own manufacture, and by other makers.

Page and Girling, Woodbridge, besides some carts and waggons, had several of Edward's improved drop drills or planting machines. The patent in these drills, for setting various seeds, consists in an arrangement whereby the seeds are deposited separately, and at equal distances apart.

Payne and Son, of Thrapston, exhibited a powerful 12-horse portable engine, suitable for contractors, and 4-horse combined vertical engine and boiler.

Penney and Co., Lincoln, made a good display of their corn and manure screens.

Perkins and Co., Hitchin, exhibited a couple of horse hoes and turnip thinners, some field rollers, harrows, and combined stacking machines.

Picksley, Sims, and Co., Limited, Leigh, had on their tand many examples of horse rakes, food-preparing machines, and mowers. Their new patent balance combined 2-horse mower and reaper carried off several prizes last year, and the gold medal at the United East Lothian Society, this month.

Priest, Woolnough, and Michell, Kingston, had several corn manure drills and horse hoes, for which they have obtained some deserved celebrity.

W. Rainforth and Son, Lincoln.—The exhibits of this firm consisted chiefly of drills and screens.

F. and H. Randell, North Walsham, exhibited new patent double furrow plough, some liquid manure carts, and a turnip drill.

S. and E. Ransome, London, had a new form of shears, which any lad can use.

Ransomes, Sims, and Head, Ipswich, made an immense display of their ploughs and horse rakes. They had two single blast and two double blast thrashing machines driven by four of their portable engines. One of these fitted with Head and Schmidt's patent straw-burning apparatus received the silver medal at this show from the Miscellaneous judges. This is an application which is calculated to be very useful on the Continent and in the colonies, where other fuel is scarce, but where there is an abundance of rough vegetable matter available—reeds, cotton stems, maize and sorghum stalks, sugar cane trash, small branches of trees, furze, mustard and flax stalks, are all readily consumed if dry. Its application with straw was shown on engines by Clayton and Shuttleworth, Ruston and Proctor, and others. The new turnip hoe of this firm we alluded to last week, and with some more attention given to it in the way of improvement it may become a useful instrument.

The Reading Iron Works, Limited, had a number of their excellent steam engines working thrashing machines. These have received prizes at nearly all the Society's shows, and the grand prize at the Vienna Exhibition. At the Bedford meeting the judges gave the prize—a silver medal—for their nozzle boiler, which promises to be one of the most economical steam generators yet brought out. The tube chamber is square, and traversed by rows of tubes set horizontally at right angles to each other. At the end of these tubes are fixed cast nozzles, or circulators, the action being that as soon as the steam is quenched, it readily and necessarily passes off at the turned-up nozzles, the water rushing in at the turned-down nozzles to supply its place.

R. and J. Reeves and Son, Westbury, are most successful in the appreciation of their exhibits, especially drills and manure distributors. They received three £10 prizes, two £5 prizes, and two commendations.

B. Reid and Co., Aberdeen, had a great many of their disc corn and seed drills, horse hoes and other implements, for which they received the progress medal at the Vienna Exhibition.

Riches and Watts, Norwich, exhibited several steam engines, driving grist mills, and a new simple and efficient revolving gathering rake.

E. R. and F. Turner, of Ipswich, as usual, made a good display of their specialities, such as corn and seed crushers, from the smallest size suited for one-horse up to those requiring steam power, and capable of delivering a large quantity per hour. Grinding mills, with French stones; horse gears and oilcake breakers; one of their 8-horse power patent automatic variable expansion portable engines was driving a suitable thrashing machine. Another speciality of this firm is their small-sized thrashing sets, one of which of 5-horse power was also shown in motion. In hilly districts, and where farms are small, these machines are specially valuable—in fact, they may be used where, from their great weight, larger machines could not be transported from place to place.

Richmond and Chandler, Salford, made a fine exhibit of their chaffcutters, some of which were driven by one of Clayton and Shuttleworth's 4-horse engines. They had also several sets of horse gear, root washers, and turnip cutters. Their machine for cutting up straw into lengths for bedding is worth mention. Last year alone this firm carried off about two dozen prizes with their implements at home and abroad.

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E. and H. Roberts, Stony Stratford, exhibited three of their straw elevators and corn stackers, which deliver at heights from 26 to 32 feet, and are easily worked by a pony. This machine received the silver medal of the Northampton Society last year.

Robey and Co., Lincoln, had four of their excellent engines working thrashing machines, mills, and straw elevators.

J. G. Rollins, London, had on his stand one of Hollingsworth's American horse rakes, specimens of hay and manure forks, hatchets, pumps, and some of Clinton's American corn shellers, which will shell from 10 to 15 bushels of Indian corn per hour.

Ruston, Proctor, and Co. had six of their steam engines running, from 2½ to 10-horse power, driving thrashing machines, grinding mills, and straw elevators.

Samuelson and Co, Banbury, exhibited seven reapers of various kinds, two combined reapers and mowers, and several turnip cutters.

J. N. Sears and Co., London, had at this meeting several American novelties, such as a millstone dressing machine, a qran duster for dressing the offal after leaving the silks, a model of an adjustable grain elevator, for lifting bulk grain in quantities ranging from 30 to 100 quarters or more per hour.; an American turbine water wheel, and one of their aspirators to clean corn.

Sharman and Ladbury, Melton Mowbray, exhibited several drag harrows and rakes, and some registered poultry houses and dog kennels.

Smith and Grace, Thrapston, had on their stand many chaff-cutters and other food-preparing implements, besides several excellent general-purpose steerage horse hoes, one of which on trial carried off the first prize of £10 at the meeting, and also a silver medal at the Derbyshire Society last year.

W. Smith, of Kettering, is not only famous for his horse hoes, one of which, a combined, was commended on trial, and he received a silver medal for it last year at the Northampton Agricultural Society's show, but in the turnip thinning trials his implements carried all before them, receiving both prizes and a high commendation.

J. Smyth and Sons, Peasenhall, showed a number of their Eclipse and Suffolk drills, but did not compete in the field trials.

J. D. Snowden, Doncaster, had a number of ploughs, one a new improved light-land double-furrow plough; for his two-coulter ridge drill he carried off the £10 prize of the Society; and his improved self-expanding horse hoe was also commended on trial.

J. S. Stone, of Newport, had a waggon and several carts entered for competition.

Tangye, Brothers, and Holman, of London, had two of their high-pressure steam engines and several of their steam pumps and hydraulic jacks.

W. Tasker and Sons, Andover, exhibited two of their engines driving thrashing and winnowing machines, some elevators and rickers, and liquid manure distributors.

Thomas and Taylor, of Stockport, had a fine collection of eccentric churns, and several of them were purchased by the Crown Princess of Prussia at her visit on the first day of the show.

W. S. Underhill, Newport, Salop, exhibited two portable engines, a thrashing machine, several double-furrow ploughs, horse hoes, grubbers, harrows, and turnip drills, and some ridging ploughs.

John Unite, of Paddington, who supplies the Society with the covering for the shedding, exhibited rick and cart cloths, horsecloths, tents, and a variety of other useful articles.

Vipan and Headly, Leicester, besides a large miscellaneous collection, exhibited several ploughs and harrows and carts. They carried off the £5 prize for a single row horse hoe, and high commendation for a general purpose steerage horse hoe.

W. Walker and Son, Bingham, showed chiefly drills, for which they carried off a £10 and a £5 prize, and a commendation.

Wallis and Steevens, Basingstoke, in the machinery department had one of their 8-horse engines driving one of their prize thrashing machines, and two slow motion automatic folding elevators.

Wandley and Robb, Wisbeach, showed two improved horse hoes, and also an improved guard for a thrashing machine.

Ward and Silver, Sudbury, had on their stand a road waggon, several carts, a straw elevator, several chaff cutters, and numerous other useful implements.

Warsop and Hill, Nottingham, exhibited at work their rock drill, which is entirely self-feeding, certain in action, very light, easily fixed, and requires only a low pressure of steam or air to work it. The value of rock boring by steam power in all mining and quarrying operations is now universally acknowledged, and a simple and efficient tool of this kind in the rough operations of mining must be invaluable.

A. Watson, Andover, had a stacking elevator with horse gear working it and a bone crushing mill.

The Welland Vale Manufacturing Company, Canada, had an excellent collection of forks, spades, shovels, rakes, and other farm tools.

W. Whitehouse, Ampthill, exhibited several improved implements in cultivators, horse hoes, and grubbers; besides some good ploughs and harrows.

R. Willacy, Preston, who is well known for his shedding and fittings for cattle, showed also several other useful appliances for feeding stock, and a patent manure distributor.

W. A. Wood, London, made a good display of his well-known mowers and reapers. An iron frame has been adopted for the new self-delivery reaper. All the bearings are brass-bushed, unnecessary bolts and nuts dispensed with, and increased strength and simplicity gained. The gearing can be readily reached, and is covered, to protect from straws and dirt; patent spring oilers, so highly appreciated in the iron frame mower, are applied to all the bearings Owing to the simplicity and perfection of the gearing and cutting apparatus, the direct or forward draught is lighter than that of any other self-raker, the work being easy for a pair of ordinary horses. It has no side-draught whatever, and is so perfectly balanced as to avoid any weight on the horses' necks. The platform is lengthened and the sweep of the rake increased, so that while laid grain is as effectually picked up as before, the sheaf is delivered in a neat compact bundle, leaving a full wide track, sufficient for the largest horses. The rakes are wider at the divider shoe end, which in long and laid crops grows increased power over the grain, and dispenses with wooden slats or iron rods.

Woods, Cocksedge, and Co., Stowmarket, besides a large collection of miscellaneous implements, had four engines on the ground, working thrashing machines, Andrew's stacker and elevator, many pulpers and root-cutters and mills, and some very cheap and well-made carts with their patent tippers, which we described last week.

John Wray, Bedale, had a new corn-reaping machine and an improved horse hoe for thinning turnips.

H. Wright, Boston, had several straw elevators and stacking machines and portable horse works.

W. T. Wright, Cardiff, a new prize hay and corn horse pitch-fork or elevator, which will carry its load and discharge it without assistance from the man.

One of the smartest and pleasantest features of the show is the seed section, where the stands, profiting by

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Messrs. Sutton's example, are now always so tastily arranged. But the great Reading house has here nearly all the best of it, only the rising West-country firm, Messrs. Wheeler, Gloucester, caring to make any counter demonstration, as the Gibbs and Carters offer no sign. Shall we say again and again how richly these two rival stands were furnished with roots, seeds, plants, pictures, and so forth? Or how, in the tour through the ground, the Prince Imperial of Germany received from the hands of Mr. Martin Sutton a copy of his *Amateur's Guide?*

THE GENERAL MEETING

took place on the ground on Tuesday, Mr. Edward Holland, President, in the chair. There was a large attendance.

The SECRETARY, Mr. H. M. Jenkins, read the report of the judges appointed to award the farm prizes.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Mayor and Corporation of Bedford, to the Railway Companies, and to the Local Committee.

Mr. E. A. FAUCETT (St. Albans) said in the month of May he wrote to the Secretary in order that he might draw the attention of the Council to the observations he intended to make at this meeting, and in order that no gentleman might think he had any personal feeling against either the judges, or against any member of the Council, he deemed it necessary to make this explanation to put himself in a proper position. He had placed his suggestions upon paper, and he would read them. They were simply suggestions for the Council to take into consideration for its members to think carefully over, to adopt such as they approved, and reject those not worthy of attention: 1st. The judges at the Royal show ought not to act at any previous show in the same year. 2nd. At present the majority of the prizes are won by fat and not by breeding animals at all. 3rd. The Society ought to appoint men to take all the animals into the rings that can safely be led by them, as great dissatisfaction exists now with prizes being given to animals led into the rings by well-known men who ought to be excluded. 4th. The appointment of the judges is now made in the most objectionable manner, and is highly unsatisfactory to the great bulk of the exhibitors. 5th. They are frequently appointed by the influence of breeders or exhibitors who are members of the Council of the Society. 6th. The judges ought to be changed every year; no one should be allowed to act a second time, or oftener than once in six or ten years under any pretence whatever, and new blood should be continually brought forward. 7th. The ages of cattle should be calculated from the 1st of January, the same as horses, and not from the 1st of July on any account whatever. (In Scotland and Ireland the ages are always calculated from the 1st of January.) 8th. Let the exhibitors of all animals which have not gained prizes go home feeling assured they have at least been dealt with in a fair, honest, and honourable manner. In conclusion, he thought he had better explain what course he intended to take. In the show-yard he had heard a great many complaints made, to which his answer was, "Why not speak out?" It was no use grumbling and not bringing their complaints to the front in a straightforward manner. Like men they should come forward and tell the Council what they thought. The suggestions he had made he intended to publish, and when printed he would forward them to the members of the Society, who could then choose whether they would accept them or not.

Mr. T. WILLSON (Northamptonshire) said it would be remembered that at the last annual meeting he made a suggestion with regard to the elections of the Council, which, he understood, could not be carried out without an alteration of the Charter. In order to meet the difficulty he had now to propose—"That in order to enable the Council to prepare a more representative house list than heretofore, four clear weeks before the first Wednesday in May (when the house list is prepared in accordance with the 15th bye-law) a circular shall be sent to the members of society in those counties in which the retiring members of Council reside, inviting them to send up the names of gentlemen eligible for members of Council; and whenever it is proposed to nominate members of Council from counties which had not previously been represented upon the Council, a similar circular shall be addressed to all members resident in such counties." The Council was nearly a self-elected body, and Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, and Rutland were not represented on it at all. Next year they were going to invite the district in which those counties were situated to compete for the meeting of 1876, and therefore those counties ought to be represented on the Council. For the want of a more thoroughly representative character he was afraid the Royal Society was becoming less popular. Seven years ago he was able to obtain 72 members in one year, whereas now he had difficulty to get seven. He alleged that the competition for the show was not so keen as it used to be, stating that they had almost to beg and pray to go into the district of the Bath and West of England Society, and partly attributed the declension of the Society's popularity to the fact that its executive is not so thoroughly representative as it ought to be. No one wished better to the Royal than himself, and no man had worked harder for its success than he had. If the Charter required altering he hoped the Council would consider it as early as possible.

The Marquis of EXETER said he represented Northamptonshire on the Council, though he had not been able to attend, so that Mr. Willson was in error in saying that that county was not represented.

Mr. STRATTON seconded the motion. He submitted that nothing could be more anomalous than that the Executive of a Society numbering 6,000 members should be nearly a self-elected body. Virtually the great bulk of the members of the Society had no voice in its management. He did not complain of the general management of the Society. In fact, he dared say it could not be better than at present, but he contended that the Council were elected in an anomalous manner and quite contrary to the spirit of the age. Although a humble member of the Society, he yet claimed to have a voice in the management of its affairs. The Council was at variance with the majority of farmers throughout the country on the subject of the laws relating to contagious diseases of animals. The resolution the Council drew up respecting foot-and-mouth disease he considered to be impracticable. The Central Chamber of Agriculture could claim to be a purely representative assembly, and he might offer it as something of an example.

The PRESIDENT said he must be allowed to state that at a general meeting he had no power to put such a proposition before the members. A bye-law compelled the Council to take notice of the suggestions made at a general meeting and to consider them, but nothing further. In regard to this and other matters it seemed that they were hampered by the clothes in which the Royal Society was first dressed. She still wore the same clothes; they had not been extended with her growth, and now that she had reached full age, perhaps the time had come when an alteration should be made in the Charter, and when she should be dressed as she ought to be dressed. In the meanwhile the Charter tied their hands, and all they could do was to take notice of the different suggestions made and consider them in Council. He hoped the time had come when they might also consider the question of the alteration of the Charter. He expressed his regret that he could not put the proposition from the chair, but with that explanation he hoped the reason would be understood, and also that to a certain extent he agreed with them.

Mr. CHAMBERS complained of the inconvenience occasioned to the exhibitors of implements by requiring them to be on the show ground on the opening day, when it was known that the trials would not come on for four or five days afterwards. He spoke feelingly, as he came to that show on the opening day at great inconvenience to himself, and had to wait until the Friday afternoon following before his implements were tried. He suggested that a week before the trials notice should be given to every exhibitor on which day his exhibits would be judged, and that he should not be required to be present before that day. As an honorary director of the Norfolk show he thought his request could be complied with, and submitted that there was nothing unreasonable in it.

Sir JOHN HERON MAXWELL moved a vote of thanks to the retiring President, and this was seconded by Mr. FAUCETT.

Mr. HOLLAND, in reply, wished them to allow him to express his sense of the value of the Council of the Society. It might not be exactly suited to the wishes and feelings of some of the members, but he must say that, accustomed as he was to work with public bodies, he knew no other that attended to business better than the Council of the Royal Society. The suggestions that had been made were rather matters of detail than of principle. He thought an improvement might be

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made in the way the Council was elected; but while he said that he begged them to understand that he expressed himself with strong feeling when he said that no body of men with whom he had ever worked had been more pleasant to work with or more determined to do their duty by their constituents than the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society.

On the motion of the Marquis of EXETER, Lord Bridport was elected President for the ensuing year.

Lord BRIDPORT, who was very warmly received, esteemed it a very high honour to have been elected President of this great Society, in which he had long taken a great personal interest, especially in its financial affairs. He was happy to think that the Society was in a good condition, and that it was able to meet a rainy day whenever that might come. The Society had had and no doubt would have to meet with difficulties; but he had no doubt the Council would conduct the Society in a progressive spirit, and that the suggestions that had been made to-day would be very carefully considered.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE PRIZE FARMS.

(*From a Special Correspondent.*)

A few members of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, while at Bedford, agreed to visit the farms which gained the first two prizes as the best-managed in the county; and the following notes are submitted after a somewhat hasty inspection. The party was advised to visit, in the first instance, the farm of Mr. Richard Checkley, Brogborough, Woburn; and were told it would be found to commence at the foot of a steep hill some eight miles from Bedford. The visitors found the hill, and the first point of attraction was a gateway, minus a post, leading into a large fallow field, an untrimmed hedge fencing from the road. Doubting our position, we hailed a man at work in the field, and asked if this was the first prize farm? Answer: "Yes." "How long has the gatepost been down, before or since the judges inspected?" "Oh, before. Traction-engine smashed it, and master has not put another up since." We note the fallows are a black, loamy clay, free from couch, but not free from thistles: have been worked by steam culture. Ascending the hill, our Captain suggesting we should enjoy the beauties of the scenery more if we descended from our chaise, we did so, the stouter members of our party declaiming against hills in general, and this hill in particular. Note—Our Captain kept his seat on the box, as he said, "to help the coachman in case the horses turned restive." At the top of the hill we left the Queen's highway, and drove across a pasture field to the house of Mr. Checkley. Note—An attempt is being made to improve the road across the pasture, the material employed striking us as being of a sandy nature, tolerably free from stones. On reaching the premises we became immediately sensible of a pungent odour proceeding from a broken-backed haystack, which we unanimously pronounced *dangerous*, and decide we should not like to sleep withing 500 yards of it. By the kind consent of Mr. Checkley, and piloted by a young gentleman, who modestly protests against too much "cross-examination" from our Captain, we explore the home buildings, which we found a heterogeneous lot, evidently enlarged as occasion required, and evincing great ingenuity of arrangement, but decidedly free from simplicity. After we had inspected the last of this curious set of buildings our Captain counted his party, which we considered a happy thought, the hot haystack being taken into account. We now note several stacks of wheat and beans, which induce our Captain to observe the farmer's balance must be on the right side. We admire the cart-horses, seventeen in number, which are good and strong, adapted for a hilly country. We specially commend three mares with colts at foot, three of our party each selecting a different mare and foal for choice, and evincing a disposition to break the tenth commandment, which our Captain promptly and sternly checked. We critically examine forty-four Shorthorn dairy cows, which, with younger stock, we pronounce very useful. Note—All the calves are weaned, the cow-calves kept for stock, steer-calves sold. A breeding flock of 270 long-wool ewes is kept. Wether lambs are sold as fat tegs, ewe lambs kept for stock. On one of our party remarking he did not highly appreciate the sheep which came under our observation, our Captain suggested the speaker was comparing the flock with the pampered animals under the canvas in the distance, which judicious remark stopped further comment on sheep. We now examine a field of red clover and the corn, which we are advised to do by a gentleman, who accidentally turns up and speaks with authority. We are struck with the wide distance of the clover-seed drills—8 inches apart. We measure several drills, to be certain that we are right, and all agree that our occupations will not stand clover-seed drills so wide. Note—The land is thoroughly clean. We now pass through fields of wheat, white and red on either hand, and pronounce the wheat fine and very clean. We carefully examine the ears of each variety to find an ear set four, but we fail. Nearly all were set three. Notwithstanding this little drawback, the wheat is good—as much as can stand—and all wish we could look with as much satisfaction on our own wheat fields. With the barley we were, if anything, better pleased. It is a splendid crop, and one of our party naïvely remarked, the landlord was sure of his rent. We found some good mangel, and some gappy mangel, also some patchy kohl-rabi: all very clean. We sought for swedes in vain. We admired the internal fences on the farm, which are white-thorn, planted in straight lines, well protected by post-and-rail fencing when young, and clipped into form. Our Captain remarked these fences had cost the tenant a round sum, when some one said the landlord had borne the expense, even to the *clipping* of the hedges. We unanimously hoped this system would become general with landlords. Mr. Checkley's occupation is about 600 acres, of which 240 are pasture. As we have remarked, the farm is hilly, and cultivated under difficulties. It is the property of the Duke of Bedford, who has erected a second set of buildings upon the farm, of a convenient character, with labourers' cottages adjacent. On our way back to Bedford one of our party asked the startling question, "Is a man entitled to the prize for the best-managed farm in Bedfordshire who carries part of his hay in such condition as to seriously injure it, and runs the risk of destroying the contents of a rick-yard, and an extensive set of farm-buildings?" Our Captain, who wore a badge connecting him in some-wise with the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, declined to give an opinion. His troop, to a man, answered "No." A suggestion was thrown out that the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England ought to request the three farm judges to closely inspect the hottest part of the hot haystack, and report thereon forthwith. But as that body can only move as their Charter permits them, this investigation may not take place until the old homestead of the first prize farm in Bedfordshire is reduced to ashes, and a verdict has been pronounced, "cause of fire unknown: supposed to be the act of unionists." In bidding farewell to Mr. Checkley, who is a farmer of the old-fashioned type, and of very simple habits, we thank him for his civility and hospitality.

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THE SECOND PRIZE.

A short drive through lanes which should be green took us from the first to the second prize farm in Bedfordshire, occupied by Mr. Thomas Crouch, of Lidlington, comprising 258 acres arable, and 204 acres pasture land; also the property of the Duke of Bedford. The farm premises and dwelling-house are comparatively new, convenient, and centrally situate. After passing through good wheat and barley, though not quite so heavy as Mr. Checkley's, we came to some fallows, which puzzled us not a little. The land had been ridged for swedes, and drilled on the ridge. The swedes not coming as quickly as the farmer desired, and a shower having fallen a few days previously, swedes had been again drilled, this time in the furrow. A lively discussion ensued as to this style of management, some of us asking what was to feed the roots if they grew in the furrow, as the dung would be above them; others, how the horse hoe was to operate, a great feature in strong land cultivation; others again asking how the roots were to be set out and singled, supposing half the crop came on the ridge, and half in the furrow. In our dilemma up rode Mr. Crouch, and we forthwith appealed to him. "Gentlemen," said he, "I wish to find the swedes, and I leave the swedes to find the dung, the land is full of it of one kind or other." Mr. Crouch admitted the impossibility of horse hoeing, and the difficulty of hand hoeing, but the season was exceptional, and the growth of roots a necessity. So far, however, the prospect for swedes is anything but cheering. The mangel is good and clean, and we found a strong lot of ox cabbage, which, with favourable weather, will afford a deal of keep. There is more timber about Mr. Crouch's arable land than on Mr. Checkley's, which may in some measure account for the wheat not appearing so good as on the first prize farm. But the barley which we saw at Broughton End is very fine, and must prove a highly productive crop. Mr. Crouch said he had a portion of sandy land on his farm, on which the barley did not look so well; but much as we wished to see everything, time did not permit us to reach the sand. Mr. Crouch has followed in the steps of his now famous neighbour so closely, that he also has a heated haystack, but we did not consider it dangerous. Our keen-eyed Captain drew the attention of his troop to the singular fact that, in a season of drought so prolonged that neither farmer could show a swede or turnip, each could manage to sweat his hay. Here, again, we found ricks of wheat, barley, beans, and oats, which led to a discussion, from a pecuniary point of view, as to the policy of keeping so much unthrashed corn, and further, how far it is advisable to deprive the farms for a season of the large amount of manure the straw, if utilized, would produce. We admitted the occupiers of these farms were justified in keeping a reserve of oats, beans, and hay, but the majority of us opposed the retaining barley and wheat on pecuniary and productive grounds. It is just possible an extra amount of rotten farmyard dung would have given the swedes the farmers so anxiously sought. Mr. Crouch showed us thirty-two Shorthorn cows, which we pronounced very fine: they are of good size, style, and quality, and well adapted for the dairy. Six promising bull-calves were running with their dams, and in a few minutes a bargain was struck for one of them by one of our troop to improve dairy stock in the South. The produce of the cows is usually weaned, steers and surplus heifers sold fat at about two years old, and the best heifers retained for stock. All Mr. Crouch's cattle in the pastures pleased us much, and he has evidently crossed with bulls of pure and good blood. Two hundred and forty long-woolled ewes are kept. We understood Mr. Crouch to say, that after retaining sufficient ewe lambs to keep up his breeding flock he makes mutton of the rest, ewes and wethers. It struck us that the sheep farming on each of the farms we visited is not a strong feature in the management. On the farm of Mr. Crouch our Captain called attention to a Cotswold ram which he thought had suffered from change of air. Mr. Crouch is young, active, energetic, fond of his farm and live stock; disputes with our Captain the points of a cow, and fairly holds his own; admits his cart-horses are not equal to Mr. Checkley's; is gratified to hear all of us say we consider his herd better than Mr. Checkley's; keeps some calves under a close-roofed building with fatting pigs, and, as he hurries us past them, says, "The calves are not quite right." No wonder! we have never known other animals do well under a close-roofed building with pigs. The fences we saw are chiefly bull-finchers, not trimmed by the landlord, but in several instances they divide pasture from arable land. Mr. Crouch rides a good hackney, which a knowing man of our party attempts to disparage by saying he carries a large bread-basket. We try to induce the owner to set a price on his horse, but, like the ancient Arab, he laughs, and rides away. We highly commend his colley dog, and offer to treat with him for it, as the brute looks affectionately towards us. The master shakes his head, and in a trice the colley whisks his splendid tail, as good as saying, "I'm glad you've gone," and bounds after the hackney with the bread-basket belly. Mr. Crouch set us down to a round table large enough for a dozen, and we did justice to his generous hospitality. His excellent lady anticipated our wants, and treated us with extreme kindness. It was easy to see who tended the roses, who cared for the flowers, who imparted grace and charm to the cozy home. For once—and once only—our strict Captain yielded to influences which the greatest warriors in every age are powerless to withstand, and promised the lady all kinds of civilities if she would come to his quarters in the show-yard.

We were surprised to hear the labourers had struck, some weeks since, on the farms of Messrs. Checkley and Crouch. The men must have greatly miscalculated their position. Neither of the farmers are needy men. They can hold their corn without inconvenience. They can hire steam cultivating tackle, or purchase any implements, economical in a labour point of view, they choose to have; and the farms are in a condition, and the principal arable land of a nature which really require, at certain seasons, a minimum amount of manual labour.

On our route, to and from these farms, we saw no ploughs at work with pairs of horses abreast. We saw several three-horse teams, single, moving very dry fallows, apparently for the last time. We saw others, two horses, single—boys driving. Has a prophet no honour in his own country? Are the exertions of the Howards to extend the use of pair-horse double ploughs throughout Europe unappreciated in Bedfordshire?

Lest it should be said that we are "disappointed competitors" who make these notes, I am permitted to say, by special permission of our Captain, that none of us hail from "the Shires," but from points very wide apart, extreme east to extreme west of England; and we visited the first and second Bedfordshire prize farms with the same object we visit the Royal Agricultural show—to obtain information.

EXPORTATION OF CLYDESDALE MARES TO AUSTRALIA.—Mr. James Fisher has just shipped to his brother in Australia, 17 Clydesdale mares. These mares have been selected with great care, and at much expense. Among these is the well-known mare Darling, one of the most successful prize-takers in Scotland, who finished her career here by the winning the Cup at Stirling, open to all comers. In selecting these Mr. Fisher has taken care that the mares are all of good descent and sound in every way.

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SHEEP SALES.

MR. CHARLES HOWARD'S OXFORDSHIRE DOWNS AT BIDDENHAM, BEDFORD.—This sale took place under the direction of Mr. R. B. Stafford, of Bedford; Mr. Strafford, the Shorthorn auctioneer not being well enough to attend, while we regret to add that Mr. Charles Howard himself was absent from indisposition. Considering the short supply of feed the sale was considered a very good one, the average being over 13 gs.; while one sheep was sold to Mr. Z. Phillips, of Woburn, for 36 gs.; and another, the reserve in his class at the Royal, after a close contest between Mr. Stilgoe and Mr. John Treadwell to Mr. Stilgoe for 33 gs. Other sheep went all over the country, the buyers or hirers including the Duke of Portland, the Duke of Bedford, backed by a number of handy-home customers, and others from the Eastern Counties, Germany, Poland, and Scotland, a number of sheep going abroad.

MR. RAWLENCE'S HAMPSHIRE DOWN RAMS AT BULBRIDGE.—This sale took place, under the conduct of Messrs. Ewer and Winstanley, when 200 lots were offered. The business commenced with 10 lots of two-teeth rams, which realised the following prices: 75 gs. (Mr. Morrison), 58 gs. (Mr. Newton), 50 gs. (Mr. Dibben), 24 gs. (Mr. Homer), 15½ gs., 15 gs., 10½ gs., 10 gs. (two lots being sold at this figure), and 7½ gs. Two bidders claimed to have offered 42 guineas for lot 10, and "an advance" was accordingly asked. After a spirited contest between Mr. Homer and Mr. Newton, the sheep was knocked down to the latter at 58 guineas, amidst cries of "Well done, Wiltshire." Then came five lots of four-teeth rams, which fetched 42 gs. (Mr. Barton), 40 gs. (Mr. Parsons), 37 gs. (Mr. J. Taunton), 19 gs. and 14 gs. The lambs came next, and lot 3 was, after a most spirited competition knocked down to Mr. Morrison, of Fosthill, at the extraordinarily high figure of 150 guineas! Other lots realised 77 guineas (Mr. Morrison), 48 guineas, 42 guineas, down to 11½ guineas; Mr. R. Brine 70 gs., and Mr. Rigg, jun. 50 gs. The averages were as follows: 28 two-teeth rams, £15 7s. 9d.; 8 four-teeth ditto, £22 13s. 8d.; 177 ram lambs, £13 8s. 9d. The average of the entire sale was £13 12s. 2d. per head.

THE HATCHWARREN HAMPSHIRES.—Mr. Budd's sale took place in Basingstoke, Messrs. Downs and Awbery being the auctioneers. The ram lambs for sale fetched good prices, and every other lot was sold at satisfactory prices, averaging nearly £10 each.

THE LITTLESCOTT HAMPSHIRES.—At the first sale of Mr. John Moore's flock 100 ram lambs, 60 two and four-tooth rams, and 150 draft ewes were brought under the hammer of Messrs. Waters, Son, and Rawlence. One of the old rams, of great size and fine symmetry, was eventually knocked down at 40 guineas to Mr. Saunders, of Watercombe; the remainder ranged from 13½ guineas down to 4½ guineas, the average of the twenty-two being about £8 10s. There were only two six-tooth rams put up, one of which fetched 12½ guineas. The draft ewes, of which only 150 were offered, sold at an average of about 50s. each. Considering the season (which has happened most unluckily for Mr. Moore) the sale was considered very satisfactory.

MR. J. J. COLMAN'S SOUTHDOWNS AND NORFOLK POLLS.—This sale took place at Easton Lodge Farm, Norwich, for which city Mr. J. J. Colman is member. Heavy thunderstorms fell during the day, but the country all round had suffered much from the drought. Prices ruled low for the sheep, the ewes ranging from 49s. to 66s. per head. Mr. Beck for the Prince of Wales, Mr. Fulcher for Lord Sondes, Mr. Youngman for Mr. A. Hammond, and Mr. Parmeter being the principal buyers. No rams were let, and four only out of the fourteen sold; two being taken by Mr. Woods, Lord Walsingham's agent, at 8½ and 7½ guineas. A seven-year-old cow of Mr. Birkbeck's went for 36 guineas to Lord Sondes; Novelty, five years old, at 33 guineas, to Mr. A. Taylor; one 45 guineas; and others at fair prices—the average being nearly £23.

AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE.

BAT AND BALL FAIR.—This, the second important cull lamb fair of the season held in East Sussex, took place in the well-known field near the Bat and Ball Inn. A large number of both buyers and sellers was present, but, as was anticipated, business was not so brisk as in some previous years, and prices exhibited a marked decline, the same as they did at St. John's. The number of sheep and lambs penned was a trifle over 10,000, being nearly 6,000 short of last year, when the supply was far above the average. Trade during the morning ruled very dull, but from what we heard those who sold early had the best of it, many preferring in the afternoon to part with their lambs at low prices rather than take them home again. The prices for sheep ranged from 29s. to 50s. Lambs, 12s. to 30s. Business slightly improved in the afternoon, but many pens remained unsold. In the store beast market there was a goodly show, and we understand a general clearance was effected at prices the turn in favour of the seller. Mr. Sharp bought of Mr. Griffiths a half-dozen runt heifers at 13 guineas, and seven at 10 guineas. Mr. Uridge, of Chailey, sold early, but we did not hear the figures. There was a large number of horses on offer, and good useful nags commanded high prices, but most of those brought were "weeds."

BRISTOL ANNUAL COLT FAIR.—This annual fair has been held, and was rather thinly attended by purchasers. Holders brought a large number of cart colts and fillies to the fair, owing to the shortness of keep; in fact, in all cases where farmers and others had not work for their animals, they seemed anxious to dispose of them, owing to the dearth of fodder and the little prospect of any improvement. Under these circumstances, there was a reduction in value to the extent of something like 20 per cent., and this would apply to everything except animals of special merit. Cart colts, as a rule, ranged from 35 to 50 guineas, though in one exceptional case 120 guineas was given for a thoroughly good and useful pair of colts, and in another case 53 guineas was given for a filly. There was a good supply of Irish colts and nags, but they were not selling so briskly as usual, and they realised prices ranging from £28 to £50; but in one case £53 10s. was obtained for a very good animal. English nags were in fair supply, but in somewhat indifferent condition, and they changed hands slowly, at from 25 to 75 guineas. There was altogether less business done than usual.

CAMELFORD JULY LAMB FAIR.—At this fair, there was about an average number of lambs and sheep penned, the greater part of which exchanged hands, but at prices about 10s. per head less than last year, and at only half the price made two years ago. Small lambs sold from 9s. to 14s. per head, good store lambs from 18s. to 30s.; a few very good fetched from 35s. to 40s. each. Fat sheep sold at 7d. per lb. On Tuesday the fair was well supplied with cattle of every description, rather over the average as regards numbers, and many were of superior quality. A better lot of cattle has seldom been seen at this fair, and many head exchanged owners, but sales were very dull at the commencement, sellers being unwilling to part with their cattle at reduced prices. Those sold were at prices about £3 or £4 per head less than last year. Steers varied in price from 14 to 20 guineas, according to size. Fat cattle sold at from £4 to £4 5s. per cwt., cows and calves at £3 to £3 10s.

KIRTON LINDSEY FAIR.—The fair attracted a large company to the town. The day was excessively hot, and proved somewhat unfavourable to business. Very good horses were shown, for which, early in the fair, large prices were asked, and a good stroke of business was done at prices ranging from £30 to £50. At dinner time trade languished under the excessive heat, and during the afternoon 50 guinea animals were in some instances sold as low as 30 gs. Cart-horses were scarce, the few good ones on offer being quickly sold at high rates. The effect of the long drought was seen in the paucity of fat stock, none of the animals shown being fit for the butcher. The sheep fair was a failure both in the number penned and the sales effected. The few lambs on offer could hardly find customers at prices as low as 17s. per head. Altogether the fair was considered not equal to former years.

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REVIEW OF THE CATTLE TRADE DURING THE MONTH.

A dull tone has prevailed in the cattle trade during the month. The extreme heat has militated against any approach to activity; whilst the large supplies offering have caused a weakness to be observable in prices. The supply of beasts has been numerically good. The Lincolnshire season has now fairly commenced; the arrivals have been decidedly in excess of the average, but the quantity has not been generally good. Owing to the scarcity of water in some districts stock has been prematurely forced upon the market in a half fat condition, hence supplies have exceeded requirements. Receipts continue to come to hand from the Eastern counties, but they are gradually being reduced in extent, and will shortly altogether cease. From abroad the arrivals have been moderate. As regards trade, a heavy tone has prevailed, and the tendency of prices has been unfavourable. At one time the best breeds were making 6s., but at present the top price cannot be said to exceed 5s. 8d. per 8lbs.

In the sheep pens there has been an abundant supply; as in the case of beasts, the trade has been very dull, but if anything the depression has been still more severe. Throughout, sales have progressed heavily, and the top quotation has fallen from 5s. 6d. at the commencement of the month to 5s. per 8lbs., the rate now current.

Lambs have been purchased cautiously, and have been drooping in value.

Calves have been in moderate supply and limited request at about late currencies.

Pigs have been dull.

The following table shows the imports of stock into London during the month of July, compared with the corresponding month of 1872 and 1873:

	1872.	1873.	1874.
Beasts	5,093	7,203	4,721
Sheep and Lambs	53,624	53,750	36,298
Calves	2,958	3,761	3,441
Pigs	1,544	2,439	4,303

From our own grazing districts, as well as from Scotland and Ireland, the receipts of beasts during the month thus compare with 1872 and 1873:

	1872.	1873.	1874.
From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, &c.	2,700	5,190	2,800
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, &c.	3,300	3,580	7,000
Other parts of England	1,500	2,190	3,200
Scotland	176	—	70
Ireland	411	500	—

The supplies of stock exhibited at the Metropolitan Cattle Market have been as under:

	1872.	1873.	1874.
Beasts	18,790	21,305	21,690
Sheep and Lambs	127,650	150,580	169,850
Calves	3,800	4,910	4,130
Pigs	590	395	400

The following is a comparison of prices for July of the current and two previous years:

	1872.	1873.	1874.
Beasts	3 2 to 6 2	4 0 to 6 6	4 0 to 5 0
Sheep	4 0 to 6 6	4 0 to 6 6	4 6 to 5 4
Lambs	8 0 to 9 0	7 0 to 8 6	5 0 to 6 4
Calves	4 8 to 6 0	4 0 to 6 2	3 10 to 5 6
Pigs	3 8 to 5 0	4 0 to 5 0	3 8 to 4 10

REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE

DURING THE PAST MONTH.

After extraordinary fluctuations in June—say from great summer heat to sharp morning frosts—the last week of that month indicated an improvement, which has been fully realised throughout the whole of July. The second week brought on a tropical temperature, which has often prevailed since, and, with occasional showers and thunderstorms, all vegetation has been rapidly advancing, and wheat-cutting has already commenced. Only the Talavera sort has yet appeared at market, which in quality was below the average, having perhaps been cut by the frosts while in bloom; but the later sorts and red qualities are expected to be fine. The impression of a great crop seems, however, passing away, and but little above an average is expected, with the finest weather. After so long a period of drought, however, we do not seem very safe against rain, which has commenced falling, and, should the past deficiency be made up at harvest-time prospects, would be sadly changed. In spite of all the fluctuations of a late spring, we are now about a fortnight early, and this circumstance alone is about equal to an importation of one million quarters. English qualities, from their scarcity, have been slow to decline, but have certainly fallen 2s. to 3s., while foreign has given way this month 7s. to 8s., and from the highest point 10s. to 12s.; fine Australian white, which once touched 70s., now being hardly worth over 60s.; and good Milwaukie red lately quoted 61s., having been offered on the last Monday at 48s. 6d. But as English stocks are well-nigh exhausted, and the granaries show but small stores, a firmer feeling has sprung up with the broken weather, as every bushel of old must soon be wanted. Of hay this year we have only gathered half a crop, and all spring corn is expected to be short and dear. How, therefore, the principal grain can become dog-cheap we cannot well see. Even New York seems to have passed her lowest, and though very large expectations are entertained this year as to the exports of California, they want confirmation, and Brother Jonathan is not likely to be content with working for nothing. Italy and Spain have finished, and done well. France has partly got in her produce, in fine order and of good quality. Hungary has completed her work, with a gathering something above the ordinary. Holland and Belgium are beginning, but never grand enough for themselves; and Germany is yet a fortnight or three weeks from harvest-work. All Europe, therefore, still depends on the weather as a means of great benefit or damage, and prices cannot be established before the sheaves are generally gathered. The following rates have recently been current at the several places named: new French white Anjou wheat at Paris 55s., red 53s., old Californian at Rouen 57s. 6d., Chili 55s. 6d., red spring American 51s., new at Bordeaux 60s., Berdianski at Marseilles 58s. Belgian and Dutch prices were too unsettled to quote. Fine native wheat at Hambro' 63s. 6d., the best white at Danzig 58s., red at Stettin 54s., at Cologne 48s., at Berlin 54s., fine Hungarian new at Pesth 53s., old white at San Francisco 52s. 6d. (cost, freight, and insurance), red spring at New York 45s. 6d. per 480lbs.

The first Monday in Mark-lane opened on a small English supply, but the foreign arrivals were good, about

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two-thirds being from America, and 10,000 qrs. from Australia. The show of fresh samples of home growth was exceedingly small; but the weather having been remarkably fine, millers were very careless buyers at the previous rates. The foreign trade was very limited; white sorts were dull at the former rates, but the abundance of American red made sellers rather anxious, and they accepted a decline of 1s. to 2s. rather than land. Floating cargoes were little in demand. The weather continuing fine all through the week, made all the country markets dull and drooping, though very little was brought to market, from the scantiness of stocks. Prices tended downward, and several places noted a decline of 1s., as at Louth and Newcastle. Liverpool quoted a fall of 3d. per cental on Tuesday, and was 1d. to 2d. cheaper again on Friday. The principal Scotch markets noted a decline of 1s., as Leith, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. With nothing of home growth exhibited at Dublin, foreign descriptions of wheat were 1s. per brl. lower.

On the second Monday the native supplies were still smaller, and the foreign, though fair, were materially reduced. Again there was a very trifling show of English samples on the Essex stands, and none whatever on those of Kent; yet the weather having reached to almost tropical heat, English factors were glad to accept 1s. less money on the few samples for sale. White qualities of foreign gave way 1s. per qr., with but little progress in sales, and red American were again 2s. per qr. lower than on the previous week. Floating cargoes were a slow sale also at 1s. to 2s. decline. With the crops everywhere rapidly advancing, farmers were more willing to clear out their small stores at the several country markets. Early in the week there was little material change, though the tendency was downward; but on Saturday several country places noted a reduction of 1s. to 2s. per qr. Liverpool was 4d. per cental lower. Though markets were dull at Leith, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, there was no positive decline in wheat. At Dublin foreign qualities again gave way 6d. to 1s. per barrel.

On the third Monday the returns of English Wheat were the smallest of the season, but the foreign arrivals were unusually heavy, America supplying two-thirds and Australia a large quantity. As to the exhibition of English samples this morning, it scarcely reached to half-a-dozen, and those not of fine quality, and it was certainly fully 1s. per qr. cheaper to sell; while the heavy arrival from abroad, after such continued forcing weather, reduced business almost to a form. Fine foreign descriptions, both white and red, were offered at 2s. reduction, without attracting many buyers, and low red could only be sold at 3s. per qr. less money. With liberal arrivals off the coast, but little was done, and that at 1s. to 2s. decline. The lightness of supplies this week in many country markets kept values from being reduced for fine qualities, but Salisbury and Hull noted a decline of 1s. per qr., while Leeds, Birmingham, Barnsley, Spilsby, and Newark were lower 1s. to 2s. Liverpool was down 2d. per cental on Tuesday; on Friday the market was 1d. to 2d. lower. Though Glasgow only gave way 1s. per qr. for wheat, and spring corn was unaltered, Edinburgh was down 2s., barley and beans declining 1s. Dublin was again 6d. to 9d. per barrel cheaper for foreign wheat, and 6d. lower for oats, but maize rose 6d. per qr.

On the fourth Monday there was another light supply of English wheat, though rather more than on the previous Monday, the foreign arrivals being nearly as large as then, and about three-fifths from America, Australia doing also its quota. The show of English samples was again limited, without any fine among them; they therefore were still dull, at a decline of fully 1s., but rather more was doing in foreign than of late, at a decline of 1s. for fine samples, and 1s. 6d. on inferior American red. Many holders then thought the lowest point had been reached. Floating cargoes during the week were a slow sale, and rather cheaper.

The imports into London for the month, were only 8,081 qrs. English, and in foreign they were 193,819 qrs., against 9,890 qrs. English, 206,145 qrs. foreign in 1873. The London exports were 9,565 qrs. wheat, 24,751 cwts. flour. The imports into the kingdom for the four weeks ending July 18th were 4,417,836 cwts. wheat, 525,260 cwts. flour, against 3,891,129 cwts. wheat, 502,936 cwts. flour in 1873. The London averages commenced at 62s. 6d., and closed at 60s. 5d. The general averages opened at 60s. 4d., and closed at 60s. 10d. These English prices, however, gave a very false view of the market, for the bulk of the business done has been in foreign; white qualities have fallen fully 8s. per qr. from the highest point, and red American fully 12s.; good Milwaukie being offered at 48s. 6d. per qr., lately worth 60s. to 61s.

The flour trade necessarily has given way with such a change in the wheat trade, Norfolks being down fully 2s. per sack, and not worth over 41s., and barrels have been equally depressed, the best not being quoted over 30s. to 31s., while at New York extra State was quoted 25s. 6d. At Paris, too, rates have been so reduced that we may possibly have some imports thence. The London supplies in four weeks were: from the country 48,835 sacks, the foreign 8,235 sacks 63,127 barrels, against 53,320 sacks country made, 8,551 sacks 40,554 barrels foreign in 1873.

Maize has declined about 2s. to 2s. 6d. during the month, in consequence of the fine weather and increased supplies, the fourth Monday showing heavy arrivals. American mixed is not now worth over 34s. 6d., though it is still cheaper than barley, beans, or oats. The total supply for London in four weeks was 69,041 qrs. against 62,773 qrs. in 1873.

Of English barley only two small lots have appeared during the month, stocks being quite exhausted, but the foreign arrivals have been fairly kept up. In the absence of business on malting sorts no quotations could be available, and the supplies from abroad coming to hand, principally from the Black Sea, have been mostly for grinding, these being worth 31s. to 34s., and heavier sorts for distillation in proportion. A parcel of new has appeared from Kent, for which 45s. was demanded; but the sample, though good-coloured, was thin and steely, and prices cannot yet be settled. Fine sorts we expect will be scarce and dear, and this is also expected in the Saale districts in Germany. The London imports for the month were only 125 qrs. British, 38,401 qrs. foreign, against 1,030 qrs. British, 370 qrs. Irish, and 14,537 qrs. foreign in 1873.

The Malt trade has almost been in a state of suspense through the month, and rates have been reduced 1s. to 2s. per qr.

The English supply of Oats for the month has been very light, but the foreign was good, increasing as the month advanced. Yet such a demand has been experienced for this grain, Parliament still being in town and the stock of English corn exhausted, that prices have rather advanced—say 6d. to 1s. per qr.; fine black feed, weighing 40 lbs., being worth 32s. 6d., and 38lbs. 29s. 6d.; white, extra weights, might realise 34s. to 35s. A few new samples of winter corn have appeared from Kent, and were held at 34s. to 35s., being very fine and heavy. In France the crop is light as well as here, and stocks in Europe seem exhausted by the high rates quoted. We don't see for the present what can materially reduce them, for it will be long before the crops on the Continent can be gathered

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and shipped here in fair condition. The imports for four weeks were 931 qrs. English, no Scotch or Irish, and 208,565 qrs. foreign, against 2,120 qrs. English, 15 qrs. Scotch, and 249,415 qrs. foreign in 1873.

Beans, though not much in demand during the summer, have rather tended upwards, from scarcity; fine small English have reached to 56s., and Egyptian were not abundant at 44s., some new Oran having brought 45s. The quality this year is said to be good, though there is but little corn. The London imports in July have been in English sorts 1,533 qrs., and 4,438 qrs. foreign, against 1,440 qrs. English, and 308 qrs. foreign in 1873.

Old peas have been steady through the month, maple having in small quantities brought 47s., while good white for feeding have not realised over 43s., and boilers not above 45s. Some new dun of good quality have come to market from Kent, held at 45s., but buyers keep aloof. The imports into London for four weeks were in English sorts only 108 qrs., in foreign 16,338 qrs., chiefly from America.

Linseed has not varied for some months. The imports for four weeks were 29,605 qrs., against 40,051 qrs. in 1873. In cloverseed next to nothing has been passing, the small stocks left over being held above buyers' views. White mustardseed and canaryseed have been advancing, as well as old winter tares, and a few new of small size appearing were held very high.

CORN IMPORTED AND EXPORTED

For the week ending July 18.

	Imported into			Exported.	
	Engl'd.	Scotl'd.	Ireland.	British.	Foreign
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Wheat	1000692	36841	148492	8265	42417
Barley	104100	...	...	308	...
Oats	239390	1197	...	7	4909
Peas	60949	16634	...	212	...
Beans	17243	4097	...	...	...
Indian Corn	190910	132567	184448	...	3901
Buckwheat	1155	...	...	...	...
Total	1614439	191336	332930	8787	51227
Wheat Flour	117156	26134	...	3921	4243
Oat Meal	2271	...	...	279	...
Rye Meal	880	...	...	...	...
Total	120307	26134	...	4200	4243
Grand Total	1734746	217470	332930	12987	55470
Malt ... qrs.	...	...	...	586	...

IMPERIAL AVERAGES

For the week ended July 18, 1874.

Wheat	23,694½	qrs.	60s. 10d.
Barley	221½	,,	39s. 6d.
Oats	1,073	,,	31s. 2d.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES.

Years.	WHEAT. Qrs.	s.	d.	BARLEY. Qrs.	s.	d.	OATS. Qrs.	s.	d.
1870	38,318¾	49	8	592½	31	2	1,423	25	6
1871	30,419¼	58	10	123¾	35	10	1,052½	27	2
1872	23,536½	58	6	189¼	32	1	949	24	5
1873	21,418½	59	6	277¼	35	10	686¾	27	4
1874	23,694½	60	10	221½	39	6	1,073	31	2

AVERAGES

For the Six Weeks ending	Wheat. s.	d.	Barley. s.	d.	Oats. s.	d.
June 13, 1874	61	4	41	5	30	0
June 20, 1874	60	8	42	0	30	4
June 27, 1874	60	4	42	2	31	2
July 4, 1874	60	8	41	11	30	10
July 11, 1874	60	9	41	7	29	11
July 18, 1874	60	10	39	6	31	2
Aggregate of the above	60	9	41	5	30	7
The same period in 1873	59	0	36	9	27	5

LONDON AVERAGES.

Wheat	745 qrs.	60s.	5d.
Barley	— ,,	—s.	0d.
Oats	— ,,	—s.	0d.

CURRENT PRICES OF BRITISH GRAIN AND FLOUR IN MARK LANE.

Shillings per Quarter.

WHEAT, Essex & Kent, white					57, fine	66
,, ,, red					52, ,,	58
Norfolk, Lincolnsh., and Yorksh., red					50	59
BARLEY	38 to 43		Chevalier		—	—
Grinding	34	37	Distilling		40	45
MALT, pale, new	76	81		brown	56	61
RYE					42	44
OATS, English, feed	26 to 33		Potato		—	—
Scotch, feed	00	00	Potato		—	—
Irish, feed, white	25	30	Fine		—	—
Ditto, black	26	29	Potato		—	—
BEANS, Masagan	43	45	Ticks		43	44
Harrow	46	50	Pigeon		50	56
PEAS, white, boilers	43	47	Maple 44 to 47	Grey	43	44
FLOUR, per sack of 280lbs., best town households					47	54
Best country households					43	46
Norfolk and Suffolk					38	41

FOREIGN GRAIN.

Shillings per Quarter.

WHEAT, Dantzic, mixed	56 to 63		extra		65 to 67	
Königsberg	57	61	extra		—	66
Rostock	58	60	old		—	63
Silesian, red	54	56	white		60	63
Pomera., Meckberg., and Uckermrk.			red		51	53
Ghirka 47 to 48	Russian, hard, 46 to 48		Saxonska		51	53
Danish and Holstein, red 52	53		red American		48	50
Chilian, white 59	California 60		Australian		58	61
BARLEY, grinding 33 to 35			distilling		40	44
OATS, Dutch, brewing and Polands 28 to 33			feed		27	29
Danish and Swedish, feed 26 to 30			Stralsund		27	30
Canada 24 to 26, Riga 27 to 28, Arch. 26 to 29, P'abg.					28	31
TARES, Spring, per qr.	small 38 to 40		large		50	—
BEANS, Friesland and Holstein					45	47
Königsberg	45s to 48		Egyptian		44	45
PEAS, feeding and maple	40	46	fine boilers		44	45
INDIAN CORN, white	39	41	yellow		34	35
FLOUR, per sack, French	00	00	Spanish, p. sack		00	00
American, per brl.	26	29	extra and dble.		30	31

BRITISH SEEDS.

Mustard, per bush., brown 11s. to 14s., white	7s. to 10s.	
Canary, per qr. new 76s. 84s. old	76s.	83s.
Cloverd., fine red and dark purple 70s. 76s., com.	40s.	54s.
Coriander, per cwt.	22s.	24s.
Tares, winter, new, per bushel	9s. 0d.	10s. 0d.
Trefoil, old and low 18s. to 20s. new fine	25s.	30s.
Ryegrass, per qr.	24s.	28s.
Linseed, per qr. sowing 65s. to 66s., crushing	60s.	61s
Linseed Cakes, per ton	£12 10s.	to £13 0s.
Rapeseed, per qr.	53s.	55s.
Rape Cake, per ton	£6 15s. 0d.	to £7 5s. 0d.

FOREIGN SEEDS.

Coriander, per cwt.	25s. to 26s.	
Cloverseed, red 42s. to 54s. white	60s.	70s.
Hempseed, small 36s. to 38s. per qr. Dutch	40s.	41s.
Trefoil	20s.	21s.
Ryegrass, per qr.	24s.	28s.
Linseed, per qr. Baltic 59s. to 60s. Bombay	60s.	61s.
Linseed Cakes, per ton	£11 10s.	to £12 5s.
Rape Cake, per ton	£6 15s.	to £7 5s.
Rapeseed, Dutch	54s.	56s.
Carraway ,, new	38s.	40s.

FLUCTUATIONS in the AVERAGE PRICE of WHEAT.

Price.	June 13.	June 20.	June 27.	July 4.	July 11.	July 18.
61s. 4d.	...	...	...	...	...	...
60s. 10d.	...	...	...	...	...	...
60s. 9d.	...	...	...	...	...	...
60s. 8d.	...	...	...	...	...	...
60s. 4d.	...	...	...	...	...	...

FOREIGN GRAIN ENTERED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION DURING THE WEEK ENDING July 24.

Wheat	cwts.	217156	Peas	cwts.	43581
Barley	,,	14550	Maize	,,	131270
Oats	,,	216693	Flour	,,	34879
Beans	,,	120			

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Countess

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PLATE III.

COMTESSE.

FROM THE THURGARTON STUD.

Our sketch is taken from one of Mr. Milward's varmint little hacks, whose annual sale at Tattersall's, in the Derby week, is now famous in story. Comtesse was in this year's lot, but having gone amiss a day or two before the lot started for Knightsbridge, she was left behind, and Miss Chatty put in her place, which, after some brisk bidding, was knocked down for 250 guineas. Comtesse is now herself again, and if all goes well will be sold at the next sale, and when we prophesy at a high price. On seeing her at Thurgarton, in the spring, we thus spoke of her: "Comtesse, a French lady, by Orphelim, dam Marquise by The Cossack, is as neat and varmint a little blood hack as ever was moulded, and, though full of hardy muscle, she is as free from dross as a genuine Damascus blade, and as merry a goer as her dam's sire, who we now see with Templeman up making all the running for the Derby, the second, third, and fourth being by the game old Lanercost, a horse which has left his mark in France.

If we were giving a description of Comtesse for the *Hue and Cry*, we should say: "Lost, a blood hack; a good, hardy chesnut, fourteen hands two inches high, with a star in her forehead, and a white coronet on the near hind foot, and eight saddle marks. She has a full eye, and a nice head, tapering towards the muzzle, with plenty of width in the jowl; a beautifully formed neck, and a grand rise in the withers; deep, well laid shoulders, round barrel, good loins, buxom quarters, muscular arms and second thighs, clean legs, and good feet, with the most knowing of switch tails. She has a black spot, where the cantle of the saddle would come, and another at the base of the stifle-joint, near side. N.B. Whoever will bring her," &c., &c.

HOLIDAY TIME.

Holiday making is often enough hard work for those who do not "keep their hand in." Your bricklayer who has taken a day to see his baby christened or his mother-in-law married again, or for some other such joyous an occasion, will be back to his mates, either listlessly looking on or far more cheerfully giving his aid, before his high festival is half over. The artist will pull out his pencil at your pic-nic, the citizen in all the abandonment of the sea-side can still never be quite happy until he has scanned to-day's Money Article; while no sooner is the Session over than the member of Parliament goes away into the country to make speeches. There is something, however, in this particular practice which reminds one much of "the Star" system of a provincial company. A man who was never heard at Drury Lane, never known at The Olympic, becomes a leading actor so soon as he only leaves London. And thus it is with your county member: if never heard in Westminster, he plays a prominent part directly he reaches home again; especially plaintive as he is when touching on the hard work which he has just gone through. How "from the smoke-room, from the tea-room, from the dining-hall, from the library, from the pleasant terrace facing the river where he can sit on summer evenings and watch the stately coal barges go up to their haven at Fulham creek—has he come trooping at the sound of the division bell, and blocking up the bar, waiting for the signal 'Ayes to the right, noes to the left. Tellers for the ayes, Mr. Black and Mr. Yellow; tellers for the noes, Mr. White and Mr. Blue.' What is the question upon which the committee are going to divide? Happily for the silent member, he is not called upon to form an opinion or even to know what the division is about. His duty is to follow Black and Yellow or White and Blue into the lobby, record his vote, and go back to the terrace to finish his cigar and wait till the tintinabulation of the division bell once more calls him to arise and save the State."

But the local Star, the county member or the

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heretofore silent member, will have a deal more to say when he takes the chair or finds himself toasted at the anniversary dinner of the Agricultural Society. And yet in reviewing the past session from a country-side point of view it is really difficult to surmise what the honourable gentleman will be able to say beyond the fact of his having consistently voted with White and Blue and resolutely opposed Black and Yellow. Shall he flourish again over the hazy platitudes of Local Taxation, and still tell of all which is to be done in this way? Or, shall he mourn with Mr. Pell the loss of a measure which promised so much for the rabbit interests of this great country? Or, shall he sympathise with Mr. Seeley in his somewhat unappreciated efforts to exempt all landlords from the action of Tenant-Right who do not understand the principle? Or, shall he take the opportunity of explaining how he for once defied the beck of Black and Yellow, or was deaf to the behest of White and Blue, and fairly ran away from his arm-chair and his cigar so soon as Mr. Fielden began to talk about the Malt-tax?

Whether he be Yellow or whether he be Blue, the honourable gentleman in addressing a body of agriculturists during the coming autumn will ever be touching on dangerous ground; for never had more been promised, and never has less been done to further the cause of the farmers than since the change of Government consequent on the last election. All that the Committees of the previous Session had done in the way of inquiry and recommendation has been shunted: the Game-Laws and their manifest abuses have been left alone, the Land Transfer Bill has been postponed, and somebody at some time or other will do something with the Landlord and Tenant Bill. There is nothing like having a friend at Court. But the Farmers' Friend will in his discretion hardly confine himself to all that which he did or did not do when in the well-drilled chorus at Westminster. He will, the rather, be anxious to find other topics to talk about, and will so touch on the labour question and the good harvest. But here, again, he is venturing on dangerous ground. The Eastern Counties farmers, who were from the first in the front of the fight, have won the battle of the employers, with little or no thanks for the aid or interference of the landlords. The farmers, like the boxers of old, fought in grim silence, while the landlords indulged in demonstrations, where scarcely any two of them agreed, and the effect of which was mainly to direct more attention to their own shortcomings in the way of cottage accommodation, game preservations and rents still screwed up to the uttermost farthing. Suffolk farmers have sought us to say that some of these self-elected champions should above all look at home, and, no doubt, as we have maintained from the day of the outbreak, the labour difficulty must eventually be one for the landlord to deal with. High rents, a great head of game, restrictive lop-sided agreements, and tumble-down cottages are scarcely arguments, however abundantly supplied, which tenants will appreciate when their case is taken up through philosophical addresses or philanthropic exudations.

But in any case there will be the capital corn crop to fall back upon, although even of this it will not be quite safe to talk too fast. Some returns collected a few weeks since have gone to show that the wheats in England are very generally above the average, although actual inquiry into the crop during the last few days has tended in some districts to qualify such an opinion, more particularly down eastward. Thus, our Essex county report, as given in this number, states that "the wheat crop has probably been over-estimated, as the ears will not bear close examination, at least those of white varieties grown in this county." We have similar advices from farther on in Suffolk and Norfolk, as we are ready to admit that we are not prepared to rate the wheat crop so *generally* good, or rather at so much above an average as up to the time of cutting had been calculated. The ears are occasionally only half "set," and once more people may have been deceived by outward appearances. As we wrote just a month since, the cutting alone can tell what effect the frosts have had.

THE TEA TRADE,

Amongst the agriculturists of this country there must be many to whom the limits of these Islands appear circumscribed, and who would gladly direct their attention to more distant fields, where they could discern some opening that invited them to carry into effect those predilections which have made of them the tillers of the land. And to such we would commend the perusal of certain papers published recently by the India office, containing the history, present and past condition, of the tea plantations in Bengal. From a small experimental garden in Assam, they may learn how these plantations have grown up to occupy a space that is small compared to the vast area of India itself, and the scale upon which cultivations are there carried on, but which nevertheless numbers three-quarters of a million acres, and exercises a perceptible influence upon the tea market by its produce. At the present time there are some doubts as to who can claim the credit of having first discovered the capabilities of this part of the Himalayas for tea growing, but it is sufficient to know that the honour rests with one or two persons, and that the foundations of this industry were laid between 1856 and 1859. At first the prospects that surrounded the attempt were made to appear so brilliant that the planters themselves, although doubting whether it would ever pay to grow tea, had no doubt but that it would pay to make gardens. Beyond this, many speculators took advantage of the ignorance and credulity of investors to palm off upon them what may be called shoddy gardens, to meet the requirements of a London or Calcutta promoter. But these misdeeds of the past would not be referred to were there not signs at the present time of the same state of affairs which made them possible ten years ago. The depression that then followed the natural collapse of many such comers was intensified by the ignorance of the general body of proprietors of tea shares, who showed as much folly in their haste to get out of tea as they had a few years before in their eagerness to undertake the speculation. This depreciation of tea property seems to have continued until about 1869, when things began to look brighter. It was seen that people who had worked steadily for years with a view to make gardens that would yield a profit had been rewarded, while much of the property of the collapsed companies had turned out well under careful management. In fact, it was again found that tea would pay, and ever since it has been steadily progressing in popular estimation, and as a general rule, in profit to those engaged in it.

This great and growing importance of the tea trade has led the Government of India to ask for certain statistics somewhat similar to our agricultural returns, relating to the tea culture. The planters have been invited to state also what obstacles exist in their localities to the fullest

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development of this branch of production, and what, if any, measures in their opinion would properly be adopted by government for their benefit. This inquiry, as may be supposed, has resulted in the acquisition of a very considerable amount of valuable and otherwise inaccessible information, and we learn for the first time that the extent of land held for the purpose amounts to 804,582 acres, and the area actually under tea culture is 70,341 acres. Those which are called mature plants cover 56,972 acres of this space, and the immature 13,369 acres. Although this classification, the best that can be adopted, is thought too uncertain for practical purposes one deduction may, it is thought, be confidently drawn from it. It is almost certain that all the plants classed as immature are under seven years old; in other words, that they have been planted since 1866. So that we may assume that at least one-fifth of the present tea cultivation has been commenced since the period of depression of the industry; and there can be no more satisfactory proof than this of its complete recovery. The whole yield of the province of Bengal, although somewhat conjectural may be taken at 15,000,000 lbs. The yield of immature plants can be fairly reckoned at 80 lbs. per acre, which would give 1,069,520 lbs., and the yield of the mature at 237 lbs., which would give 13,500,617 lbs.

At the head of the divisions comes Assam, where the first experiments were made and where the tea now grows in five districts—Seebsagar, Durrung, Luckimpur, Nowgong, and Kamrap. The total area taken up for tea planting is stated to be 364,990 acres, and the amount cultivated, exclusive of certain unreturned gardens of Luckimpur, to be 26,853 acres, or little more than 7 per cent. The area under mature plant is returned at 21,890 acres; that under immature as 4,963. The produce of both classes during the year 1872 was 6,150,764 lbs., of which 1,500,000 lbs. were produced by the Assam Company. Next to Assam comes Dacca, with two tea-growing districts—Silhet and Cachar. Then Kuch Behar, with two tea districts—Darjeeling and Goalpora. In the Chittagong division there is only one tea growing district—Chittagong itself. At Chota Nagpur the tea cultivation is very unimportant, though there are gardens in two districts—Hazaribagh and Lohardugga.

The difficulties that have arisen during the rise and progress of this cultivation have been chiefly owing to the paucity, in fact the absolute want of labour in the first instance. Tea planting, it seems, requires a larger supply in proportion to the area cultivated than most kinds of agricultural industry.

The population in almost all the districts suited for tea is very scanty, and the proportion even of this available for hard work is small; consequently, early in the history of tea planting the local labour obtainable in Assam and Cachar was found insufficient, and attempts were made to import labourers from more populous districts. But the surplus food produced in the tea districts is very little, and food for the imported labourers had consequently to be imported also. The means of communication are very imperfect, and when large numbers of coolies were thus imported the supply of food did not keep pace with the increase of mouths. The consequence was that tens of thousands died from diseases brought on by want of proper food, whilst others were so enfeebled that their labour failed to repay the employer the cost of importing them. The Government, at the present time, while dealing with the waste lands at their disposal, and for which they have many applicants, will be required to give the most careful attention to this question of labour, how it is to be obtained and how fed; otherwise a more liberal distribution of land would only aggravate the difficulties of the planters. The course marked out for the Government seems to be the encouragement of free labour as opposed to any system in which special protection is given to the labourer on the one hand, and to the employer on the other. To this end there will need strong district administration, and officers should be made to feel that the tea industry was not excepted from the jurisdiction of the regular authorities and the ordinary law of the country, and that no tenderness for the interests of tea-planting should be allowed to interfere with the suppression of illegal practices. For the rest, roads and other means of communication towards and within the tea districts, should be pushed forward as rapidly as the resources of the empire may allow, and no means left untried to encourage the increase of the local population, and of the cultivation of food-staples in these districts.

The opinions of Mr. Campbell, who has derived great experience from his connection with Assam, with respect to tea planting as a commercial undertaking, are well deserving of attention. With suitable sale and good management the average yield of an acre of tea-plant in full bearing may be reckoned at 400lbs., which, if carefully prepared, would, in the English market, fetch about £40. The cost of forming a plantation, of cultivating it when formed, and manufacturing the tea, are high; nevertheless, with proper and careful management, a very satisfactory margin of profit may be relied upon. The amount of profit derivable from a well-planted and carefully-managed tea concern is liable to fluctuate from two causes only, viz., the prices of tea in the home-market and the cost of labour in the gardens; neither of these two causes is ordinarily liable to sudden and capricious changes. To a person with even so small a capital as two or three thousand pounds, tea planting would prove a most profitable undertaking. The revival of confidence has been extending slowly but steadily during the past three years, and at the present time the prospects of the industry are far brighter and better than they have ever been before. It is to be hoped that, with the experience gained by knowledge of the causes which led to former disasters, it will continue in its present healthy course and furnish an opening for the enterprising men of our own country.

THE PRICE OF SKILLED LABOUR NEAR LONDON.—If this meet the attention of the agricultural labourers, they will not perhaps believe that there are hundreds of skilled "sons of the soil" working in market gardens, horticultural gardens, and in the great floricultural hothouses round about, and in the Metropolis, whose wages average from 18s to 12s a week without any perquisites, cheap cottages, or work in wet or frosty weather. Moreover, these men work harder than thrashers, plowmen, hedgers, sowers, mowers or other tillers of fields. I take first the men in market gardens, who in many cases are up three nights a week to market. Their wages on an average are but 18s a week. Then there are the Government hands in the parks, and their pay averages about 14s a week. I next arrive at the hands skilled in floriculture, horticulture, and arboriculture. These men are employed in London nurseries and exotic establishments for the low wage of 12s. Many of these gardeners are Latin scholars botanists, landscape surveyors, and chemists. It is true that being employed in the London nurseries is but a step to employment as head gardeners in noblemen's gardens, where the wage may reach 300 guineas a year; but I know for a fact that steady, clever men have been for years awaiting an opening for their services. The majority of these 12s. a week men hail from Scotland, and have to subsist on onions, bread and oatmeal. The only flesh meat they come in contact with is outside butchers' shops. These facts should show that some of the "sons of the soil" are somewhat worse off in Middlesex than other counties.—*The Labour News.*

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THIN SEEDING.

The season is fast approaching for putting in the wheat seed for next year's crop. The general practice is to allow three bushels of seed per acre, and the average produce does not much exceed 28 bushelsper acre—say, 9 or 10 for one. The question of the comparative results of thick and thin seeding is in the present state of agriculture a more importantone than most farmers are aware of. If it readily can be proved that sowing one bushel per acre instead of three will produce as good or a better crop than three bushels, supposing the extent of the land sown is, in round numbers, four million acres, it gives an amount of eight million bushels saved in seed only; whilst some who have tried it say that the produce is greater. Now, we are importing from eight to eleven million quarters of wheat per annum—for the two last years it has amounted to eleven millions—and the question is a simple one,whether t would not be as well to reduce the proportion of seed wheat, besides increasing the produce, which all those who have tried thin sowing aver is the case, and thereby lessen the importations to the same extent? Every bushel imported is a dead loss to the country, if it can be proved that by a more economical culture—in whatever way—it is possible to produce this at home.

The first instance we shall adduce as to thin seeding is that of Jethro Tull, who, about the beginning of the last century, occupied a farm or farms of 200 acres of his own, which he cultivated on perfectly novel principles, the first and foremost of which was, "that thorough tillage is competent, with or without manure, to secure the profitable growth of any given species of cultivated plant year after year in succession." This theory he carried into practice for upwards of thirty years with so much success, that, instead of impoverishing the soil, he let off a part of it at one-third more rent than had previously been given for it. He introduced the practice, more recently adopted by the late Mr. Smith, of Lois Weedon, of sowing half the land in portions of three feet, embracing three rows, having *unsown* intervals of the same breadth between them, and he found that he could grow heavier crops on half the land than his neighbours did on the whole. Mr. Smith, too, practised this plan for nearly twenty years, and produced, on half the land, from 35 to 40 bushels of wheat per half acre. The amount of seed sown was from one to two pecks per acre, no more being ever applied. Mr. Hallett, of Brighton, offers another example of thin seeding. His farm or farms consist of about six hundred acres, a considerable portion of which consists of down land, having from four to six inches of soil lying on a chalk subsoil. It is unnecessary to go at length into the system adopted by Mr. Hallett, whose object is to produce a quality of wheat founded, like superior cattle, on an authentic pedigree. His system embraces thin-seeding as a first principle. Thus, sown early, one hundred acres are seeded at the rate of one bushel to six acres, whilst the latest sowing is one bushel per acre. Mr. Hallett's neighbours seed at the rate of three bushels per acre; he therefore saves in seed alone from 180 to 280 bushels. As a sample of what may be done by this system, Mr. Hallett hired a large field belonging, we believe, to the Corporation of Brighton. It was such a barren spot as to be considered actually incapable of growing wheat. We saw this field under wheat seeded at the rate of one peck per acre, the product of which was a crop of 48 bushels per acre. One good effect thin seeding is the entire absence of under-corn—that is, weak and short plants holding inferior ears and containing thin and imperfect grain. Heavy seeding always produces this defect, which detracts from both the quality and quantity of the return. There was no such undercorn in Mr. Hallett's crop, the ears being all one height, and as level on the top as a table.

Another case is that of Mr. Piper, an Essex miller and farmer, who, for twenty-five consecutive years, grew wheat every year without manure, except a dressing of soot, and without ploughing the land, using only a hoe to scuffle in the seed, and planting in at the rate of 1½ pecks per acre. It was said that the produce exceeded by a quarter per acre more than obtained by the neighbouring farmers, and in one season reached to seven quarters per acre. Like Mr. Mechi, Mr. Piper was accustomed to send annually a printed statement of the profit and loss accruing in the season. Mr. Miller, the curator of the Botanical Gardens at Cambridge, inserted an account of the experiment which he undertook, in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society:—"In the month of June, 1766 sowed some wheat, and on the 8th August one plant was taken up and separated into eighteen parts, and replanted. These plants were again taken up and divided in the months of September and October, and planted separately to stand the winter, and this division produced sixty-seven plants. These were again taken up in March and April, and produced five hundred plants. The number of ears thus formed from one grain of wheat was 21,100, which gave three pecks and three quarters of corn, estimated at 576,840 grains. The land was of medium quality, and no manure applied."

An acre of land contains 43,560 square feet; three bushels of wheat contain, at the rate of Mr. Miller's wheat, 1,832,554 grains, which divided by 43,560, the number of square feet in the acre, gives 42 grains of seed to the square foot! Is it surprising that frequent failures of the crop should occur with such crowding of plants which, like human beings, can only be healthy and strong with plenty of room to develope their productive faculties?

THE POTATO.—The crop is in danger, although neith r fungus nor beetle have as yet assailed it anywhere. The tubers have ripened prematurely, and, generally speaking, the crop is light, but good. Now, the danger it is in is this—that it is ready to start into a second growth in the event of rain occurring quickly and copiously. What is called "supertuberating," or the growth of new tubers above the old ones, is a destructive process, for the old tubers that give birth to clusters of new ones above them are robbed of their fecula, and become flinty and tasteless in consequence. To prevent supertuberating, the crop must be lifted and clamped in the coolest and dryest place that can be found for it, and it will be safe for any reasonable length of time. To wait until it is dead ripe is not necessary. If done growing and beginning to ripen, it is perfectly safe and prudent to lift, for the momentary exposure to the atmosphere, and separation from the succulent haulm will hasten the ripening, and render the crop less disposed to grow than if allowed to ripen perfectly in the ground.—*The Gardeners' Magazine.*

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THE LANDLORD AND TENANT BILL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Landlords, their lawyers, their supposed interests, their arbitrary farm contracts and leases are at present thought to be the grand obstacles to high-farming and more productive husbandry. There is to be therefore a Landlord and Tenant Act for England, as there has been for Ireland, with the view of removing the anomaly. To the introduction of the Bill Mr. Disraeli is pledged. It is not, however, to contain the 12th clause of the Bill of the Messrs. Howard and Read. To that clause, of course, Mr. Disraeli and others of the "Farmer's Friends" profess an unconquerable dislike. Neither is the proposed Bill to be after the manner of the Marquis of Huntly's Bill, or of the complexion of an "exaggerated Irish Land Act," as the Huntly Bill was termed by the Duke of Richmond. The Duke has intimated *his* resolution that no such Land Bill shall become law. The promised Bill is likely therefore to be very much of that sort which the play of Hamlet would be with Hamlet left out, and not altogether a Parliamentary Bill in the common acceptation of the term; but rather, I should say, the *ukase* of a Ministry of Landlords, which, thanks to the farmers of England, are, for the time being, omnipotent in the realm: in many respects more powerful therein than the Sovereign, and, at all events, in a position to dictate to those who raised them to their present altitude.

"By the grace" of these dictators the promised Land Bill may possibly contain a measure of good notwithstanding. It may contain the incalculable boon to tenants of a two years' notice to quit; it is certain to provide for "free contracts" as between landlords and tenants, and to continue to the former the power to evict the latter, as a leverage or "screw" necessary to make the said "free contracts" a success.

Important events are often the unexpected result of small and insignificant causes; and—

> There is a *hand* that shapes our ends,
> Rough-hew them as we may—

the promised Land Act may form no exception to the rule. The admitted necessity for such an Act is an immense stride onwards of itself and in its most carefully-constructed clauses, however undesigned may lie hid the seeds and incipient principles of the future, and entire destruction of what yet remains of an arbitrary and a harsh feudal landed system in England.

There is, indeed, no better authority than history; and history ever furnishes the proof that discontent and revolution follow resistance to reform as surely as effect follows cause or night follows day. What so much led up to the Reform Bill of 1832 as oppression? What ensured Corn-law repeal so much as opposition? And even in that "leap in the dark," and the *sham* Household Suffrage Bill that followed, is to be recognised the powerful incentive to that Liberalism which interfered to turn a measure of mere pretence into one of real reform.

As it was with this original Household Suffrage Bill, so will it be probably with the anticipated Land Bill. It will be Conservative nominally, but revolutionary in reality. It will pretend a great deal, and yet give little. It will be at one and the same time positive and negative in character, and any advantage given by it to the tenant in one clause will be rendered nugatory in another. In one respect it is all but certain to be less fortunate ultimately than the Household Suffrage Bill; for whereas that encountered a Liberal majority in its progress through Parliament, by whose exertions it was so altered as to screen its authors from disgrace, the coming Land Bill is likely to receive merely the attentions of a Liberal minority, which, thanks to the farmers, will be powerless to change the incongruities that are sure to exist in the measure into those provisions of justice and security to the tenant, such as the exigencies of a densely-populated country demand.

The Act in question is to protect the landlords from "contracts from which human nature recoils." The idea is one of Mr. Disraeli's, and, of course, cuts in more directions than one. If, for instance, it is just to so protec- the landowner, the rule must of necessity, in a land where equal laws prevail, be also applied for the protection of the occupier. Overboard then must ere long go every contract enforced upon the tenant in the matter of game; away must go those in connection with the law of distress; and next there will have to follow destruction to those feudal farm leases and penal contracts which have hitherto so much and so unduly obstructed the cultivator, and enabled the landlord at will to seize upon and to confiscate to his own use and advantage the property in the improvements of the occupying tenant.

Viewed in this light, "freedom of contract" may not, after all, be so bad a thing to have. Nay, but the admission of the principle is, as likely as not, to be the introduction of the thin edge of the wedge of the most sweeping land-tenancy reform. To insist upon "free contracts" in the letting and hiring of land is really to insist that the landlords and the tenants shall meet each other as common traders—that both shall be alike deprived of protection, and thus stand towards each other in contracting as independently as do merchants in contracting on the Exchange. Admit this, and who can object to it? And the necessity is admitted of free trade in land, of the restriction of the power of the landlord to evict, of the overthrow of the laws of primogeniture and entail, and, over and above all, of giving to the tenant the right to the property created by him in the improvement of his farm.

Such property is as tangible, and as much entitled to protection, as property in an estate. It has even the advantage over property which has been inherited, inasmuch as it is the result of the application of the capital, the skill, and of the industry of the accumulator. Why, then, should property so realised, and which can be proved to have been realised, be open to the seizure of a landlord? In short, if the landlords are not to be "forced into contracts" with regard to the letting of their farms, "from which human nature recoils," why, in the name of justice and fair play, should the tenants be "forced into contracts" with regard to the hiring of their farms and with respect to their tenures and improvements thereon, "from which human nature recoils"? Yours, &c., THOMAS ROBERTSON.

Narraghmore, Athy, Aug. 10.

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MANGOLD WURZEL.

BY THE NORTHERN FARMER.

It is absolutely impossible to overrate the value and importance of this plant as a source of cattle-food for the spring and summer months, or to substitute any other article, either home-grown or purchased, which will tide over with the same amount of plenty, economy, or satisfaction what is universally admitted to be the scarcest period of the whole year. The farmer who has had the industry and foresight to provide and hold over a large supply for early summer need care but little how the season turns out with regard to growth of grass, whether dry or moist, early or late, as he holds in his yards the material of superabundance, a comparatively small breadth of surface, if the land has been liberally treated, supplying an immense bulk of food, suitable alike for horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs, and of which all seem to be alike fond. Coming into season at the very period when the swede, however carefully kept, begins naturally to decay, lose its sap, and become worthless as food, it forms a connecting link between the old season and the new, which, combined with its extraordinary abundance, renders it one of the most useful and valuable plants known to modern husbandry. In situations where climate and soil are suited to its growth and successful culture it actually supersedes the swede, and is yearly increasing in favour with large stock-owners. It contrasts favourably with the latter in first of all, having fewer enemies in the earlier stages of its existence, therefore, if once fairly started, it is almost certain to progress uninterruptedly to successful maturity. Again, it is a plant that delights in a rich and highly-manured soil, and will stand any amount of forcing, giving an immense return for liberal treatment, the expense of which bears no comparison to the value of the crop in cash, or the advantages it confers on the owner of a heavy stock during the spring and summer months. Moderately good land, deeply stirred by grubber or plough, or with both—which makes the best work of all when performed in the autumn—the eradication of weeds being attended to at the same time, may fairly be expected to give a return of not less than forty tons of roots to the imperial acre, an amount in itself surely amply sufficient to encourage the farmer not only to lay out a considerable sum in applying dung and auxiliary manures, but in rigidly attending to carrying out in perfection the whole of the cultural details, from the preparation of the land for the seed, to the storing the roots in the end of October. Given, that all the preliminary operations of working and manuring have been done in the best possible manner, it is nevertheless truly astonishing how greatly the subsequent processes of cultivation affect the ultimate success of the crop, and increase or depreciate the weight per acre in an exact ratio to the way they are attended to, whether attentively and carefully or the reverse. A ley field broken up in autumn, or at latest early winter, suits admirably for a crop of mangolds; and this more particularly if the preparatory season happens to be dry and scorching, as the fresh mould retains the winter moisture longer and resists evaporation much more effectually than land which had been previously cropped. The earth in this instance may be compared to very fine meal in its appearance and nature, the finely comminuted particles attracting moisture from the air during the night, and its close consistence enabling it in a great measure to retain it during the day, however dry may be the weather. It is difficult, and often altogether impracticable, to render land which has been frequently cropped so extremely fine, especially if ploughed out of the stubble in unfavourable weather; as however great the care which may be taken with it in spring, or however weighty the implements which are employed in its reduction, it bears more resemblance to crushed cinders than to the floury compound so ardently desired by the cultivator, and so absolutely necessary for an equal and vigorous start of the young plants. Although the preparation of land during showery weather is tedious and difficult, and, even in this case, dangerous to the work in hand, in so far as when it occurs at the period of sowing, which is very limited, the acreage under a very valuable crop may have to be considerably circumscribed and the general plan of the year's proceedings altered. On the other hand, a lengthened drought about the time of sowing, and extending to a couple of weeks after it, is eminently hazardous, inasmuch as many of the seeds will fall to vegetate in the dry soil, much of the land remaining blank, and rendering it necessary to fill up such spaces, either by transplanting, or sowing turnip seed, both processes being disagreeable and unsatisfactory, and at best compensating in a very inferior degree for the first loss. When the weather chances to be very dry, it is excellent policy to concentrate the whole available force of the farm in men and horses, on such a portion of land, as can by a smart push be ploughed, grubbed, harrowed again and again, chain-harrowed, weeds picked off if necessary, drilled, manured, and seeded all in one day. The various operations succeeding each other so rapidly gives spirit and animation to the workers, and a big day's work is done in the best manner, with a good prospect of a quick and equal start of the seed which has been deposited. The dung quickly spread, and covered at once with finely prepared earth, retains its moisture, communicating it gradually to the over-lying soil, thus materially assisting vegetation, and helping on the embryo plant in its first struggle for existence. Rolling the drills with a heavy Cambridge roller immediately after sowing is extremely useful in very dry weather, as it presses the seed down on the dung, and enables the earth to preserve its moist condition under the influence of a powerful sun and possibly drying wind; moreover its mechanical effect on the drill is to press it quite flat, exposing a large surface to the action of the air, from which it is thus enabled to absorb an appreciable amount of moisture during the night. Care and attention in this way will go far to obtain an even and healthy plant in almost the driest seasons. This secured, there is scarcely ever any further difficulty, as if the manurial conditions are favourable success is almost certain, the plants having no insect enemies grow vigorously, speedily covering the ground, and seldom experiencing a check until they reach maturity. In the cultivation of mangold-wurzel manure is all important, and no other consideration should be permitted to interfere with or prevent its being liberally used. Fifty cart-loads of dung made in the best manner under cake-fed beasts, is about a fair dressing for an imperial acre, supplemented by 70s. worth of Peruvian guano, kainit, and dissolved bones. As an economical source of ammonia farmers are now in a measure forced to turn their attention to nitrate of soda, and as it is now vastly cheaper by the ton than it was a few years ago, a portion of it may be substituted for an equal money value of guano. But for its evanescent nature nitrate of soda would be invaluable to the farmer; its effect, however, is

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not lasting, as may be easily proved by the after-crops, therefore it must be used with caution, merely taking advantage of its stimulative powers on crops that will stand forcing. Deep stirring between the drills, both with plough and grubber, during the period of growth proves of immense advantage to this crop, and the time and trouble expended on these operations will be amply repaid by the luxuriant foliage and rapidly swelling bulbs, unfailing indications of a magnificent crop. Where the breadth grown is considerable, it is safe management to begin lifting the crops by the middle of October, sharp frosts almost invariably occurring about the first week of November, which are the cause of great anxiety when such a valuable crop is in danger, and although it may not appear to have inflicted much injury at the time, yet in the months of April and May a rather heavy percentage of rotten bulbs will too truly show the effect of a few nights' sharp frost, and absolute necessity of getting them early placed in a safe position. In storing never place against a wall: it is the cause of much loss. Pits of seven feet in width, tapering to a sharp point at about the same height, being nearly as quickly built up, and when properly thatched and secured, keeping the roots over without perceptible loss from rotting, quite through the summer.

THE BIRMINGHAM HORSE SHOW.

On one or two previous occasions probably some of the classes may have been better filled, but as a whole the entries are about an average as to numbers, which is equivalent to saying that they are limited only by the size of the building. First in the order of the catalogue, as heretofore, were the thoroughbred stallions, of which there were six entries. One of these, however—namely Major Ballard's Reinfrid—was an absentee, and Mr. Green's Young Goldfinder was summarily disqualified as not being thoroughbred. Of the remainder, the contest lay between the two sons of Stockwell, Citadel and Laughingstock, which here met to try conclusions for the fourth time; the former, as usual, obtaining the precedence. The hunters exceeding 15½ hands, equal to fifteen stone, five years old and upwards, were pronounced to be a fair collection, with Mr. Goodliff's Marshal MacMahon first. His principal opponent, Mr. Hayward's Paramour, is a useful weight-carrier. The hunters exceeding 15½ hands high, without conditions as to weight, five years old and upwards, are only moderate, and those not exceeding 15½ hands in height are small but good, particularly Mr. Milward's mare, Emerald. The four-year-olds are the best hunter classes. The first prize was given to Sir George Wombwell's Cawton; the second to Mr. Armstrong's Cashier, the Islington champion. The animals which had taken the premier prizes in this and the three preceding classes were, as a matter of course, the only candidates for the cup; and it is a noteworthy fact that they are all of the same colour—chesnut. The race was between Marshal MacMahon and Cawton, and the Marshal was declared to be decidedly the more fashionable and taking horse. With the exception of the prize-takers, the three-year-old colts and fillies for hunting purposes are indifferent. The Duke, sent by Mr. Coath, of Walsall, is up to weight; and Mr. Goodliff's Lady Mary shows quality. The two-year-olds are, upon the whole, good. The hacks and roadsters 15 hands two inches high and upwards, are a small class, headed by The Prince, with a good back, quality, and action. The hacks and roadsters 14 hands and three inches and under 15 hands two inches high, are creditable. The cobs exceeding 14 hands are also fairly represented. The best of the few weight-carrying hacks exceeding 15 hands high is Sir George Wombwell's Enterprise, a famous prize winner. The first of the weight-carrying hacks not exceeding 15 hands, six in number—Mr. Frisby's Filbert—is another known prize-taker. Sir George Wombwell takes first honours for hacks exceeding 15 hands high with Miss Sykes, a previous prize winner. Among the hacks not exceeding 15 hands high was Ozone, the property of Mr. Matthews, always a winner. The harness horses 14 hands three inches high, and under 15 hands two inches high, were a moderate class. The harness cobs exceeding 14 hands and under 14 hands three inches, consisted mainly of drafts from other classes, Major Quentin taking first prize with Sparkling Moselle; and of harness horses, 15 hands high and upwards, only three pairs came in. The muster of ponies was very large, the classes for animals not exceeding 14 hands being numerically the strongest. The classes for cart horses were this year struck out.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—THOROUGH-BRED HUNTERS AND HACKS: Colonel Luttrell, Badgworth Court, Axbridge, Somerset; R. G. F. Howard, Temple Bruer, Lincoln. HARNESS HORSES AND PONIES: Colonel Barlow, Hasketon, Woodbridge; J. M. K. Elliott, Heathencote, Towcester. VETERINARY REFEREES: Messrs. E. Stanley and Son, M.R.C.V.S., Islington and Birmingham.

Thoroughbred Sires.—First prize, £25, Colonel Barlow, Hasketon, Woodbridge (Citadel); second, £10, R. Hutton, 74, Gloucester-place, Portman-square, London (Laughingstock). Highly commended: The Earl of Stamford and Warrington, Enville Hall, Stourbridge (The Peer).

HUNTERS.

Exceeding 15½ hands high, equal to fifteen stone, five years old and upwards.—First prize, £30, and extra prize of £10 10s. as the best hunter in classes 2, 3, 4, and 5, J. Goodliff, George Hotel, Huntingdon (Marshal MacMahon); second, £10, C. C. Hayward, Southill, Biggleswade (Paramour); third, £5, A. H. Billington, Kennington House, Ashford (Lucifer). Commended: T. Pain, Lower Pertwood, Hindon, Salisbury (Westbury).

Exceeding 15½ hands high, without conditions as to weight, five years old and upwards.—First prize, £30, W. Whitehead, Wollaston, Wellingborough (Rufus); second, £10, T. H. Ashton, Temple Laugherne, Worcester (The Lancer); third, £5, A. H. Billington (Kate). Commended: T. P. Kempson, The Oaklands, Handsworth (Claribel).

Not exceeding 15½ hands high.—First prize, £20, R. Milward, Thurgarton Priory, Southwell (Emerald); second, £10, B. Gilpin, Longford, Cannock (Glenhewer).

Four-year-olds.—First prize, £30, Sir G. Wombwell, Bart., Newburgh, York (Cawton); second, £10, W. Armstrong, Fairfield, Kendal (Cashier); third, £5, T. H. Foden, Givendale Grange, Ripon (Amontillado). Highly commended: C. C. Hayward (Richelieu).

Three-year-old colts or fillies.—First prize, £15, W. Coath, Moss Close Farm, Walsall (The Duke); second, £10, J. Goodliff (Lady Mary); third, £5, J. Sankey, Metchley, Edgbaston.

Two-year-old colts or fillies.—First prize, £15, J. Everatt, Laughton, near Gainsborough (Sunshine); second, £10, R. Swanwick, Cirencester (Glengyle); third, J. Goodliff. Commended: W. Richards, Ashwell, Oakham (Claribel.)

HACKS, ROADSTERS, AND COBS.

Hacks and roadsters, 15 hands 2 inches high and upwards.—First prize, £15, F. G. Haines, Upper Montague-street, London (The Prince); second, £5, Captain J. H. Mardon, the Craig, Grosmont, near Hereford (Flitton).

Hacks or roadsters, 14 hands 3 inches high, and under 15 hands 2 inches high.—First prize, £15, W. M. Hobday, the Grange, Ashby Road, Leicester; second, £5, Miss Harrison, Eastland House, Leamington (Major). Highly commended: C. A. Jacobs, the Riding School, Clifton, Bristol (Cora).

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Commended: F. G. Haines (The Marquis); R. N. Hooper, Stanshawes Court, Chipping Sodbury (Constance).

Cobs, exceeding 14 hands and under 14 hands 3 inches high.—First prize, £15, Major Quentin, Woodleigh Cheltenham (Sparkling Moselle); second, £5, R. Gold, Sharman's Cross, Solihull (Steel Grey). Commended: Mrs. Tyler, 28, Frederick-street, Birmingham (Safety); J. Wiggins, Market Harborough (Princess Louise).

Weight-carrying hacks, exceeding 15 hands high.—First prize, £15, Sir G. Wombwell, Bart., Newburgh Park, York (Enterprise); second, £5, R. B. Lewis, Walsall (Lawyer). Commended: W. E. Warden, Chad Road, Edgbaston (Tommy Dodd).

Weight-carrying hacks, not exceeding 15 hands high.—First prize, £15, H. Frisby, 13, James-street, Buckingham Gate, London (Filbert); second, £5, W. Sadler, 17, Hyde Terrace, Leeds (Cockney). Highly commended: W. E. Wiley, Birones Green, Erdington (Bob).

LADIES' HORSES.

Exceeding 15 hands high.—First prize, £15, Sir G. Wombwell, Bart. (Miss Sykes); second, £5, J. Gilman, jun., 148, Lancaster-street, Birmingham (Hinko). Highly commended: W. M. Hobday (Talisman).

Not exceeding 15 hands.—First prize, £15, F. C. Matthews, Easterfield House, Driffield (Ozone); second, £5, F. G. Haines (The Marquis). Highly commended: Mrs. L. F. Webb, Chapel Oak, Salford Priors, Evesham (Fire Fly). Commended: J. Gilman, jun. (Madeline).

HARNESS HORSES.

Horses, 15 hands 2 inches high and upwards.—First prize, £15, C. J. Shaw, Greenfield, Edgbaston (Billy); second £5, H. Hunt, Harvington, near Evesham.

Horses, 14 hands 2 inches high, and under 15 hands 2 inches high.—First prize, £15, J. C. Rogerson, 73, Oldham-street, Manchester (Bell-metal); second, £5, W. E. Warden (Tommy Dodd). Commended: W. Sadler, 17, Hyde Terrace, Leeds (Cockney).

Cobs, exceeding 14 hands and under 14 hands 3 inches.—First prize, £15, Major Quentin (Sparkling Moselle); second, £5, J. Tyler, 209, Broad-street, Birmingham. Commended: R. Gold, Sharman's Cross, Solihull (Steel Grey).

Pairs of horses in harness, 15 hands high and upwards.—First prize, £15, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Whitefield, Manchester (Sensation and Tom); second, £5, W. E. Tharme, Wolverhampton.

Tandems of horses, exceeding 14 hands high.—First prize, £10, T. Statter (Sensation and Tom); second, £5, G. Tharme, Bradford-street, Birmingham.

PONIES.

Ponies in harness, not exceeding 14 hands high.—First prize, £10, R. Wright, 72 Regent Road, Salford (Young Apricot); second, £5, G. J. Leek, Cop Hill, Claverdon (Maggie). Highly commended: S. Sparrow, Downing-street, Cambridge (Tom). Commended: C. Smith, Kirk Langley, Derby.

Ponies in saddle, not exceeding 14 hands high.—First prize, £10, H. Frisby, London (Prince Polo); second, £5, R. Wright (Young Apricot). Highly commended: J. Chew, Thorpe, Northampton (Tommy). Commended, C. Smith, Kirk Langley, Derby.

Ponies in harness, not exceeding 13 hands high.—First prize, £10, H. Gameson, 81, Dale End, Birmingham (Beauty) second, £5, J. Eaton, Castle Gate, Grantham (Beauty). Highly commended: J. Taylor, 51, Great Hampton street, Birmingham (Tom Boy). Commended: T. J. Merrick, Northampton (Essex); R. Travell, Rumney Court, near Cardiff (Polly).

Ponies in saddle, not exceeding 13 hands high.—First prize, £10, C. A. Jacobs, Clifton, Bristol (Gem); second, £5, Miss Tyler, 28, Frederick-street, Birmingham (Billy). Highly commended: Captain P. P. P. Goodchild, Grange, Glen Parva, Leicester (Little Bob). Commended: R. S. Bowker, Newton Lodge, Tamworth (Lilly).

Ponies in harness, not exceeding 12 hands high.—First prize, £10, T. Mabbutt, Abingdon Works, Birmingham (Jimmy); second, £5, J. Allkins, 96, Summer Lane, Birmingham (Belle of the Ball). Commended: H. Mapplebeck, Bradford-street, Birmingham (Minnie); W. Pinder, Ropsley, Grantham, (Topsy)

Ponies, not exceeding 12 hands high, to carry children.—First prize, £10, C. A. Jacobs (Bronze); second, £5, J. Allkins, 96, Summer Lane, Birmingham (Belle of the Ball). Highly commended: J. Beebee, Birmingham Road, Walsall, (Beauty). Commended: W. Pinder, Ropsley, Grantham (Topsy)

Pairs of ponies in harness, not exceeding 14 hands high.—First prize, £10, W. Frost, Stork Hotel, Birmingham (Alma and Globula); second, £5, withheld.

Tandems of ponies not exceeding 14 hands high.—First prize, £5, J. Beebee, Birmingham Road, Walsall (Gipsy and Beauty); second, £3, Mabbutt and Allkins, Birmingham (Belle of the Ball and Jemmy).

EAST CUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT CARLISLE.

The show, on the whole, was very good; but the weather was so wretchedly bad that it undoubtedly kept many people away from the ground.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—SADDLE HORSES: J. Jardine, Dryfaholme, Lockerbie; W. Forster, Burradon, Morpeth. HARNESS HORSES: T. Kendal, Park House, Kirkby Lonsdale; J. B. Lee, Stocksfield-on-Tyne. CART HORSES: W. Borthwick, Monewray, Whitehaven; J. Blackstock, Hayton Castle, Maryport. SHORTHORNS AND SHEEP: J. Dean, Dalkeith Park, Dalkeith; A. Metcalfe, Ravenstonedale, Tebay. GALLOWAYS AND PIGS: G. Rome, Glinger Bank, Longtown; J. Grierson, Kirkland Haugh, Dalbeattie. BUTTER: Mrs. Mark, Durdar House, Carlisle; Mrs. Graham, Waterfoot Farm, Annan; Miss Steel, Cardew Hall, Dalston.

HORSES.

SADDLE HORSES FOR FIELD OR ROAD.

Brood mare, with foal at foot or in foal.—First prize, J. Moffat, Kirklinton Park, Carlisle; second, G. F. Statter, Broomshills, Carlisle.

One-year-old gelding.—First prize, J. Rickerby, Wall Head, Crosby; second, T. Mark, Durdar House, Carlisle.

One-year-old filly.—First prize, J. Moffat; second, R. B. Faulder, Thursby.

Two-year-old gending.—First prize, T. Kitching, The Close, Penrith; second, J. Moffat.

Two-year-old filly.—First prize, D. McAuley, Carlisle; second, T. Mark.

Three-year-old gelding.—First prize, T. Graham, Beaualand Park; second, J. Armstrong, Stub, Kirklinton. Highly commended: J. Brown, Wiggonby.

Three-year-old filly.—First prize, G. Shadwick, Aikton; second, J. Carrick, Brampton.

Four years old and upwards gelding or filly.—First prize, W. Armstrong, Kendal (Cashier); second, J. Lamb, Penrith (Silence). Commended: T. Bell, Brampton (Patience).

HARNESS HORSES.

Brood mare, with foal at foot or in foal.—First prize, J. Rickerby; second, T. Little, Thorn Tree, Lazonby. Highly commended: R. Brough, Rye Close, Irthington.

One-year-old gelding.—First prize, Executors of J. Railton, Hetherington, Carleton, Carlisle; second, W. Faulder, Bricco Hall, Carlisle.

One-year-old filly.—First prize, T. Stordy, Thrustondeld; second, T. Wannop, Broadwath.

Two-year-old gelding.—First prize, J. Wood, Boustead Hill; second, J. Tyson, Wormanby. Highly commended: J. Marshall, Long Park. Commended: R. Gibbons, Moorbank, Rockliffe.

Two-year-old filly.—First prize, J. Norman, Roe Banks; second, T. James, Stainton.

Three-year-old gelding.—First prize, L. Potts, Wigt

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second, J. Carlisle, Tarraby. Commended: J. Bell, Carlisle; J. Liddell, Brownelson.

Three-year-old filly.—First prize, W. B. Gordon, Justus Town; second, W. Nichol, Cargo. Commended: J. Todd, Mireside.

Four years old and upwards gelding or filly.—First prize, G. Shadwick; second, H. A. Clarke, Prospect House, Aspatria. Commended: J. Rome, Robgill Mains, Ecclefechan.

CART HORSES.

Brood mare, with foal at foot or in foal.—First prize, G. H. Head, Bickerby; second, J. and Gr Atkinson, Peepy, Stocksfield-on-Tyne.

One-year-old gelding.—First prize, R. Gibbons; second, Mrs. Barton, Morton, Carlisle.

One-year-old filly.—First prize, J. Dalziel, Tinwald Shaws, Dumfries; second, J. Percival, Kirkbampton, Carlisle.

Two-year-old gelding.—First prize, W. N. Hodgson, M.P., Newby Grange; second, J. Kerr, Flatts of Cargen, Troqueer, Dumfries.

Two-year-old filly.—First prize, J. Kerr; second, G. H. Head.

Three-year-old gelding.—First prize, R. B. Faulder; second, T. Donald, Sanden House, Abbeytown.

Three-year-old filly.—First prize, W. and J. Little, Bowness Hall; second, H. Phillips, Cracrop, Brampton.

Four years old and upwards gelding or filly.—First prize, R. Gibbons (Jolly); second, W. Armstrong, Tarn Ends, Brampton (Nelson). Highly commended: J. Thompson, Baley Knowes, Kelso (Kit).

HURDLE LEAPING.

Sweepstakes of 10s. each for horses of all ages suitable for hunting. Four-year-old horses to carry 11 stones.—First prize, £10, W. Armstrong, Kendal (Cashier); second, £5, J. Pearon, Whitehaven (Trump King). Highly commended: J. Reay, Kirklinton.

A whip was presented to Mr. Beesley, rider of Dr. Carlyle's colt, for neatest costume.

HACKNEY PRIZES.

A first prize of £5, and second of £2, together with a sweepstake of 10s. each, was given for the best hackney of any age, height not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch, to be brought into the ring mounted.—First prize, H. A. Clarke, Aspatria; second, Dr. Carlyle, Carlisle. Highly commended: Major Thompson, Kirkhouse. Commended: R. Benn, Newlands.

SWEEPSTAKES FOR HORSES FOR FIELD OR ROAD.

Sweepstakes of 10s. each for the best saddle or harness foal.—First prize, J. Moffat; second, R. Irving, Butchergate, Carlisle.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bulls above two years old.—First prize, W. Lambert, Ettrington Hall, Haydon Bridge (Heather-bred Lad); second, Sir R. C. Musgrave, Bart., Edenhall (Wallace Wynne). Highly commended: G. H. Head (Royal Edgar).

Bulls under two years old.—First prize, G. Smith, The Laham, Penrith (Prince Eden); second, W. Heskett, Plumpton Hall, Penrith (Prince Leopold). Commended: G. H. Head (King George).

Cows or heifers above three years old, in calf or in milk.—First and second prizes, J. and G. Atkinson, Peepy (St. Crispin 2nd). Highly commended: J. Lamb, Penrith (Laurestina). Commended: W. Lambert (White Stocks).

Heifers under three years old, in calf or in milk.—First prize, J. and C. Atkinson (O. B.'s Justitia); second, W. Lambert (Matchless). Highly commended and commended: J. Lamb (Laurestina 2nd).

Heifers under two years old.—First prize, J. Lamb (Laurestina 3rd); second, D. Bragg, Southwaite Hall (Mary).

GALLOWAYS.

Bulls above two years old.—First prize, G. Graham, Oakbank, Longtown (Forest King); second, M. and T. Teardale, Boggs, Knaresdale, Alston (Gallant Graham).

Bulls under two years old.—First prize, J. Graham, Parcelstown (Sim of Whitram); second, R. Benty, Howend, Longtown.

Cows or heifers above three years old, in calf or milk.—First prize, J. Cunningham, Tairbreoch, Dalbeattie; second and commended, J. Graham.

Heifers under three years old, in calf or milk.—First and second prizes and commended, J. Cunningham. Highly commended: J. Graham.

Heifers under two years old.—First prize and commended, J. Cunningham; second and highly commended, J. Graham.

BULLOCKS.

The best pair of bullocks of any breed, calved in 1873.—First prize, J. Cunningham.

SHEEP.

Bluefaced Leicester tup of one shear.—First prize, J. Todd, Mireside, Aspatria.

Bluefaced Leicester tup of any age.—First prize, J. Todd.

Border Leicester tup of one shear.—First and second prizes, T. Bell, Townfoot, Brampton. Highly commended: W. Lambert, Ellrington Hall. Commended: T. J. Bell, Oughterside, Maryport.

Border Leicester tup of any age.—First prize, G. F. Statter, Broomhills, Carlisle; second, T. J. Bell. Highly commended: W. Lamber.

Pen of bluefaced Leicester ewes.—First prize, J. Todd.

Pen of bluefaced Leicester gimmers.—First prize, J. Todd.

Pen of Border Leicester ewes.—First and second prizes, H. Newby-Fraser, Hay Close. Highly commended: G. F. Statter. Commended: W. Lambert.

Pen of Border Leicester gimmers.—First and second prizes, H. Newby-Fraser. Highly commended: W. Lambert. Commended: T. J. Bell.

Longwool tup other than Leicester.—First and second prizes, W. Norman, Hall Bank, Aspatria.

Pen of longwool ewes.—First and second prizes, W. Norman.

Pen of longwool gimmers.—First and second prizes, W. Norman.

PIGS.

Boars under four years old.—First prize, T. Hodgson, Newton Arlosh; second, C. Wills, Brugh-by-Sands.

Sows under four years old, to be in pig or milk.—First prize, T. Hodgson; second, J. Bulman, Carleton Hill. Commended: J. Graham.

DONKEYS.

Donkey of any age that can leap over a hurdle 1½ feet high, age taken into consideration.—First prize, A. Coulthard, Caldewgate, Carlisle; second, Miss Graham, Scugger Houses, Carlisle.

BUTTER.

Fresh pounded butter, not less than 5lbs.—First prize, Mrs. Wannop, Brunstock; second, Mrs. Wilson, Lockerbie. Highly commended: G. H. Head, Carlisle. Commended: Mrs. Story, Bleatarn.

Firkin butter.—First prize, Mrs. Wilson, Lockerbie; second, Mrs. Graham, Scotby. Commended: Mrs. Waugh, Carlisle.

TRIAL OF REAPERS IN SCOTLAND.—The United East Lothian Agricultural Society has taken up the question of field work, and had a trial of reapers on a field of wheat, sixty-five acres in extent. The crop was conveniently apportioned into lots of nearly two acres to each reaper. The judges for the manual delivery machines were—Mr. J. Lennie, Longnewton; Mr. J. Wilson, Sheriffside; Mr. J. F. Robertson, Newmains; Mr. J. Douglas, Athelstaneford; Mr. J. Henderson, Byres; Mr. J. Russell, Greendykes; and Mr. S. Shirreff, Saltcoats. The judges of the self-delivery machines were—Mr. A. B. Telfer, Ayr; Mr. Taylor, Ayr; and Mr. A. Tweedie, Coates. The awards were: Manual Deliveries.—1, £10, A. C. Bamblett, Thirsk, Yorkshire; 2, £5, Harrison, Macgregor, and Co., entered by A. Dodds, Haddington. Highly commended: Picksey, Sims, & Co., entered by A. Dodds. Commended: Samuelsons & Co., Banbury. Self-delivery Machines—1, £10, W. A. Wood, London. Commended: J. & F. Howard, Bedford, entered by A. Dodds, Haddington. The judges recommended a working one-horse reaper, shown by Walter A. Wood, London, for a special prize. The machinery of the first and second prize manual reapers is enclosed in a tidy wooden frame, which saves it considerably in wet weather. At the luncheon, Mr. Harvey (Whittingham Mains) remarked that there was a great improvement on the reaper since the last trial in the same field nine years ago. The work to-day, he said, was remarkably well done, and he did not envy the judges. They had a difficult task, but he had no doubt, as they were all good, practical men, they would give the prizes to the best articles. He trusted they would give due preference to the implement, which did its work best, and above all, with fewest stops.

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PENISTONE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The entries of stock were 506, nearly 100 more than last year. The cattle were the best seen at Penistone, especially the aged bulls and the dairy cows. In the sheep, too, there were some good pens, but the horses were not so large a show as last year, neither were they so good, excepting the roadsters. Pigs were about double the number of last year.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE, SHEEP, and AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE: W. Ullyott, Great Kelk, Southorpe, near Hull; F. W. Addy, Cudworth, near Barnsley; W. Rhodes, Swinton. PIGS, HORSES, and DONKEYS: R. Cowton, Southorpe, Hull; C. Speight, Millhouse, Sheffield; W. Gillatt, Woodseats, Sheffield. POULTRY: W. Cannan, Adolphus Works, Bradford. DOGS: H. Miller, Upperthorpe, Sheffield; J. Sykes, Huddersfield.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull, any age.—First prize, G. Fox, Wilmslow; second, J. Johnson, Crofts Stitting Mill Farm, near Staveley.

Bull under two years.—First prize and Cup, T. Statter, Manchester; second, W. B. Beaumont, M.P., Stocksfield-on-Tyne.

Cow or heifer, in calf or milk.—First prize, J. H. Rockett, Selby; second, T. Statter.

Two-year-old heifer.—Cup, T. Statter; second, M. T. Hopkinson, Chesterfield.

Heifer under two years.—First prize, T. Statter; second, J. H. Rockett.

Bull of any age.—First prize, R. Lowe, Sheffield; second, A. and R. Mann, Thornhill, Dewsbury.

Cow or heifer, in calf or milk.—First prize, H. Binder, Ecclesfield; second, G. Widdison, Ecclesfield.

Cow for dairy purposes.—First and second prizes, H. Binder.

Two-year-old heifer.—Cup, G. Widdison, Butterthwaite, Ecclesfield; second, W. Parkin, Bromley Farm, Wortley.

Heifer under two years.—First prize, H. Binder; second, G. Widdison.

SHEEP.

Ram of any age.—Cup and second prize, J. F. Moorhouse, Penistone.

Shearling ram.—Prize, J. F. Moorhouse.

Shearling gimmers.—First prize, J. Dransfield, Oxspring House; second, G. Swinden, Snowden Hill, Hunshelf.

Ram, any age.—Cup, G. Swinden; second, R. Parkin, Pond Farm, Hunshelf.

Shearling Rams—First and second prizes, C. Marsh, Penistone.

Tup lamb bred in 1874.—First and second prizes, C. Walker, Roughbirchworth.

Pen of three ewes, having suckled lambs in 1874.—Cup, J. Nicholson, Eastfield, Thurgoland; second, C. Walker.

Shearling gimmers.—Cup, G. Swinden; second, J. Pearson, Snowden Hill.

Ewe lambs, bred in 1874.—First prize, R. Parkin; second, T. W. Stones, Roughbirchworth.

PIGS.

Boar, large breed.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Littleborough; second, J. Colliss, Hillfoot.

Boar, middle breed.—First and second prizes, C. F. Hallas, Manchester Road.

Boar, small breed.—Cup, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, J. Nutter, Cleckheaton.

Sow, large breed.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, W. Green, Wadsley Bridge.

Sow, middle breed.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, S. C. Alderson, Barnsley.

Sow, small breed.—First prize, A. Coates, Halifax; second, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Store pig, large breed.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, T. Lindley, Grimesthorpe.

Store pig, middle breed.—First prize, C. F. Hallas; second, S Burkinshaw, Ovlerton.

Store pig, small breed.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, H. C. Littlewood, Sheffield.

HORSES.

Gelding or mare for agricultural purposes.—First prize, M. Wood, Pontefract; second, J. F. Crowther, Mirfield.

Brood mare for agricultural purposes, with a foal.—Prize, C. Uttley, Wortley.

Foal of 1871, gelding or filly, for agricultural purposes.—Cup, J. F. Crowther; second, J. Simmons, Huddersfield.

Foal of 1872, gelding or filly, for agricultural purposes.—First prize, J. Mills, Waitefield; second, W. Bevins and Son, Wadsley Bridge.

Foal of 1873, colt or filly, for agricultural purposes.—First prize, J. F. Crowther; second, G. Wood, Grenoside.

Foal of 1874, colt or filly, for agricultural purposes.—First prize, C. Uttley; second, W. Stead, Cleckheaton.

Roadster, not entire.—First prize, M. Wood; second, J. Fairbrother, Sheffield.

AN ENGLISH LANDLORD IN IRELAND.—The Earl and Countess of Portsmouth, with their two eldest children, Lady Catherine Wallop and Lord Lymington, have been visiting the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland's Show at Wexford. Lord Portsmouth's Irish estate has long been pointed at as a model of prudent and enlightened management, and of the success which attends truly liberal dealing between landlord and tenant. His lordship's father, the late patriotic Newton Fellowes of the Devon "Reforms days," had scrupulously carried out the principle of Tenant-Right, and the result has been that for fifty years there has been a most cordial feeling of harmony between landlord and tenant, and an entire absence of those agrarian disturbances which have been the bane and curse of some parts of the Green Island. The system of tenancy is vastly different in the two countries. In Ireland the tenant erects the buildings and fences the land. He has to put a considerable portion of capital necessary to farm the estate, and without a legal protection would have to leave that capital on quitting it. Individual improvidence often rendered the best-hearted landlord unable to do his duty in protecting a tenant who had relied on his good feeling. Where creditors got "the pull" of the estate the landlord was powerless to do justice to the legitimate expectations of tenants, and this brought on the state of things which rendered the Gladstone legislative remedy necessary. Such were Lord Portsmouth's merits as a landlord and a legislator that we believe we reveal no secret in stating that the late Prime Minister wished to reward him with the covetable dignity of "the Garter" in token of his respect for the noble Earl's patriotic merits. But the self-denying spirit of the noble Earl led him to decline the proffered honour, wishing the great Minister to have the means of bestowing it, not where it would be more deserved, certainly, but where it might be more serviceable to the interests of the State. Lord Portsmouth not long since brought, at great expense, a bountiful supply of water to the town of Enniscorthy for the free use of the inhabitants. In taking the young Lord to Ireland the Earl and Countess are giving the best practical lesson of the great duties of proprietorship, and how by wise administration they may be made to conduce to the happiness and prosperity of all concerned.—*The Western Times.*

THE EASTERN COUNTIES LOCK-OUT.—The lock-out lasted 18 weeks, and cost the National Union alone about £25,000. There were altogether 2,400 men locked out, and of these 400 have migrated and 440 emigrated, and 870 returned to work without giving up their Union tickets. Since the resolution of the Executive of the National Union not to continue the lock-out pay, an additional 350 men have returned to work for their old masters, several have left the Union, and 340 out of the original 2,400 are still unemployed. The Union Secretary attributed the defeat sustained in the Eastern Counties of three causes—want of union among the men themselves, the locked-out men refusing to emigrate, and thus becoming a burden on the funds, and the indiscreet admission into the Union of worn-out old men, who expected that they were to derive annuities from its funds.

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MR. PROUT AND HIS SYSTEM.

Temple Bar is tumbling down; and those who go to see the last of it may miss, as we did the other day, a small unpretending chemist's shop, on the Strand side, where you can buy a box of Blair's pills, a precious ointment, or any other ready-made medicament. There is none of that magnificence in the way of height, width, plate glass and mahogany polish, with which Mechi and Co. give a grace even to Regent Street; but it is, as history tells us, from these small City dens that men command

> Space for their lakes, their parks' extended bounds;
> Space for their horses, equipage and hounds.

From over the narrow counter or in the little back-parlour do they cherish and establish the after-life when they shall have herds and flocks, and flowers and grateful shade. But our near neighbour at Temple Bar, when he takes to himself a place in the country, counts upon no such conventional enjoyments. He has few horses, he has no hounds; he has not an Alderney from which to make his own butter, nor a Southdown whereof he can borrow a leg of mutton. He cultivates but scant flowers, and has carefully contrived how there shall be as little grateful shade as possible, for he has so broken his bounds that his domain is an extended plain of plough lands, without a hedge to intercept the view, and with scarcely a tree to relieve the prospect. The pastorals of Blount's farm have been swept away with the fences. The curly-headed plough-boy no longer whistles o'er lea, for the *whistle* of one of Fowler's engines is the only signal now heard on the headland; Corydon has pawned his crook, and Phyllis has gone into domestic service. The world, in a word, has been turned upside down, and the harvest-home feast is celebrated before a sheaf of corn is cut, in a goodly granary where grain is never stored.

From all sides we have the promise of a great wheat year; taking England throughout, the prospects are almost everywhere put above the average; while from the Continent the reports of France, Belgium, Germany, and further on are equally favourable. And in such a year Mr. Thomas Scott, who publishes periodically his opinions on the crops, makes this emphatic declaration: "I have visited Mr. Prout's farm in Herts, and Mr. Middleditch's in Wilts, where deep steam cultivation is substituted for live stock and manure, and I must say that their wheat crops surpass anything I have seen or heard of this season. Either of these gentlemen might challenge England for wheat crops." This is a big word, no doubt, as the palpable moral would be that farmers who wish to grow great crops of wheat should grow them year after year, as Mr. Prout does in Hertfordshire and Mr Middleditch does in Wiltshire. It is very probable that Mr. Scott's statement is over-coloured, or, at the utmost, there is not much proof in it, until we know how much Mr. Scott really has seen, and how far he is justified in launching a comparison with all England. Naturally, however, the issue of such a challenge provoked a desire to judge for ourselves, and on Tuesday last we joined a party at lunch in the granary previous to taking part in a procession which followed Mr. Sworder to sell as they stood "the excellent growing crops of corn on Blount's Farm, Sawbridgeworth, by direction of John Prout, Esq." In another part of this day's paper we give the results; that is the number of lots offered, and the price per acre at which the wheat and oats were sold. The average reached was said not to be quite so high as last year, but it must be borne in mind, that with the promise of so generally good a season, there was not so much room for speculation, while the expenses of harvesting may be fairly calculated at something more than they have been Everybody, however, agreed, previous visitors and near neighbours, that the crops had never looked better; some of the Revits were capital, and almost everywhere good; whilst the oats, if patchy in places, were set-off by many a show-piece, which might have gone to warrant Mr. Scott's All-England challenge. The land was remarkably clean, and those who knew it the best and longest were the first to declare that it was worth comparatively little or nothing until it came into Mr. Prout's possession; the secret of whose success has been the ability to do as he liked with his own, by draining the land, by clearing the way for the steam-plough, and continuing it in crop so long as he chose; while his aid in the way of renovation has been the use to the extent of some £2 or £3 per acre of certain artificial manures.

Assuming, as we are certainly so far justified in doing, the legitimate success of Mr. Prout's system of taking crop after crop, it is nevertheless scarcely one which can be offered as an example, for the very simple reason that but few other farmers have the power to follow it out. Indeed, perhaps, the most noticeable feature in the day's proceedings was the demonstration made at luncheon in favour of Tenant-Right and open covenants. Mr. Scott, who was in the chair, broached the subject; and Mr. Prout declared that "the question would have to be dealt with next Session. He would accept of no measure which did not include the 12th clause, and he could show how by going for it landlords might increase their rent-rolls by 25 per cent." Mr. Middleditch went further still, and said that "few of the landlords of this country were fit to have tenants. He himself farmed an estate which was mortgaged up to the last farthing—up to the hilt, but he would never become a tenant-farmer; he would rather break stones on the road." Mr. Corbet, the author of the prize essay on Tenant-Right, was also called on, the general tone of a very suggestive discussion turning on the necessity for security of capital and freedom of action, the latter point being especially appropriate to the occasion. Indeed, when we compare what was said here with the more general run of agricultural utterances, we question whether the Hertfordshire farmers ever heard so many home truths in so short a time; though the speakers, like Mr. Prout's practice, may be in advance of the age.

SALE OF MR. T. E. MIDDLEDITCH'S STANDING CROPS,

AT BROAD BLUNSDEN, SWINDON, ON JULY 23RD.

BY MR. DORE.

Lot.		a.	r.	p.	Price per acre.
1	Crop of Rivet cone wheat, with straw	3	0	15	£17 0 0
2	Ditto	3	1	38	17 0 0
3	Ditto	3	3	19	17 2 6
4	Ditto	4	0	4	16 17 6
5	Ditto	4	2	11	10 0 0
6	Ditto	5	0	18	9 7 6
7	Crop of April wheat	5	3	15	8 0 0
8	Crop of Rivet cone wheat, with straw	5	2	37	7 0 0
9	Ditto	3	0	12	17 0 0
10	Ditto	4	1	32	14 7 6
11	Ditto	4	1	25	15 0 0
12	Ditto	3	3	36	14 2 6

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Lot.		a.	r.	p.	Price per acre.
13	Ditto	4	0	38	13 2 6
14	Ditto	4	3	14	11 10 0
15	Ditto	5	0	20	11 0 0
16	Ditto	5	1	8	12 5 0
17	Ditto	6	0	18	11 0 0
18	Ditto	5	0	33	3 12 6
19	Ditto	4	1	8	4 0 0
20	Ditto	5	0	23	4 2 6
21	Ditto	5	0	7	4 0 0
22	Ditto	5	0	34	4 0 0
23	Ditto	6	0	8	4 5 0
24	Ditto	4	3	20	4 12 6
25	Ditto	4	2	0	4 12 6
26	Ditto	4	0	32	17 5 0
27	Ditto	4	0	15	8 0 0
28	Ditto	3	3	17	8 7 6
29	Ditto	3	3	38	8 7 6
30	Ditto	4	2	22	8 10 0
31	Ditto	5	0	18	9 17 6
32	Ditto	5	1	6	9 15 0
33	Ditto	5	2	4	9 5 0
34	Ditto	3	3	7	9 0 0
35	Ditto	7	1	0	10 5 0
36	Ditto	5	2	4	10 0 0
37	Ditto	5	0	20	10 0 0
38	Ditto	4	3	12	9 5 0
39	Ditto	5	3	30	8 17 6
40	Ditto	7	0	28	8 17 6
41	Ditto	5	1	39	5 0 0
42	Ditto	4	1	30	4 5 0
43	Ditto	4	2	2	6 0 0
44	Ditto	4	2	11	6 0 0
45	Ditto	5	1	32	14 2 6
46	Ditto	5	0	37	14 5 0
47	Ditto	5	0	20	10 15 0
48	Ditto	4	3	15	10 0 0
49	Ditto	5	2	10	14 5 0
50	Ditto	6	1	36	14 7 6
51	Crop of black Tartarian oats with straw	6	3	4	Not put up.
52	Ditto	5	2	34	
53	Crop of Biddell's imperial wheat, with straw	6	3	35	13 0 0
54	Ditto	5	2	20	13 7 6
55	Ditto	6	1	18	12 0 0
56	Ditto	6	3	3	8 0 0
57	Ditto	3	2	8	7 0 0
58	Ditto	5	1	38	7 0 0
59	Ditto	4	0	33	6 7 6
60	Ditto	5	2	7	7 15 0
61	Ditto	7	0	29	6 10 0
62	Ditto	4	0	2	9 10 0
63	Ditto	3	2	6	9 12 6
64	Ditto	4	3	22	10 15 0
65	Ditto	3	3	25	9 12 6
66	Ditto	3	1	10	9 10 0
67	Ditto	4	0	16	9 10 0
68	Ditto	3	2	27	9 5 0
[Lots 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 of Biddell's wheat withdrawn.]					
75	Ditto	4	0	8	8 5 0
76	Ditto	4	3	6	9 0 0
77	Ditto	5	1	11	10 2 6
78	Ditto	5	2	30	11 0 0
79	Ditto	5	1	2	11 12 6
80	Ditto	5	2	24	12 7 6
81	Ditto	4	3	13	11 2 6
82	Ditto	5	1	14	10 17 6
83	Ditto	4	3	13	11 0 0
84	Ditto	4	3	4	11 10 0
85	Ditto	4	1	0	12 2 6
86	Ditto	4	1	6	12 0 0
87	Ditto	4	3	22	11 7 6
88	Ditto	4	3	26	12 0 0
89	Ditto	4	2	38	11 15 0
90	Ditto	5	3	19	8 12 6
91	Ditto	5	3	16	9 0 0
92	Ditto	3	2	20	8 2 6
93	Ditto	4	2	26	9 2 6
94	Ditto	3	1	2	9 5 0

AFTERMATH.

[Sainfoin to be fed up to the 1st day of October next, by sheep hurdled upon the land.]

95	Lattermath of sainfoin	5	1	22	2 0 0
96	Ditto	3	3	30	
97	Ditto	4	1	17	
98	Ditto	4	0	6	2 0 0
99	Ditto	4	0	7	
100	Ditto	7	1	0	4 10 0
101	Ditto	4	0	4	

SALE OF MR. PROUT'S STANDING CROPS.

AT BLOUNT'S FARM, SAWBRIDGEWORTH, HERTS, ON TUESDAY, JULY 28TH.

BY MR. G. E. SWORDER.

Lot.		a.	r.	p.	Price per acre.
1	Crop of Revit wheat, with the straw	8	0	0	£10 10 0
2	Ditto	8	0	0	10 5 0
3	Ditto	9	0	0	9 10 0
4	Ditto	9	0	0	9 0 0
5	Crop of black Tartarian oats, with the straw	10	0	0	8 5 0
6	Ditto	10	0	0	8 17 6
7	Ditto	10	0	0	9 5 0
8	Ditto	10	0	0	10 2 6
9	Ditto	8	0	0	10 15 0
10	Ditto	8	0	0	10 15 0
11	Ditto	8	0	0	10 17 6
12	Crop of mixed wheat	5	0	0	7 0 0
13	Crop of second-cut clover	8	0	0	3 2 6
14	Ditto	9	0	0	3 2 6
15	Crop of Revit wheat	8	0	0	9 10 0
16	Ditto	8	0	0	10 10 0
17	Ditto	8	0	0	10 2 6
18	Ditto	8	0	0	8 15 0
19	Ditto		0	0	8 15 0
20	Ditto	10	0	0	10 2 6
21	Ditto	9	0	0	10 5 0
22	Ditto	9	0	0	10 15 0
23	Ditto	0	3	0	6 0 0
24	Crop of second-cut clover	12	0	0	2 15 0
25	Ditto	8	0	0	3 12 6
26	Ditto	8	0	0	4 2 6
29	Crop of red wheat	10	0	0	9 15 0
30	Ditto	9	0	0	9 7 6
31	Ditto	9	0	0	9 2 6
32	Ditto	9	0	0	8 15 0
33	Ditto	11	0	0	10 2 6
34	Ditto	10	0	0	10 7 6
35	Ditto	10	0	0	10 17 6
36	Ditto Revit wheat	11	0	0	10 10 0
37	Ditto	8	0	0	9 2 6
38	Ditto	8	0	0	8 12 6
39	Crop of red wheat	11	0	0	10 10 0
40	Ditto	13	0	0	Bt. in at 10 10 0
41	Crop of Revit wheat	9	0	0	Bt. in at 11 5 0
42	Ditto	10	0	0	13 5 0
43	Ditto	11	0	0	13 10 0
44	Ditto	11	0	0	15 0 0
45	Ditto	11	0	0	15 0 0
46	Ditto	11	0	0	15 0 0
47	Ditto	11	0	0	15 0 0
48	Ditto	4	0	0	Bt. in at 17 15 0
49	Ditto	10	0	0	10 0 0
50	Ditto	10	0	0	10 5 0
	Total				£4,628 5 0

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EAST LOTHIAN FARMERS' CLUB.

CO-OPERATION.

At the monthly meeting Mr. George Harvey, Whittinhame Mains, presided, and introduced the subject, "How far a system of co-operation in regard to the purchase of manures, seeds, and feeding cakes could be carried out amongst farmers by direct purchase."

Mr. Harvey said that while he thought the principle of direct purchase a correct one, the farmers of Scotland would not combine to have it carried out. At present the farmers were very much at the mercy of seedsmen, some of them of repute, and some of them not. He thought it was exceedingly difficult to get the Scottish farmers to combine in any sensible thing whatever. He referred them as a proof of what he said to the poor support he got from the farmers at the last meeting of the Highland Society in regard to the chemical department. There was a meagre attendance of farmers at that meeting. He looked in vain for any of the members of their own club excepting Mr. Smith, Whittingham, Mr. Paton, Standingstones, and Mr. Durie. When so much necessity existed for a first rate chemist it was a shame that so few farmers came forward to support the proposal to have one appointed. He asked the Hon. Mr. Strutt to open the discussion.

The Hon. H. C. Strutt (Saltcoats) said they all knew what co-operation was—the combination of a number of buyers of any commodity to procure that commodity either from the manufacturers or from the wholesale merchants at wholesale prices. Besides the diminished cost of the articles, there was this advantage that the fewer hands the goods went through there was the less chance of adulteration, and it was all the more easy to obtain an analysis of any sample. The simplest form of society would be for a number of farmers to join together, and say at the beginning of the year what quantity of manures and cakes and feeding stuffs they would require, and then let them appoint a committee or a salaried manager to make the best bargain for these articles with the wholesale merchants and manufacturers. In this way he believed they would be able to effect a saving of from 15 to 20 per cent. There was a society which supplied seeds, manures, cakes, and machines. That association sold manures, which were mixed according to the advice of agricultural chemists, and they chartered ships to bring across cotton-cake, seeds, &c., from America. The principle on which that association carried on its business was not to sell the commodities at a remarkably cheap rate, but at the minimum prices charged by respectable dealers. The shares of the association were £1 each, and 5 per cent. was given on the capital. Of the net profits last year, one-fifth went towards paying the interest on the capital, and four-fifths were divided amongst the buyers in proportion to the amount of their purchases. He had heard it objected that this system would interfere with the division of labour, and take away the livelihood from many dealers. He liked the maxim of "Live and let live," but in the present condition of matters farmers must in the first instance look to get a living themselves. If farming was a prosperous trade they might suffer a few parasites to live upon them; but this was not the case, for the farmers had quite a hard enough battle to keep themselves above water. They had also heard the objection stated by Mr. Harvey, that the Scotch, especially the farmers, were rather backward in taking up any new scheme, in fact thought it too much trouble to combine.

The Chairman: I did not say too much trouble.

The Hon. Mr. Strutt: That is my inference from what you said. The farmers must take the trouble in these days of greatly increased cost of production, compared with the price of the produce. There is great pressure from below by the movements of the labourers, and unless the farmers bestir themselves they cannot keep the equilibrium. It might be said they could press on the landlords. Well, that cannot be done just now, because the landlord has got his lease to protect him. The farmers must really see to their own interests.

Mr. Douglas (Athelstaneford) thought the subject of co-operation might be the means of saving the farmers some money, provided it could be properly worked. In East Lothian, he said, the farmers laid out a great deal of money on artificial manures, which they could not do without, because the home-made manure formed such a small bulk that they must make it up with artificial stuffs, and it was important that they should get a genuine material at a fair market price. It was most essential that these manures should be analysed, so that the farmers might know what they were buying, but he had been informed that if they subjected a certain manure to three or four different chemists, they were likely to find a great variation in the analyses. If that was so it was apt to lessen their confidence in chemistry. At the same time, chemistry was a well-accredited science, and with a painstaking man something like a correct opinion might be formed of the true value of the article. He did not like to speak rashly, but he was much afraid that they were spending a deal of money for insufficent value. He mentioned the case of a field of his own. In a large field of 50 acres growing swedes he had 4 acres in the centre, which got a mixture of artificial manures of an equal money value to that bestowed on the remainder of the field. Well, that small spot of four acres grew no better crop than though no manure at all had been applied; and it was noticeably deficient, not only in that, but in successive crops. He spoke to the party who supplied the manure, and he got out of the matter by saying: "That was strange, for So-and-so used the same material with the best results." There was no question that that manure was a bad one, and occasioned him a good deal of loss. If the farmers were to co-operate, they could buy at first hand; but they would be liable to bad debts, and still be subject to be imposed upon, although they bought wholesale, unless they had a competent chemist to guide them. He feared that the farmers would not go heart and hand into the co-operative principle; and in the meantime thought they should protect themselves by having the manure tested by a man in whom they had thorough confidence. While he did not object to co-operation, he thought it would take so much machinery and supervision to manage such a system that it would be more suitable for a company than a body of farmers to go into it. When so much was required in the way of artificials, something should be done to enable the farmers to get value for their money.

Mr. Durie (Barney Mains) said the principle of co-operation would be beneficial if they could only get farmers to combine. But a difficulty arose in so far as many of the manure agents and middle-men were retired farmers, and if this occupation was gone what would become of those men? They would fall on the poor roll. A nobleman once asked him what became of all the retired farmers, for his lordship could never see any of them? He (Mr. D.) replied that they sold manures, and sometimes finished up by selling cart grease. After the collapse of the Farmers' Association for the sale of manures, recently formed in Edinburgh, he had no hope of anything of the kind succeeding. In the Haddington market there were often more manure and seed agents than farmers. If it paid these men to go about in that way the farmers might have some idea how much above the actual value of the stuffs they were charged before such expensive machinery could be supported. The best thing to do he thought was for a few farmers, or say that Club, to unite among themselves and through a secretary get some thirty or forty tons of a certain manure among them direct from the manufacturers, on a guaranteed analysis.

Mr. Robertson (Newmains) said there was no denying that they had great reason for combining in order to protect themselves; but so far as his experience had gone, he must say this, that he had found no task more difficult than the attempt to get farmers to combine together. They might almost as soon think to wash a black man white as expect to get farmers to unite. If they could combine to get the feeding stuffs and manures analysed more than they did just now they would help one another a great way, and the best combination was for a few to join together and get the articles from the wholesale dealers.

Mr. Shirreff (Saltcoats) said that manures, in going from

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hand to hand, did not improve in quality, and the times were such that the farmers must protect themselves. Rents were high, and there was much money spent in inferior manures which ought not to be, and could ill be afforded. He hoped that the tendency of this discussion would be to direct more attention to the quality and price of manures and feeding-stuffs, and that it would exercise a beneficial result.

Mr. T. S. MACDONAD (Craigielaw) factor for Lord Wemyss, said he started a co-operative association in the South of Scotland about sixteen years ago. Knowing the adulterations practised all over the country, from what he saw in Professor Anderson's laboratory, he called the farmers together and showed how they could protect themselves. The plan they adopted was for each farmer to give in a list of the manures he would require for a season, and then they contracted with a manufacturer to supply the articles, which were stipulated to contain a certain percentage of phosphates and ammonia. By this system they could save some 20s. to 30s. per ton, besides secure genuine articles. The society was still in existence, but the manure agents had encroached considerably on its ranks latterly. By dealing with all the agents in the country the farmers would get a great deal of rubbish.

The CHAIRMAN said the discussion had been an interesting one, and they had landed just about where they commenced. A great deal had been said about getting a proper and trustworthy analysis of the artificial stuffs. That was very desirable. He remembered once visiting at a farm not one hundred miles from Haddington, when the farmer said, "I don't know what is the matter with the cake," pointing to a certain sample, "the sheep are not eating it." He advised the farmer to send the cake to Dr. Anderson for anaylsis, which was done. It cost £10 a ton, and the report of Dr. Anderson was that it was not worth £5 a ton, and was perhaps dangerous to give to sheep. There was a great deal of wild mustard in it. Well, that cake was never paid for, excepting one ton. The farmers would never be right unless they had a chemist in whom they could place thorough confidence.

THE GALAWATER FARMERS' CLUB.

ON THE CONTINENT.

At the quarterly meeting in the Town Hall, Stow, Mr. Frier, of Cathpair, in the chair—

Mr. THOMAS SWAN, Edinburgh, read a paper on "Impressions from a Seven Days' Trip on the Continent." A difference in the temperature is perceptibly felt immediately on landing in France, the atmosphere being pure and mild. On to Lille the land is rich, deep soil, well-farmed, but entirely in strips or patches, many different crops being grown in one field. The country, however, is void of fences, excepting wide and deep ditches or canals, upon which traffic is carried in small scows or cobles; these traverse the entire country. Towards Blaindeau the crops are in larger patches, and look well, though beginning to suffer from want of rain. Here the entire passengers alight, and the luggage (except such as is booked through) subjected to a slight and polite examination as entering Belgium. Here, as in France, the railway-porters use a horn for instructing the driver—one, two, or three blasts indicating the signal, which possesses greater advantages than the silent system prevalent here, so frequently misunderstood or disregarded. Passing on to Brussels, which we simply skirt, sufficient is seen in the distance to assure us of its natural beauty of situation, while its environs through which we travel are particularly pretty; and here, as in France, and indeed throughout the Continent, special care seems to be bestowed on the trees, nearly every main road being avenued by rows of poplars, affording shelter against the weather in all seasons. The staple crops appear wheat and rye, besides various descriptions of luxuriant clovers. Neither in France nor Belgium are oats or barley grown to any extent, while the red land we took to be intended at that time for beet or turnips. Reaching Liege at gloaming, we can only trace its importance by the glare from the numerous furnaces and works in full blast. Thence to Verviers, where a comfortable dinner is provided, we reach Cologne at 11.40, or fifteen hours' hard travelling from London. Neither in France nor Belgium, except on some isolated meadows, are many cattle or sheep grazing, the former being principally milk cows. The latter country, so far as we saw, not only seems particularly fine, but also splendidly farmed; the soil deep, and carrying weighty crops of all descriptions. The immense population, and their well-to-do appearance, are also noticeable. Two, and sometimes four, horses, are employed in the drays and carts, which are principally four-wheeled, while dogs are likewise used in barrows or light hurleys. Comfortably housed at the Hotel du Nord, we, before breakfast, visited the celebrated Cathedral of Cologne, upon which a large number of workmen have for years been engaged in restoring. This, excepting St. Peter's at Rome, is the largest in Europe, and is a magnificent building. After a slight survey of the town—which is the reverse of prepossessing, and where the English-speaking traveller is waylaid by touts, who volunteer their services as guides over the cathedral, or to show him the *bonâ fide* establishment at which to obtain eau de Cologne (a reply in German was quite sufficient to show them we were not in want of their services) breakfasted, at which a couple of our friends thoroughly enjoyed a salmon steak. The sight of such a well-known dish in the bill of fare at once attracted their attention, for which the modest sum of 24s. was debited us. The waiter smilingly assured us it was "Rhine salmon;" and yet, though it was pronounced excellent, it was barely considered value for the money, being at least 30s. per lb. Leaving Cologne at 9.40 a.m., and crossing the magnificent bridge which here spans the Rhine into Westphalia—the land in which province seems lighter and scarcely so well farmed as that hitherto passed, but barley is more plentifully grown—proceeding north, pass Dusseldorf, an important town, we come into a wide mineral district, some of the stations being crowded by well-dressed workpeople, it being evidently a holiday. 90 per cent. of the men were smoking, with pipes of all sizes and shapes, and so far as we noticed in our travels only one man appeared to be under the influence of drink. As we get north towards Hanover, the scenery partakes more of the English character, fences dividing the fields, while cattle are more generally grazed and better bred than those we have yet seen. By a long ascent we reach Bielefeld, situated on a ridge of hills, and the seat of great linen manufactories—surprise being expressed by the natives that its importance in this respect had never been heard of by us. Descending the hill, the view from the train being extensive, we reach Minden, a strongly-fortified town, the platform of which is crowded with officers, whose *physique* and soldier-like appearance contrasted favourably with those of France or Belgium. Lunched here, and the loquacious waiter endeavoured to teach us a lesson in finance by modestly retaining something like 1s. 5d. out of the change; eventually, on checking it, we found even then he had a balance in his favour. The revenue of this class must be greatly increased by the opportunity afforded them by English travellers, ignorant alike of the language and currency, and they seem perfectly able and willing to take advantage of it. The land here seems in fewer hands; fields and crops in much larger acreage; while sheep, in flocks of 200 to 500, and cattle in lots of 50 to 100, are grazing; and batches of 20 to 40 outworkers occasionally observed at work on the drilled crops. Dined at Hanover, where the changes were again attempted to be rung on us—this time ineffectually. We got into a great stretch or poor land, a large proportion of which is valueless; in fact, all the way to Hamburg the country is tame and uninteresting. Twelve hours from Cologne we cross the Elbe by two splendid bridges, and reach Hamburg—the scene caused by the rush for luggage, cabs, and the shouting in all languages, being astonishing. In Hamburg, we spent Sunday visiting the principal parts of this fine city. Sailed up the Alster, dining at Uhlenhost, where a splendid band added to the beauty of the situation, and, Sunday though it was, contributed much to our enjoyment; left Hamburg at 9.30 p.m., through Holstein, for Kiel. A rush for berths, which, close and uncomfortable, we gladly relinquished for the more airy cabin. Crossing the

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belts, we reach Kersœ, in Zeeland, and here a totally different system of stock-feeding is observable; the cattle and sheep being all tethered, principally in uniform lines extending parallel along the fields, those fattening having the front line, and shifting gradually forward to be supplemented by those in the second stage. In Zeeland and Funen sometimes 100 to 150 dairy cows are seen thus tethered, explaining the capabilities of the country so far as the production of butter is concerned. Reaching Copenhagen at eleven, and fulfilling some engagements there, we take the steamer for Aarhuus at 6 p.m., which is crowded by people proceeding to the show; the captain, however, kindly placed his state room at our disposal. After ten hours' run up the Sound and across the Cattegat, we arrive at 4 a.m., accommodation being provided, and instructions that the judges were to meet at 8 a.m. in the committee rooms, into which the Cavalry Riding School had been transferred. Here the directors, committee, judges, and attending members were allocated to their respective posts, each section containing an English judge. The stock is completely catalogued, and the classes are distinguished by letters, not by numbers, as in this country. The arrangements were most complete, one side of the yard being allotted to the native, the other to the cross or mixed breeds, and include single animals as well as classes for lots. The only, to me, defective part of the arrangements being that in the latter classes, which contained from two to six animals, you were asked to judge them as a lot, and frequently a larger lot, which contained better animals individually than the smaller, was thrown from the average not being so good. It was proposed that we should base our decisions according to points of merit—the greatest number of points taking the prizes. I observe a similar mode of judging breeding animals was recently inaugurated by Lord Kinnaird at the Kinross show; but in the judging of fat cattle we speedily discovered this system unworkable. After awarding the society's prizes, those donors of special prizes who were judges retired, finding a substitute to act for them—mine being Mr. Elliott of Hollanbush. The awards being finished, the whole engaged breakfasted together, one or two toasts of a national character were given. The rest of the day is devoted to the inspection of the stock, and while the native breeds are not open to much, if any improvement, I was greatly struck by the immense strides the production of Shorthorns has wrought since (in 1866) I last visited Jutland. The Jutland cattle are famous dairy stock, and when well-fed are really good cattle. Though somewhat light of flesh, they have the objection that as a rule they cannot be made prime before four or five years old. The average value of the whole of this class I took to be about £26 each. In our annual reports to the Danish Government for the last few years, we have advocated the benefits to their native breeds the introduction of Shorthorn blood would effect; and though in many cases a prejudice existed in favour of maintaining their present breed intact, they not unreasonably believe that by producing meat they might sacrifice the milking properties of their native cows; and butter is an immense source of income there. During the show there were various discussions on the subject, while those who advocated it had a powerful help in the great superiority shown by the crossed over the native breeds, and the advantage of such crossing is now generally admitted. The best animal in the yard was pronounced a first cross; while two other animals, a first and second cross, sold at £130. About 60 of those shown possessed merit of no mean degree. A dinner—still confined to those engaged during the day—was given by the Committee, at which about eighty, sat down. The speeches were not of a national character, being mostly confined to subjects connected with the meeting, and, as is customary in Denmark, were delivered during the dinner. The evening was occupied by a trip to the forest, where the utmost cordiality was shown to the visitors from this country. Wednesday, at eleven, the prizes were awarded—a procession headed by a capital band, which played during the show, marching from the committee-room to the further end of the yard, where a platform was erected, each successful competitor coming up in front of his cattle which took the prizes, and passing aside after receiving them. After this there was a sale of imported Shorthorns, the property of Mr. Troldahl, most of which were sent from the Southern Central Sale in May. These were eagerly competed for, and made high prices. At four o'clock a general dinner took place, at which about 350 of the leading landowners, farmers, and others interested were present. The gist of the speeches related to the introduction of any systems likely to improve their country, and throughout one could not help observing the intense nationality of the Danes. This over about eight o'clock, and as if to give a practical finish to the show, the stock was removed and shipped to London, Newcastle, and Leith, in steamers waiting specially for the purpose. Other engagements unfortunately prevented our accepting an invitation to inspect the model farms of Consul-General Pontoppidaw, where a large party met. We left Aarhuus about 11 p.m. on the Wednesday evening, viâ Fredericia and Nyborg, through Funen, admirably farmed, and aptly termed the Garden of Denmark; crossed the Great Belt to Korsœ, reaching Copenhagen in time to see the cattle market. The stocks here at this season were principally rough-class cattle, the quotations being guided by the state of the English markets. The pigs shown were generally first-class. Spent Thursday pleasantly in Copenhagen, which, like Edinburgh, is intersected by tramways; but here the authorities have paid some respect to the amenity of the streets—the cars, where practicable, being run on the side of the roadway, and not on the centre of the streets as here. Visited Tivoli, and had an insight into the social enjoyments of the people. Went on Friday to Mr. Petersen's farm, near Copenhagen, which, as criticised by my friends, was well farmed, and worked by the best English implements. Left Denmark by the Iceland, from Copenhagen at 6 p.m., greatly pleased with our visit, and the kindness and hospitality everywhere extended us. With a three days' voyage, a good ship, and a most intelligent and obliging captain, the time at our disposal on board permitted us to reflect on what we had seen since leaving Scotland. It is impossible but to observe the application brought to bear by the foreigners on everything they undertake. Leaving Glasgow, as I did, on my way south, and passing through the great mineral districts of Scotland, the resources of our country neglected, the bulk of the furnaces out of blast, the men on strike, and many of them, notwithstanding their recent unexampled earnings, in misery, and passing through Belgium and Germany, hitherto only recently recognised as competing mineral-producing countries, everything here contrasted strangely favourable—the men everywhere employed, the country reflecting prosperity. In their futile endeavours to dictate to capital, and ignoring altogether the laws of supply and demand, by which unnoubtedly their remuneration must be regulated, the miners here, listening to the advice of their so-called delegates, have succeeded in driving their trade out of this country; and judging from the capabilities of the Continent, and the less cost of labour there, they seem willing and able to keep it. Now, gentlemen, I am aware that the subject of the introduction of foreign stock is not altogether a palatable one, more especially at such a meeting as this, as I believe that three-fourths of the farmers and landowners of this country would have all foreign stock slaughtered at the post of debarkation. In this I quietly concur, so far as those countries are concerned, which permit stock from the landboard of the Continent to enter. These are at present rightly classed as infected countries, and their exports compulsorily slaughtered here. But, gentlemen, you are all aware that your profits from cattle-feeding are, after deducting your artificial food accounts, frequently only nominal. The reason of this is, of course, the cost at which you have to buy stores, while your capabilities for fattening or wintering cattle are increasing. The area for breeding cattle is surely diminishing; the rapid strides in the science of agriculture are gradually penetrating into those high grass districts from which you used to derive supplies of cattle. Those now partly under tillage indirectly imply the production of meat; hence the at present irreconcilable relative values between lean and fat cattle. In the system now progressing in the wide cattle-producing district of Jutland, I can see shortly you may be able to calculate on an influx of really first-class cattle, and I venture to express the opinion that sooner or later you will gladly welcome these as a desirable adjunct to the cattle-feeding supply of this country. This I the more readily advocate, seeing that those native breeds which have been recently sold in this country have invariably left a more than comparative profit; but as the foreigners with shorthorns, your scruples in this respect will yet have to be overcome. On Monday at eleven o'clock the Cheviot Hills were sighted. Passing up the borders of East Lothian, looking its best, we reached Leith at three o'clock, inwardly feeling that after our progress up the Firth

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and meeting our friends on arrival, that "there is no place like home."

Mr. SNOW, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Swan for his paper (which was cordially responded to), remarked he had no doubt that by-and-by in crossing the Jutland cows with good Shorthorn bulls they might get a good class of cattle. However, this had taken a longer time than he anticipated, because it was many years since they began to introduce the Shorthorns amongst these foreign cattle; and he did not recollect of ever having seen a lot of anything like well-storing cattle of this kind. Most of them that came over to this country had been called *nondescripts*, having no great features about them.

Mr. SWAN thanked the members for their acceptance of his paper, and observed that he was quite prepared to hear from his friend, Mr. Snow, in regard to these Jutland cattle, that at present they were not valuable as stores, because anyone conversant with the different breeds of cattle would know that until they were improved they were not desirable for storing; but in the observations which he had made in his paper, he referred to the class of cattle they were likely to get by crossing. As an instance of the progress being made in that direction, he might say their firm (the Messrs. Swans') sent over to Jutland about fifty Shorthorn cattle this year, and the prospects of further importation showed that it was likely to be very much greater next year. He was sure it was perfectly apparent to every farmer in this country that it was impossible that they could produce meat to supply the increasing demands of the population, and one of the best things they could do was to encourage importation from countries where they could get lean cattle to reduce the value of the lean cattle in this country. In the foreign country referred to they could not feed one-third of the cattle they bought, and the best of their Shorthorn cattle were being sent to Hamburg to feed when they should be more likely to come here.

The CHAIRMAN said he had occasion to feed these Jutland cattle and they always paid him well. Of course, for their age they do not grow fast, but the best of them when they got fat were most valuable animals. They were something like our West Highland cattle.

AN ELOQUENT SECRETARY.—At the meeting of the Felton Agricultural Society last week a testimonial was presented to Mr. Robert Donkin of Felton, who from the first has acted as the secretary of the Society, was one of its principal promoters, and has been chiefly instrumental in bringing it to its present position. The testimonial consisted of a handsome service of silver plate. Mr. Robert Donkin, in acknowledgment, said: When he looked upon it, he could not but solemnly ask himself, "What is it I have done to have called forth such a solid testimony of public appreciation?" In all his relations through life—and these have not been a few—he had invariably found that the most safe and sure way to arrive at either popularity or success, was to study intimately all the varied phases of human nature, which in no instance would be found perfect, although all were of one flesh and one blood. He thought all would admit that dispositions would be found at times to vary as widely as the poles are asunder. Yet he might be pardoned for saying that without deviating in the least from the path of common courtesy and honour, there was, in his opinion, a conciliatory roadway, which would lead anyone successfully forward, notwithstanding any unforeseen obstacles which might arise as a huge barrier against a more smooth or honourable passage through life. It was now over forty-three years since he first saw the light of day in that immediate locality; and during thirty-five years of that period he had a vivid recollection of nearly all that happened around him.

When memory looks back o'er her record of years,
Ere reason and feeling decay,
Ere the footsteps we leave in this valley of tears
Are swept by oblivion away.

If he looked through the vista of time, what was it that he beheld? Pleasing recollections, dark and melancholy reflections, flitted across his mind. Old associations clung with fervour round his heart; but, that day, he hailed with joyous pleasure the friendship of his boyhood's youth gathered round him, while he wandered beyond the meridian of his manhood's stage. There were those amongst them who knew him then; and while others, dear unto him through years of unbroken friendship, and who were closely associated with him in the formation of that society, had been gathered unto their fathers, yet the memory of their worth was as dear unto him now as was the value of the friendship of those now living, and who that day did him such splendid, but such undeserved honour. It had been said that

There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.

Should he in that day's proceeding, discover any symptom of an evanescent flow of that tide towards him, let him trust while he pursued the "even tenour of his way" he would studiously avoid plunging an indiscreet foot within its waters whereby might be created an envious surge which in its briny bosom might swallow him. Let him hope that he would ever be found grateful for that overwhelming proof of their good will; and while he lived that day's proceeding should remain indelibly engraved upon his heart. Whatever might be his future, their generous kindness would never be forgotten. He was conscious beyond all doubt that he was far from being worthy of the magnificent honour they had bestowed upon him; yet whatever might be the error of his ways, let him trust that they would always find in him a sufficient amount of gratitude to well and truly appreciate the high honour they had bestowed upon him. He asked them to accept his sincere thanks for that costly expression of their regard. Might they long live to enjoy all the blessings of this life; might that bond of friendship which that day existed betwixt them and himself, and which they had sealed with that magnificent impress of their good will, never be ruthlessly rent asunder. He hoped and trusted that when he was warned he must quit this stage of mortal strife, he might be enabled honourably to discharge all those obligations which he might owe to society, and to gracefully fold his humble robes around him; and that, finally, before bidding adieu to this world, he might be permitted to cut that splendid testimony equally in twain—to hand it to his children who were as dear unto him as his own existence, and that while they lived, however humble might be their position in this life, while they looked upon that testimonial they might learn through it that the good opinion of the world alone was a brighter inheritance than any sullied reputation resting upon a pedestal of gold.

THE VICTORY OF THE EMPLOYER.—Translated into technical language, the victory of the employers means that there was in or near the scene of the struggle an extra supply of labour, or that there was an opportunity of reducing the demand. The farmers had never before desired to conduct their business according to the strict laws of the market, and when they were forced into the struggle they could only ascertain by experiment the existence of a surplus of labour. It may be hoped that their just confidence, both in their own resources and in the justice of their cause, will be rewarded by a period of exemption from external hostility. Many years must elapse before a candidate for a seat in the Eastern Counties will venture to declare himself in favour of an extension of the suffrage to the labourers. Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Trevelyan may be impressed with the anomaly of a difference of political rights depending on the place of residence; and Mr. Disraeli may condescend to profess implicit confidence in a loyal peasantry. The Suffolk farmer will long remember the breach between himself and his men, and their implicit and exclusive confidence in the strangers who denounced the masters as tyrants. Perhaps even sentimental politicians are beginning to learn that Mr. Arch is something short of an inspired prophet or benevolent apostle. Some allowance may be made for an uneducated orator suddenly raised into notoriety, and applauded, as demagogues are always applauded, by mobs in proportion to the extravagance of his statments and proposals; but it must be remembered that an excuse is not a justification. After his recent speeches, Mr. Arch must take rank with the Odgers and the Bradlaughs, who are not the less mischievous disturbers of social order because their violence may sometimes admit of explanation. If the Labourer's Union had succeeded in the Eastern Counties, the economy of agriculture throughout England would have been seriously and perhaps hopelessly deranged. The alleged lowness of wages in Suffolk was, even if it had been truly described, not the real cause of the agitation, for in Lincolnshire, where wages are considerably higher than in Suffolk, a stike was arranged by the Union at the same time. Demagogues will henceforth take notice that farmers, as a class, are not easily frightened or coerced.—*The Saturday Review.*

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THE BEDFORDSHIRE PRIZE FARMS.

THE GOLD-MEDAL FARM.

The morning after visiting the first and second Prize Farms, some of our party, with our Captain at the head, took a drive over Mr. Charles Howard's farms. Close to the town of Bedford we came upon the Priory Farm, of ninety acres in extent, which Mr. Howard has had in hand some ten or twelve years—the subsoil of which we thought was good loam—consequently the season had not affected it so much, although some burnt patches appeared, which we were told had never been seen before on that field in the memory of a man. The first field we entered was Browick wheat, a kind which Mr. Howard has cultivated for many years, a large growth of which is sold by him rather above market price during seed-time. The next field was in roots—mangolds and swedes—late but very clean. Then we drove a couple of miles away to Biddenham, Mr. Howard's residence—not just now, by-the-bye, as the house is under thorough repair, and likely to be so for some time to come. Our criticising Captain finds a few faults inside the house, with which some of us agree; but the majority of us think we should like a dwelling as good as the Manor House promises to be. Having disposed of the house, we look through the homestead, which is nearly new, having been built after a fire a few years since. The arrangements on the whole are good, not exactly agreeing with all our views. We see two or three young Gwynnes, probably a foundation for another herd; it may be to beat the respectable average of seventy guineas a-piece made at Mr. Howard's Shorthorn sale some two or three years since. Leaving the premises, we meet two Frenchmen; but can we look and nod; though they are evidently pleased with our remarks, which can only be made by signs. Driving through the farm on a well-kept road, we notice first the crops, which are suffering from the continued drought; wheat and barley short in straw, and we fear the quality will not be very good. Mangolds show a good plant, rather late—very clean and looking healthy. At the far end of the farm we find the flock of 250 Oxford Down ewes, looking very well, though our guide tells us—"Been very short of keep." In an adjoining close we see the ewe lambs, not looking so well or so big as they ought to do; while on our way back we see some ordinary keeping sheep, of which our sharp Captain says—"Not good enough for this farm; don't ought to be here." We then review the ram lambs, looking very healthy, though we think hardly big enough. Our guide still tells us, "short of keep" is the reason. Something over sixty shearling rams next present themselves, which we all think show remarkably well, and bid fair to make a good average at the annual sale. The size of this farm is about 300 acres, mostly of a light gravelly soil, which this season has been affected considerably. Mr. Howard cultivates cabbage largely, without which we question very much if the shearling rams would have the "bloom" on them. Another drive, still of two miles more, takes us to the Bromham farm, which Mr. Howard has had in hand but four years, and, as we hear, was farmed by executors for four years before that. There has been a large sum of money spent with considerable judgment and enterprise to bring this farm into its present state in so short a time; about 450 acres in all, rather more arable than pasture land, the latter very good. The first thing we note on this farm is a lot of very well bred Shorthorn grazing cattle, for which our Captain, who knows something about grazing as well as cattle, offers 6s. per stone, a price which some of our party think would bring them to close upon £30 each. We now come to the arable land, something of an Oxford clay subsoil, which is managed, like the Biddenham farm, on the four-course shift or Norfolk system; wheat and barley looking remarkably well; tare land smashed up by steam-cultivator to be left till after harvest. The best field of mangolds we have seen in Bedfordshire. On another grass field were some twenty-five good Shorthorn beasts grazing—making forty, worth from £25 to £30 a-piece. Getting on to Bromham Park another flock of Oxford Downs is seen, of not quite so long a pedigree as the Biddenham ewes, but very useful in their way; then come some more Shorthorns, and a lot of Welsh Runts, thirty or forty of them, worth hard upon £20 a-piece; with another score of younger animals, and calves, making altogether about 100, which we think, with the corn crops, bid fair to produce a large amount of food for the public. Wishing to have another look at the Royal show we make our visit to the Medal Farm rather short, but well pleased and satisfied with what we had seen. Mr. Howard farms altogether 850 acres—at the "Priory," 90; at Biddenham 310, two miles apart; and at Bromham 450, again two miles further on; so that his business requires more judgment and thought than if it was all one farm; and he is not under the Duke of Bedford.

By-the bye, "the broken-backed haystack," on Mr. Checkley's first-prize farm at Brogborough, did take fire, as we had expected, and came to utter grief on Sunday week, fortunately without causing any further damage. The judges, however, should surely make one more call in order to enable them to duly report on this "blaze of triumph."

THE HOP AND MALT EXCHANGE. — Under an Order in Chancery, in the case of "Grundy *v.* the Hop and Malt Exchange and Warehouse Company (Limited)," the extensive premises known as the Hop and Malt Exchange, in Southwark, were submitted to public auction, in one lot, by Messrs. Marsh, Yetts, and Milner, at the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard. The buildings occupy a ground area of 26,000 feet, the elevation being 95 feet, and the street frontage 350 feet, the total floor area being 221,169 feet. The premises were mortgaged for £50,000, and the equity of redemption sold yesterday reached £27,800. The value of the property as realised by the sale, therefore, was £77,800. The original cost of the ground on which the buildings stand was £60,000, and the erection of the premises cost £75,000, so that the price given for the whole yesterday was but little more than the original cost of the building alone, or about £3 per foot for the ground, including the premises erected upon it.

THE BEDFORD SHOW.—In his notices of the implement and other stands our representative for that department omitted to make any mention of that of Down's and Co., of Woburn, so well known for their true FARMERS' FRIEND, a dressing which prevents the smut in wheat and stays the attacks of the slug, grub and wireworm. Our reporter had certainly instructions to pass over exhibitions of a not strictly agricultural character, whereas the labours of Messrs. Downs tend to a strictly agricultural good.

THE PAST SHOW WEEK.—Mr. Marris took the second prize for aged Leicester rams at Grantham, and not Mr. Borton, as published in the prize list. At the East of England horse show Messrs. Phillips, Smith and Co.'s pony in addition to a high commendation took, as we are advised, a cup and medal for "speed action and *high* condition." This last point of merit is something of a novelty.

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MAIDSTONE FARMERS' CLUB.

HORSE *versus* STEAM POWER.

At a recent meeting Mr. B. S. Wilmot, of Goudhurst, spoke to this subject, Mr. T. B. Lovett presided, and Mr. J. Paine occupied the vice-chair.

Mr. Wilmot said that when he was first invited to read a paper to the members of the Club he hesitated for two reasons; first, because he remembered that they had already discussed most of the principal subjects connected with agriculture during the time he had known the Club; and, secondly, because he was mainly and almost entirely a book farmer, not having been born a farmer, and having taken to it somewhat late in life—learning all he knew by copying others and by reading. They might, therefore, feel sure that he hesitated to read a paper to the Club relating to agriculture, yet he could not help thinking that if he could help to raise a discussion for the purpose of bringing about any good to others and himself, it was his duty to do so. Among the questions connected with agriculture he had tried to find that which was most prominent, and one of the most difficult matters with which the farmer had to deal; he also tried to fix upon a subject upon which he knew there was a great difference of opinion, and he hoped that he should hear a good discussion upon the paper he had written. Mr. Wilmot then read the following address: The subject before us is one of deep interest and importance—both to the public at large and to those individuals who are more immediately concerned in it. During the past few years English purchasers of horses have had painful experience of their increased dearness; and this is notably the case with regard to horses employed in agriculture. The great increase in the cost of these animals does not arise from any growth of English demand, and the prevailing scarcity does not, I think, arise from any deficiency of supply. No proof exists that fewer horses are now annually produced in England than in former years. On the contrary, high prices have probably stimulated increased production, and the real cause of the present scarcity in England seems more to be found in the drain which has been made upon it by foreigners. According to the last Board of Trade return we exported 60 per cent. more horses in January and February of this year than during the same months in 1873. The late war had a great deal to do with this, for we find that France took 40 per cent. of these exportations, and the present deficiency of horses in France is estimated at not less than 180,000. In the present state of the animal labour market, therefore, any plan or power that can be substituted for animal labour—doing the work equally well and at less cost—must secure close attention. The spread of education likewise powerfully induces this attention; for as every year advances greater difficulty will of necessity be found in obtaining men to look after horses as well as boys to help them. New and more attractive sources of occupation will gradually open themselves to these classes. The development of education is a powerful item in the subject before us, as is signally shown in the Western hemisphere, America having done all she can to promote the use of every kind of machinery, and thus not only to lessen animal labour, but to make labour in general less burdensome and more agreeable and intellectual; and a great authority upon agriculture has said, "Never have a man to do what a horse can do, and never have a horse to do what a steam engine ought to do." How far, then, can we in this country substitute steam power for our present system, and upon what principles? There are very many ways in which the substitution can be employed with great benefit to the agriculturists in particular, and the country in general. It may be applied, as it is now almost universally, to thrashing. It may almost be applied to ploughing, as to some considerable extent has been the case already; and the various other departments of farm work may, and doubtless will, as times goes on and ingenuity is exercised, be brought in some measure within its scope. I believe, for instance, that the time is fast approaching when every large farm will have its steam engine, and horse labour will, instead of being the great power for carrying on a farm, be looked upon as the mere auxiliary to steam power, just as it now is to our great railway system. Animal labour now feeds our railways and thus helps the great trade in which the country is engaged. How vast and incalculable are the benefits our railways have brought to agriculture! Not only have they made the carriage of the produce of the land more easy, but they have afforded to the tillers of the soil easier access to all parts of the kingdom, and thus enabled them to compare notes and do business with their neighbours in districts and counties which were formerly unapproachable. And so we may look forward to some great improvement in our railway system, we may confidently consider that agriculture has not yet received half the benefits it will be sure to reach under a more advanced and thoughtful management. There are, no doubt, many ways in which steam power would greatly benefit agriculture that have not yet received any attention whatever, while other improvements are in their infancy. Take, for instance, our traction engines. At present they are unsightly and very costly, and in many cases are so difficult to manage with our present roads that to use them generally is only to cause trouble and inconvenience. But I feel sure that the day will come when they will be of great service to this country, and to agriculture in particular, and will help to lessen the demand for heavy draught horses. I hope we shall likewise see some local lines of rail laid down on the tramway plan, connecting our villages and towns more closely together, only worked by steam instead of horse power. These lines might be used for the conveyance of goods as well as passengers—feeding our railways and make our produce in distant parts more valuable. I have this long time thought that a line of railway might be made by the side of our present roads at less than a tenth of the cost of making our present lines. It is true that they might not be able to travel quite so fast, but this would perhaps be better for both passengers and those concerned in the undertaking than our present reckless travelling. We should not want the unsightly engines now used, but something neat and compact. This would, I think, benefit all classes, and I should very much like to see the Government take our present railways in their hands, in the same way that they have taken the telegraph department, and follow up the wires which now go to almost every village in Kent by a serviceable line of railway. I believe in the end it would pay, because the more you facilitate the command of any nation, the greater will that nation become. In the same way in proportion as you make travelling easy-giving opportunities for exchange of thought and opinion—will you make the people prosperous and happy. Not only do different systems prevail in different counties, but in different provinces of the same county—in some cases their existence has been caused by a peculiarity of soil or climate, while in others they have arisen out of local habits, or they spring from improvements not generally known, and even in the rudest districts there may be some which merit imitation. Now it is quite evident both that some of those systems must be preferable to others, and that no man can determine which is best without being acquainted with all, nor can any farmer be said to be completely master of his business, until he has attained that knowledge. It is not sufficient that he already gets what he considers a fair return for his money and industry, if by other modes of culture he could obtain more; and if he neglects them, he injures himself, his family, and the public. In no country has husbandry been carried to higher perfection than in England, yet, even in our own land practices exist in some counties that are either wholly unknown or only imperfectly understood in others, and it is only by comparing them that their relative usefulness can be ascertained. Farmers being necessarily much confined to their own district by the care which their business demands can rarely under our present railway system inspect many of the improvements now going on in farming. The subject which I have brought before you this evening is, I feel sure, of great importance to the whole of the community, and there can be no doubt whatever but that it is the duty of everyone to try and substitute steam for horse power, when it can be profitably employed. The farmer has many expenses which greatly interfere with his profits, and I think I am right in saying that the following

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quaint old doggerel lines, written in the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, still ho'd good:

One part cast for the rent due out of hand,
One other part for seed to sow thy land;
One other part leave parson for his tith,
Another part for harvest, sickle, syth;
One part for ploughwrite, cartwrite, knacker and smith,
One part to uphold thy teams that draw therewith;
Another part for servants and workman's wages laie,
One part, likewise, for fillbellie daie by daie,
One part thy wife for needful things doth crave,
Thyself and thy child the last part would have.

There is no question that it is the many calls which farmers have that prevent them buying many machines which they otherwise would have, with larger profits and more capital. Yet I think some plan of co-operation migh be more generally adopted amongst farmers, so that they might buy machines which are now beyond the reach of many to purchase, either from want of capital, or because they have not sufficient land to warrant such a large sum being expended. I have referred to steam thrashing, and have said that it is almost universal. It is, and few, if any would care to go back to the thrashing floor. The cutting of chaff also, and the cooking of all kinds of food; the steaming of food before it is given to animals, the pumping of sewage upon land, are all of them good and useful ways in which steam power may be substituted for horse power, with profit to the farmer. In no way do I look for so much benefit as I do in the application of the steam plough, but the day, perhaps, is far distant when we may look for the universal use of the steam plough, because some farms and fields, and those of Kent in particular, are small and unsuited at present for its effective working, but the time is fast approaching, I think, when agriculturists will be fully alive to the importance its use. I know a gentleman who bought a steam plough and cultivating apparatus some few years since. It was one of Fowler's, and in a conversation I had with him some short time, he said to me, "I cannot speak too highly of the benefit of steam power. I am able to plough six acres per day, thus doing the work of six teams at a cost of about 9s. per acre. I have the advantage of being able to do it at any time and at any reasonable depth. My land before cost me about 20s. per acre for ploughing. It now costs me 9s., and then there are other great benefits arising from the system which must not be overlooked. The land can be worked at any time without fear of injury!" This is a most important matter, for in wet seasons, as we know, the treading of the soil with horses does a vast amount of injury. It is supposed that in ploughing an acre there are about a million steps taken in ploughing the land with an ordinary four-horse team. In the working and preparing of the seed-bed, morever, there is not nearly so much labour required after the steam plough as after the ordinary horse plough, and there can be no question that the digging apparatus must do a great deal of good upon many lands. This, through cultivation and disintegration of the soil, is of the greatest consequence, for it is thus prepared for those chemical changes which are so necessary for the full development of seed. It is generally admitted that this is as good at least as a coat of manure. I have not yet touched upon the depths to which ploughing ought to be carried, nor is it needful to say much regarding it, for this, of course, depends more upon the nature of the land, and the judgment of the farmer, than upon any general rule. The usual depth of horse ploughing is from four to six inches; that of steam ploughing, from six to twelve inches. A notion is held that where deep cultivation is adopted more manure is necessary. It will be readily admitted that if this idea were well founded it would form a strong argument in favour of moderate depths. It is, however, only justly applicable to land of which the subsoil is of inferior character, for when the upper and lower strata are of the same quality not only can no injury arise from gradually incorporating the two, but benefit must be derived by all plants which penetrate far into the ground. Poor soils, perhaps, should not be ploughed deep for the reason that the vegetative mould with which the surface of land of that description is covered having been formed by the decomposition of the scanty herbage which grew upon it when in a state of nature, is proportionally thin, and the subsoil on which it reposes consists generally of sterile materials. It would be bad policy, therefore, at all events for some time, to mix them. Many instances, however, have been recorded, I believe, in which the subsoil when brought up to the surface and exposed for some time has proved extremely fertile, but in all those cases the earth, when chemically analysed, has been found to contain a considerable portion of carbon; and unless afterwards sustained by a proportionate quantity of manure, its good qualities have been speedily exhausted. There are many here, perhaps, who will not fully agree with those views of mine either upon steam ploughing or deep cultivation, and I hope we shall hear the result of the practical experience of the members of this Club in the discussion which will follow this paper. There seems to be one thing which we ought to know as well as we can, viz., what return may be expected from land the subsoil of which has not yet been submitted to the plough, and what change will be occasioned by the admixture of the subsoil with the surface. In my own opinion, large operations of the nature of which I have been speaking, and which are intended to effect a permanent improvement in the soil, cannot be considered as coming within the scope of common farming, and can only be undertaken by the owner of the land, or on terms which will secure the tenant in the return of his outlay; for it should be clearly undersood that in no case can it be effected without either the assistance of extraneous manure, or by the sacrifice of a portion of that which properly belongs to the usual cultivation of the farm, and might, therefore, probably be more advantageously applied to the support of the soil already under tillage. While then I hail with pleasure the progress steam ploughing is making in this country, I am not so greatly in favour of deep cultivation as I know many to be, and I know that many Norfolk farmers who have thin and light soil, with poor and barren subsoil, argue that it is easier to keep a small quantity of soil in good condition than a greater quantity which would be formed by deep ploughing. The subject of deep cultivation is a very valuable subject, and should be well considered by all tillers of the soil. In every turn in farming the farmer will find the subject of horse *v.* steam power presents itself. Not only will he be led to believe more firmly in the latter, from the point of having more done for less money, but he will likewise see how much depends upon it for the greatness and good of our country. In every nation the condition of the people depends upon the degree of skilful labour which it can command, and the plough is the prime mover of all, for until a sufficiency of food is produced for the common consumption there can be no prosperity to the country, for it is obvious that in proportion to the perfection of the cultivation will be the result obtained and the spare hands left for the other purposes. The means of support in other branches of industry being needful, the demand for the produce of the land increases along with the increase of labour, and thus industry and wealth keep pace with agriculture, and each stimulating the other, contribute to the national weal and welfare.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the subject which had been brought before them was a very wide one, and he trusted that each member present would tell his own experience. His own opinion was that they must use steam more than they had done. Why could not they reap and mow by steam? They might depend upon it that the farmers would be driven to use steam more than they had done.

Mr. STONHAM said that unfortunately he could not speak practically about steam ploughing, for he had never had an opportunity of getting a steam plough on his farm. He had, however, some doubt about the correctness of the statement made by Mr. Wilmot's friend as to the cheapness with which steam culture could be accomplished, for he remembered that some years ago when Mr. Aveling, who was the pioneer of steam culture in Kent, was presented with a purse of 100 guineas, he said that three acres could be moved for a guinea. He (Mr. Stonham) gave him a challenge to plough one acre for a guinea, and as no notice was taken of that he afterwards gave him a challenge to plough one hundred acres at the same price, but this challenge had never been acknowledged. He hoped to have a steam plough on his farm next year, but as he had not yet tried one he would not say anything about the treading and stamping of the land which was incidental to horse ploughing. With regard to deep cultivation, he agreed with Mr. Wilmot that it was possible to lay out a lot of money on deep culture, and get no benefit at all. When he and his brother were in partnership his brother had a notion that deep cultivation would effect a great deal, and an experiment was tried upon a piece of soapy chalk or grey chalk. Three horses were sent to plough at a moderate depth, and three were sent with a subsoil plough, moving the subsoil four of five inches deeper than usual. He called his brother's attention to the fact that they

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were using a great deal of horse labour for nothing, and said he thought they had better spend money for manure. They cultivated half the field in the manner he described, but the result proved that the application of manures was better than subsoiling for this land. If they could manure highly, cultivate deeply, but if they could not do so, they should content themselves with moderate penetration of the earth.

Mr. HAYES said that if Mr. Wilmot had given them some strong opinions of his own they might have quarrelled with him, but he had expressed what they all hoped—that the day would come when the steam-engine would be at such a price, and in such a form, that they could use it more than they did now. He had used it a little and he liked it very much. But at present they were unwieldly things, and they left great headlands and were dear. He had hired them and had paid £1 an acre and had to find coal; there were other expenses which had made the cost go beyond a guinea per acre. If they could have them made so that a farm of a moderate size could have an engine and tackle of its own he should like it very much indeed. Two years ago he hired from the Staplehurst Company an engine and tackle, and the plough worked to and fro across the field with a windlass on each side. If they got that tackle they could work it themselves. But when he looked at it more he found that it strained an eight-horse engine all to pieces, and it seemed as if it wanted a 16-horse engine. Even then it cost £1 an acre, besides coal; with attendance and all extras it came to another 10s. If they could have steam so that they would find it was as cheap as horse-power—he would not say cheaper—he thought the Weald of Kent men would use it when the weather would allow them to do so. They could not get a steam-engine cheap enough to induce them to use it. It was not used in the Weald of Kent so much as he hoped it would have been. Mr. Wilmot's friend had told him that he could work it at 9s. per acre, whereas the other system cost him £1. He (Mr. Hayes) could not understand Mr. Wilmot's friend's calculations. Mr. Punnett went in very strong for the use of steam, but there were little items which escaped his calculation in the details which he gave them, and when he (Mr. Hayes) calculated the cost it caused him to have nothing to do with it, but to hire occasionally.

Mr. REEVES, in referring to some questions asked respecting the Staplehurst Company, said that during the first year of the existence of the company the steam ploughs worked in the marshes, but last year they did some work for farmers in the neighbourhood, and some good work was performed. The engine was now engaged at Peckham, and therefore the company was still alive, and they were likely to have plenty of work this summer. He believed that the orders were very heavy, and any one who wanted the engine, &c., must look forward. He had the men to scarify a field of seven acres, and they made a good job of it. They scarified about nine inches deep, and moved some soil which had not been disturbed for he should say 20 years, and at the present moment his wheat was looking very nice in consequence. He was so well satisfied that he should not hesitate to repeat the experiment. One difficulty in the way of steam ploughing becoming general was that the landlords had not cut their timber down sufficiently, and the fields were hardly large enough. The cost of scarifying was 10s. per acre.

Mr. STONHAM remarked that under ordinary circumstances steam cultivation was at present discounted by the expense of moving the tackle from place to place.

Mr. CURRL said that they had two sets of tackle at work in the place from which he came. They were purchased at the cattle show held a year ago last Christmas. Until the men got used to them there were a few breakages. They were at work all the year round in the hundred of Hoo. He had purchased a tackle for ploughing, but he could not say anything about the cost per acre until they got the machine to work. He had been at work two years with the thrashing machinery, and if he could make steam answer for ploughing, he should be happy to perform work in the neighbourhood of Maidstone.

Mr. WATERMAN said that with regard to steam ploughing there were so many difficulties in this part of the country that it would never become generally adopted around Maidstone, their attention being for the most part directed to the growth of hops. Where it could be used, no doubt it would be more frequently carried on than it had been. Mr. Wilmot had stated the cost to be 9s. per acre. He (Mr. Waterman) had an orchard ploughed up, and he paid 25s. per acre for the engine and tackle, but with extra expenses he calculated that the total cost was near £3. An ordinary piece of ploughing he had done at 20s. per acre, and he did not think they could get a larger piece of land ploughed for less than that. On some land in the neighbourhood of Faversham steam cultivation could be used with advantage, and in Romney Marsh, if they could get the land broken up in time, they could move it in winter to advantage; but anywhere in this district in the Weald of Kent, where the fields were small, and taking into consideration the difficulty of moving the machinery about, he did not think they could beat horses for ploughing. The work which he had done last year, however, was exceedingly well done. In his orchard roots large enough to stop the engine were pulled up, but the tackle was not broken.

Mr. PAINE said that five or six years ago some one called upon him, and he gave him a job. He had a piece of 15 acres, and he wanted it to be ploughed 2 feet deep. The man said he thought he could do it at 18 inches, but he would guarantee that it should be 15 inches deep. The man did the work, but he could not get deeper than 15 inches, and with the coals it cost 36s. per acre. The work was done in a very satisfactory manner, but the results had been poor, and he did not grow better crops. The land was drained 5 feet deep, but he did not find that the water got away quicker. He only ploughed about 40 acres in the Weald of Kent, but he could not see any difference in the crops where the steam ploughing left off and where it began. With regard to the application of manure, he thought that the top of the land was the proper place for manure to be put. He was a deep cultivator, and he was not speaking in opposition to steam ploughing. He had seen work which had been performed in a very satisfactory manner, and he should be glad to see a steam plough in this neighbourhood.

Mr. BRIDGLAND said the object of steam cultivation was to do away with a team of horses. Let them consider the case of a farmer holding 300 acres of arable land; if he had not the proper seed to lay down, would he not grow as much or more upon the 200 acres as he did upon the larger area, leaving the other 100 acres for grazing purposes. After referring to the manner in which a portion of the land belonging to Messrs. Russell, of Horton Kirby, was laid out for grazing, he suggested that the members of the Club should look around and see whether they could not adopt some of these plans. With regard to what had been said about the timber not having been cut down on some of the land in the Weald of Kent, the question might be asked, Was it meant for cultivation? If a man hired a farm with oak trees upon it he ought not to grumble. There was no other county where hops were cultivated to so large an extent as in Kent. He should like to ask whether Kent was rented higher than other counties?

Mr. COLEY approved of a great many of the remarks which had been made, and there was no doubt that they wanted a better method of cultivating the land. At the present time we had to send abroad for productions which our own could and would produce. It was generally said that most questions had two sides, but when bad farming was alluded to the blame was all put upon the landlords. Perhaps they might give better security, but a good farmer would farm well if he were a tenant-at-will. With regard to steam ploughing he was an advocate of it. Half of the land was not producing nearly so much as it ought to do, and if they could make it produce 20 per cent. more would they not save sums which were sent to foreigners? What farm could they go over and see land which could not be made more profitable? If they could see acres, they would find perches and roods which might be made more valuable. Mr. Coley, concluding, expressed his concurrence with the idea expressed by Mr. Bridgland that a farmer using 400 acres, if he were to set aside 300, and to expend the amount on the 300 which he spent on the 400, the farmer would have as much to go to market with from 300 acres as he raised from 400 acres, leaving him 100 acres for other purposes.

Mr. BARLING said he should confine his remarks chiefly to the principle of ploughing. Ploughing was a mechanical action, which was to bring about another action—a chemical action. A remark had been made that evening to which he attached much weight. It was possible to cultivate well without ploughing—that was, that by moving the soil sufficiently they could bring about fertility without ploughing. It was thus brought about. The organic matter within the soil

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was capable of being dissolved and brought into a soluble condition if it be sufficiently exposed to the oxygen in the air, but if they kept that organic matter sealed up by earth—it might be kept as many generations as they liked—they would get nothing from it. The more they broke the soil and let in the oxygen of the air, the quicker would the organic matter which they, or perhaps their grandfathers, had placed in the soil, become soluble, and the food of seeds which had been placed in that soil. The question of steam-ploughing as against horse-ploughing seemed to come to this—it did not matter how they ploughed, whether by animal force or the force of machinery. They might plough by turning over the soil or by breaking it up, but whatever they did their object was to let in the air. In advocating deep cultivation, Mr. Barling said that if they broke the soil low down—he did not say turn it over—they altered the condition of that soil; they rendered it warmer, upon the whole. If they laid a thermometer on the land, it would be found that the better and the deeper the soil was broken up the warmer would be the land, and temperature was one of the elements favourable to the life of plants. Mr. Paine had remarkd that they could not get rid of water by deep cultivation, but it would be better distributed, and land that had been thoroughly and deeply worked would, generally speaking, be moist, but not surcharged with water. Moisture was one of the elements upon which vegetable life so greatly depends; an excess was, however, harmful, but a certain quantity was needful. The land being warmer and moister, must, upon principle, be greatly improved by deep cultivation.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought that no farmer ought to be without a six-horse engine, and a useful tackle. The time was fast coming when labour would be a serious item, in fact, it was at the present time, and if they would economise labour, they ought to do so, and machinery would enable them to pay more for labour. He agreed with Mr. Barling that the soil might be benefited a great deal from the action of the atmosphere as well as by what they put into it. Mr. Weekes was applying his mind to the construction of an engine better suited to their wants than those which were used at present. He thought every farmer should have one, because they could not always hire one when they wanted it, and there was only one time when the land could be ploughed properly, viz., when it was dry. With regard to scarifying the land instead of ploughing it, he found that the more he scarified the soil the more weeds he got.

Mr. WILMOT, in replying to some of the remarks which had been made, said he was much obliged to Mr. Stonham for having fallen in with his ideas of not cultivating land deeper than they could manure it. Mr. Hayes said he wished that he (Mr. Wilmot) had put forward some ideas of his own, but as he was not the owner of a steam-plough he could not throw out any idea respecting it. When preparing his paper he went to a gentleman who he knew used an engine, and he asked him what he found to be the result of three or four years' experience. This gentleman said that the engine had been the greatest benefit he had had since he had been engaged in farming. He told him the amount of wages he paid, the cost of fuel, the carriage of water, and that was how he (Mr. Wilmot) calculated that the cost was 9s. per acre. He believed more in the digging apparatus than in ploughing. The engine he had referred to was one of Fowler's, and it worked on the anchor system. He found that the men were better pleased by working with a steam-engine than with horses; they were better paid, and instead of having their horses to look after when they left off work they went home at once. The gentleman to whom he had alluded used the engine for sawing wood, and for moving the tackle aloof. He had used to draw his wheat instead of his team. This was a step in the right direction, and he (Mr. Wilmot) thought that an engine like this every farmer should have who occupied a farm of any extent. He thought something should be done with regard to our railway system. He wished the subject had been ventilated, for he looked upon it as a national calamity that the railways should be so mismanaged. They ought to be in the hands of the Government, and he believed that if they were prosperity in the country would be considerably increased. He thought Englishmen should put their shoulder to the wheel to do something to alter the present railway system. Mr. Waterman said that his land cost him from 20s. to 40s. per acre, when he hired a steam plough, but he also said something about pulling up some roots, so that he not only had his land ploughed but grubbed (laughter). If Mr. Waterman had grubbed his land first he (Mr. Wilmot) questioned whether some of the ploughing would not have come cheaper to him and have been better done. There was another thing which required attention, and that was deep drainage. With regard to deep drainage, he thought the same as he did respecting deep cultivation, that it was impossible so lay down any fixed plan. They must be guided by the nature of the soil. Some of the land he had seen would have been better if it had not been drained so deep. He thought his paper agreed with what Mr. Barling had said. Unless the land was thoroughly broken up they could not get a good return for their labour. He agreed with Messrs. Bridgland and Coley that if a farmer had 400 acres it would be more profitable to him to let 100 acres lay by for a short space of time, say one year, and used the whole of his capital on the 300 acres. Mr. Coley said that they spent a certain sum of money out of the country to buy produce. Steam cultivation would alter this, because now they keep hundreds of horses more than they ought to keep, and the food the horses consumed would feed as many individuals. Farmers would have to give more consideration to the point he had raised with regard to co-operation in the purchase of machinery. They must remember that they lived on each other, they were all brothers, and if they could do anything to help each other forward in this world and the world to come, it was their duty to do so.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Wilmot concluded the proceedings.

THE USE OF SEWAGE AND THE PROSPECTS OF FARMING.

At a general meeting of the Essex Chamber of Agriculture at Braintree, Major VAIZEY, President, in the chair, read the following paper on the Disposal and Utilisation of Town Sewage:

The subject which I have the honour of bringing before you this morning is one—not by any means the most agreeable for discussion I could select—but yet at the present time of such great national importance that I have felt no hesitation in choosing it. But although somewhat uninviting it is a subject of great utility, as it not only directs our attention to the necessity of saving from utter waste a large amount of material very useful to the agriculturist, but also aims at preserving our rivers and streams from a pollution that must be a source of disease to our cottage population, no less than to the herds that have the misfortune to graze upon their banks, and drink of their waters. To us agriculturists, therefore, there is a special interest in the consideration and discussion of any facts which may help us to a satisfactory solution of the difficult question of the disposal and utilisation of sewage. The gradual and yet rapidly increasing aggregation of the population of this country to large centres has, during the past few years, added numerously to the difficulty of disposing of the sewage, for what in rural villages is a simple and easy task to perform, in such cities as London, Manchester, or Leeds, becomes almost an impossibility. Met as we are, as a Chamber of Agriculture, and not as a Sanitary Board, it will, I think, be unnecessary for me to occupy your time by enlarging on the several plans adopted in the first instance for the collection, and afterwards for the conveyance, of the sewage of a town to land, for the purpose of its utilisation as manure. I may, however, mention some of the more usual plans employed. There is, first, the open midden system, which is, I suppose, the oldest of all, the cause frequently of epidemic diseases, and the one most liable to abuse. Then there is the cesspool, or dead well, so common still in country towns and rural districts, and one which, when carried out properly, the cesspool well constructed, well trapped, and suitably placed for periodical emptying, seems to me a simple and satisfactory plan. Next we have the earth closet, patented by Mr. Moule, where we see the plan of nature's own invention, adapted on the most sp-

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proved principle, but failing, I may state in passing, on account of the impossibily of obtaining an adequate supply of dry earth—*i.e.*, on a large scale, witness the fact that for the population of Birmingham upwards of 690 tons a day would be required. To these I may add what is termed the Rochdale system, wherein, by the application of a chemical disinfecting fluid to each closet seat, the excreta are collected and removed to the manure manufactory without any nuisance being caused to the surrounding neighbourhood. To this class also belong the Goux system, in partial and satisfactory use at the town of Halstead, in this county, as well as at other places, in which an absorbant substance is introduced in lieu of the chemical disinfecting fluid. Finally, we have the water, or water-closet system, now in such general use, and to meet the requirements of which is really one of the great problems of the day as regards the reception and utilisation of the sewage therefrom. I will, therefore, now direct your attention to the consideration of this branch of the subject, and would state that there are three principal methods which have been and are employed for this purpose:

I. Precipitation.
II. Filtration.
III. Irrigation.

I. Precipitation.—This consists in adding to the sewage various chemical re-agents, with the object of precipitating or throwing down a portion of the dissolved constituents, and of assisting the precipitation of the suspended constituents, and ultimately of realising the value of the precipitate as manure. Processes to carry out this plan are numerous, amongst them I may mention—

(1.) The lime process.
(2.) The lime and chloride of iron.
(3.) The sulphate of alumina.
(4.) Lenk's process, consisting chiefly of alum.
(5.) Forbes' process; and
(6.) The A. B. C. process, consisting of alum, blood, clay, and charcoal.

We will now for a few moments consider briefly the more important of these systems, and (1), the lime process. This consists in adding to the sewage a certain proportion of the milk of lime, about one ton to one million gallons, agitating the sewage to ensure a thorough mixture, and then allowing it to flow into a settling tank, where the suspended solid matter is quickly precipitated; the water is then drawn slowly off, considerably clarified, the deposit is taken out, and after being dried is sold for manure; but this is a tedious and offensive process. This plan is the simplest and least costly of all, but according to the opinion of the Rivers Pollution Commission the effluent water, though clarified, is not sufficiently purified to be fitly admitted into a running stream, as it still contains one-half of the putrescible organic matter, which it is, of course, most important to keep out; for the same reason the deposit when used as manure is of small value. From a sanitary point of view, this process, if very carefully carried out, is to some extent successful, but not commercially so. It has been, I may add, employed at Tottenham, Leicester, and Blackburn.

(2.) The lime and chloride of iron process.—As to this system, I need only remark that it is much the same as the one I have just described, with the addition of chloride of iron, the result being a rather more thorough defacation of the sewage. Still, I believe, as a practical result, the effluent water is not sufficiently pure to be allowed to enter a running stream.

(3.) Bird's process—sulphate of alumina.—The result similar to the last.

(4.) Lenk's process.—This comprises the use of alum as a precipitant. Dr. Voelcker reports favourably of its effects, stating that the effluent water might with safety be turned into a river; but it is too expensive for general use. It was for a while, I understand, tried at Tottenham by the patentee himself, but not continued on account of the expense, and also the uncertainty of the value of the manure produced.

(5.) Forbes' process.—This consists in treating the sewage with a solution of phosphate of alumina dissolved in sulphuric acid, and the great difference between it and other precipitating processes is that the agent employed itself contains most valuable fertilising properties. It is also a powerful disinfectant, so that the drying the deposit for manure is less offensive than in the other plans. For subsequent irrigating purposes also, the effluent water, while clear and inodorous, is besides highly valuable, being enriched by the addition of soluble phosphates, and its manurial value is thus greatly increased. Indeed, according to Dr. Voelcker's report, the effluent water is more valuable, bulk for bulk, than the raw sewage for irrigation purposes. When, however, it is not intended to irrigate, a quantity of milk of lime is added in the subsiding tank, thus precipitating the phosphates in solution by afterwards filtering the effluent water through a filter of some carbonised substance: any organic matter may be pretty surely eliminated, and it may be safely turned into a watercourse.

(6.) Phosphate sewage process.—Lastly, under this division of our subject, we come to the A.B.C. (so named from the initial letters of the precipitates used), or Sillar's process of treating sewage by precipitation—viz., by the admixture with it of alum, blood, clay, and charcoal. I believe the report of the Rivers Pollution Commission was somewhat unfavourable as to its results, the effluent water not being satisfactorily purified, the manure obtained having a very low market value, and the manipulations required in its preparation being attended with a nauseous odour. We are bound, nevertheless, to admit that this process commands a large share of popular favour, and with the improvements in its manufacture which the Company are continually making, we may fairly hope it will prove itself successful.

In conclusion, under this head, I would remark that while some of the systems I have thus briefly attempted to describe may under favourable circumstances be adopted with advantage, all seem more or less to fail in extracting satisfactorily the fertilising matters held in solution. The most valuable constituent of sewage, *par excellence*, is the ammonia which still escapes in the effluent water, and so far as the precipitating process is concerned is lost to the manure; the substances precipitated being those which are held in suspense, and which would have just as well have been retained by a mere mechanical process of filtration. This brings as to the consideration of the next branch of our subject, viz.,

(II.) The Filtration of Sewage.—The object in view in filtration processes is to arrest the suspended matter, and to subject it to a rapid process of oxidation—in other words, to convert the carbon of organic matter into carbonic acid, and the nitrogen into nitric acid and ammonia, all of which are soluble and inoffensive in water; at all events so far as to allow such water to be turned into a running stream. In a well-constructed filter, the pores are filled with atmospheric oxygen, and when the sewage matter is first introduced into it the conversion or oxidation of the organic matter goes on rapidly, but thereby the oxygen soon soon becomes exhausted, and the filter must then be properly drained to allow the oxygen in the air again to have free access to its pores. Charcoal is usually considered to be the best filtering medium for sewage, because it possesses the peculiar property of absorbing many times its volume of oxygen and other gases. The best system of this principle, is that called Weare's filtration process. It is, or was three years ago, when I saw it in action, practised at the workhouse at Stoke-upon-Trent. I was informed by the master of the workhouse that it was a success, and I believe since that period the company have introduced several improvements into the process, doubtless with the view of rendering it more efficient. The sewage coming from the house, inhabited by 800 persons, passes through a succession of deodorising tanks of coke and charcoal, each tank being filled with finer charcoal than the last, until the liquid finally comes out nearly clear and almost tasteless, superior, so far as I could judge, to a sample I saw at the Sewage Farm, at Romford. There was no offensive smell near the filtering tanks, which were cleansed at various intervals—the first set about once a fortnight. The charcoal used came from the steel manufactories, but I was informed that the company was engaged in making peat charcoal at their works at Horwich, in Lancashire. The manure was free from any offensive odour—indeed, it smelt like newly-turned up mould; it was taken to the company's yard, mixed with soot, bone dust, and ammonia, and sold at £4 per ton. The charcoal is supplied by the company, and the quantity used is about one ton a week. About the same quantity of cinders from the workhouse, sifted and washed for the purpose, is also used. Thus fifty-two tons of charcoal and the same quantity of cinders are required for the purification of the sewage of 800 persons, with an ordinary daily flow of 10,000 gallons. The estimated yield of manure, with the addition of ashes, &c., is about 250 tons a year. The system is now, I believe, in use

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at Bradford (140,000), and other places are, it is said, likely to adopt it. One ton of charcoal when added to the sewage and with the other ingredients I have mentioned, would make three tons of the manure, which sells at 80s. a ton. In my opinion, on a moderately large scale, and under favourable local circumstances, this system is likely to succed, the objection to it on a large scale, like the precipitating processes, is the expense and the quantity of the ingredients required. Still, after all, I must confess I lean a good deal to Weare's patent. To deliver charcoal in this district from the north would, I believe, cost something like 60s. a ton altogether—a heavy charge to start with.

III. We now come to the only other method yet known of purifying sewage—viz., by irrigation, *i.e.*, by passing it through the natural soil. Land is a natural filter, and if the purification of sewage alone is contemplated, a comparatively small area used simply as a filter-bed may suffice, if the filtration is intermittent, to purify sewage, so as to allow of its admission into a running stream; but if it is also required to utilise the elements of fertility which the sewage may contain, a vastly larger area is necessary if the sewage is to be applied so as to produce the greatest return in the shape of marketable crops, withoutinjuring the permanent fertility of the soil.

Now, we will first consider the second of these cases, where utilisation is the primary object. In considering this branch of the subject, the following questions present themselves for solution:

1. Does ordinary sewage possess a manurial value sufficient to induce persons to incur the very considerable expense of laying out land for its reception by irrigation?

2. Can it be applied continuously without injury to the permanent fertility of the soil?

3. What area of land is necessary for the perfect utilisation of sewage of given quantity and strength, so that no fertilising element in the sewage shall be wasted?

In the present state of knowledge upon these questions, I feel it would be the height of presumption in me to offer any decided opinion to this Chamber. Indeed chemists of the highest scientific attainments hold opinions in direct contradiction to each other, and engineers of the greatest eminence are equally at variance. This being the state of the question, I will content myself with giving you, as well as I can, a very brief *resumé* of the results of the experience of this system as tried at several places; and I may first mention Mr. Hope's farm at Romford, to which I myself, in company with many members of this Chamber, had the pleasure of paying a visit some three years ago. The farm is (or at that time was), I believe, about 120 acres in extent, and takes the sewage of 7,000 people, *i.e.*, 58 persons to an acre. The farm is laid out on what is called the narrow-bed system, *i.e.*, 15 feet on each side of the carrier, which is lined with concrete; the sewage is conveyed by gravitation from the town, and discharged into tanks, from which it is pumped up 25 feet, and conveyed thence all over the farm by the iron troughs and carriers I have referred to. The character of the soil of the farm is well adapted for irrigation, being poor and light, with a gravelly subsoil, thus requiring a maximum amount of moisture, while its comparative close proximity to London offers great facilities for the disposal of rye-grass and green vegetables, best adapted to produce good financial results from sewage farming. But with all these advantages, I am told Mr. Hope considers more land still wanted, as the sewage of 35 persons to an acre is what he considers the maximum satisfactory amount. I need not say that everything at the Romford farm is done in the best manner possible, and I may also add that in dry seasons especially very heavy crops are grown. I will now cite the case of Warwick. The sewage farm in connection with this town of 11,000 inhabitants is 135 acres in extent, *i.e.*, in the proportion of 85 persons to an acre. The crops are chiefly rye, cabbages, mangold, and potatoes, with a small proportion of cereals (oats and wheat), but little or no sewage is applied to the corn crops while growing. In the winter the fallows are heavily irrigated, and some old pasture lands are also treated with the sewage, but in a raw state it cannot be applied to grass after the plant has attained a certain growth—in that case it must first have its solid matters suspended. As in other places, so at Warwick, the arrangement at the sewage farm are somewhat interfered with by the quantity of storm water introduced into the sewers. For complete utilization or purification of sewage, a separate system of drains for surface and storm water is really indispensable. Altogether, the Warwick farm appears to be well and efficiently conducted. No perceptible smell is said to exist, and the effluent water is fairly purified. I may just state that the account for the year 1871 stood somewhat as follows:

Crops sold	£666
,, stored, value	765
,, growing, value	640
	£2,071

While the total annual outlay, including interest on capital, coals, and all expenses of pumping, rent, and the ordinary expenses of working a farm, amount to £1,900, thus leaving a balance on the right side of £171. As regards the application of sewage to the meadow lands at Edinburgh, there is no doubt that larger amounts of sewage are applied there, and a larger amount of produce obtained per acre than elsewhere, but this is at a great waste of manurial constituents and very imperfect purification of the sewage. The general result appears to be that sewage can only be profitably applied for the growth of heavy crops of rye and other grasses, and roots; and that probably the application of about 5,000 tons of sewage per acre per annum to meadow or Italian rye-grass would in the majority of cases prove to be the most profitable mode of utilisation; the price per ton not to exceed one-half or certainly three-quarters all the year round, for sewage of the average strength of that of the Metropolis (excluding storm water). But I will not occupy your time by any longer dilating upon the several instances I might mention of other towns which have put this system of sewage irrigation into practice. I have said enough, I think, to show that in many cases, with careful arrangement and planting on land naturally adapted for the application of sewage, as at Aldershot, the system is a successful one; although at the same time we must confess that the financial results are not always what we could desire. The high price generally required for land near a large town suitable for the purpose, the great outlay necessary in the first instance for laying out the farm, and the difficulty of obtaining a sufficiently large sale for the green crops which, as we have seen, must form the larger proportion of the produce of such farm—all these points unite in making the utilisation of sewage by this method a somewhat costly one. By a system, however, of what is termed "intermittent downward filtration," as recommended, I believe, by Mr. Hope to the town of Birmingham, a large quantity of sewage can be deodorised on a smaller proportion of land than would otherwise be necessary, and by planting root or green crops on ridges—provided a sufficient market for them can be obtained—a fair return can be looked for. The more solid portions of the sewage deposited in the hollows must be from time to time removed or mixed with the soil by the use of the scarifier; but at all times under such a system as this the sanitary question must be placed above the agricultural, and to prevent a nuisance it might at times be indispensable to plough up the land while under crops—a dreadful alternative of course to the farmer, naturally desirous of seeing a fair return for his outlay. In conclusion, I would remark with all diffidence that it appears to me, as the result of my inquiries into this question, the course to be pursued must in each case depend on the local and special circumstances of that case. In the outlying districts of a town I should recommend well-constructed cesspools, or some mechanical disinfectant process may be satisfactorily employed—as the Goux system, or the plan I mentioned before as in use at Rochdale. In places where land cannot be obtained in sufficient quantities or at a fairly remunerative price, or where a sewage farm would, from the number of surrounding more or less isolated dwellings, be likely to be a nuisance, I should suggest the introduction of Weare's charcoal system, or the phosphate sewage process (referred to above under the name of Forbes' patent), and I am told now employed with great success in connection with the Lodge Farm, at Barking, in this county. I think as a rule, too, the use of some precipitate (as the milk of lime) is very much recommended; this diminishes the amount of solid matter, which otherwise would be poured on the irrigated land, and at the same time creates in the settling tank a deposit, which, when mixed with cinders, earth, or ashes, can be easily removed and sold as solid manure. That good water and pure running streams are essential to the well-being both of man and beast, is a point which, though

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generally admitted, is not always sufficiently regarded. In a letter lately received from Professor Wyvill Thompson, of her Majesty's ship Challenger, describing the Islands of the Bermudas group (which they visited in the course of their voyage of scientific investigation), I find an illustration and confirmation of this fact. After enlarging upon the sylvan beauty of the scenery, with its luxurious tropical vegetation, he remarks that the climate is peculiarly genial, but not so healthy as it would be if the plans of sewage could be rendered more effective, and if there were a greater supply of good water and running streams; and he afterwards proceeds to say: "There is but little live stock upon the islands; cattle and sheep do not thrive well, probably mainly owing to the want of a plentiful supply of good water, so that instead of being able to supply ships calling there with fresh meat, even the butchers' meat for the consumption of the inhabitants is almost all imported from America." I think I have said enough to recommend to your approval the resolution I have appended to this paper. As regards the importance of the question, looking at it either from a sanitary or an agricultural point of view, there can be no doubt; nor, as I have shown, is the solution of the question at all easy how best to utilise and preserve from waste this enormous amount of manurial products so full of ingredients which are greatly needed by the soil. Surely, gentlemen, it would be worthy the attention of any Government, and be quite befitting their position, to make such an inquiry of the most eminent scientific men—chemists, civil engineers, and agriculturists, as shall enable them not only to order local authorities to abate the nuisance frequently created by the sewage in their respective districts, but also to direct them how best both to dispose of it and also to utilise it. The subject is still, however, in its infancy, and great will be the honour accruing to the agricultural chemist who can unravel the difficulty, and who is able to discover a method by which the riches of our native soil, each day drawn from her bosom by the processes of agriculture to satisfy the wants of her children, may in a ten-fold measure be restored to her perennially green and fruitful. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind attention, and I trust the few remarks I have ventured to make, and the brief *resume* of this important subject which I have endeavoured to present to you, may now form the basis for an interesting discussion. I beg to move: "That in the opinion of this Chamber the question of the disposal of the sewage of towns is of such national importance, and at the same time of such great difficulty, as to justify the Government in taking measures to enable it to furnish local authorities with an approved plan or plans for the utilisation of the sewage of their respective districts."

Mr. J. S. Gardiner seconding the resolution. It appeared to him that a great mistake was made in allowing so large an amount of water in the sewers, by which means the expense of removing the night soil was much increased. Our streams and rivers were now rendered perfect channels for disseminating ill health and infectious diseases, putting on one side the fact that by allowing sewage to run into streams a great mass of useful manure was wasted; and he thought that when the rising generation came to find that they had been paying £14 a ton for guano from South America while they had allowed their sewage to run to waste or worse, to pollute their rivers, they would set them down as a lot of stupid pigs. He mentioned that he had adopted a plan of his own for utilising night soil, namely, by mixing it with a little water, and using a little coprolite and some sulphuric acid, which mixture made a very valuable manure. He did not, of course, say that it was so good as the £14 guano, but he did believe that one ton of that was as good as half a ton of guano. He believed if they collected the night soil, brought it by some process into a dry state, and then put it on their land, they would find it a very valuable manure indeed. Their president had mentioned sewage farms. Now, there was one objection he had, and that was to so large a quantity of sewage being placed upon so small a space of land, for he knew enough of stock feeding to find out that butter made from cows fed on sewage-grown vegetable productions, was in nineteen cases out of twenty bad in itself, and he should as soon think of making butter from animals so fed as he should from cart grease.

Mr. J. Pertwee said Mr. Vaizey had said that it was impossible to introduce the dry-earth system into towns. Certainly it was a gigantic scheme, but looking to the value the deposit would be he did not think they ought to say it was impossible. He believed no scheme was entitled to greater respect than Moule's dry-earth system, and those only knew its value who had adopted it. He quoted the military establishments in India, where the system was in operation, and said with regard to its utilisation that the hearth droppings and dust bins of each house would be sufficient for its adoption. The subject was one well worthy of consideration, and he hoped more attention would be paid to it in future.

Mr. W. Brown said the great question undoubtedly was, how to economise town sewage. He quite agreed with Mr. Gardiner that one of the principal difficulties in the way was the accumulation of storm-water in the sewers, and the man who would solve the difficulty would be a public benefactor. Mr. Brown took exception to Mr. Gardiner's remarks upon cattle fed on sewage grass, and said that in the town of Braintree he believed it was notorious that butter made from cows fed on sewage vegetable productions was some of the finest. He believed with regard to the purification of our streams that the only means of keeping sewage from the rivers was by pumping it.

Mr. J. Smith, sen., said their President had read one of the most elaborate and best papers he had heard since he had been a member of the Chamber, and he had well dealt with a question which was of deep interest to the nation at large. He incidentally mentioned reading an article in a monthly periodical the other day, which suggested a scheme for the utilization of town sewage which had not been touched upon by any speaker, namely, by what is called the "hot-air system," and probably if it was worked in England as well as it seems to be in many cases on the Continent it appeared to be more feasible than any scheme he had yet heard of. Mr. Vaizey's proposition did not commit them to anything, and he should therefore support it; and he should further propose that as this was such an excellent and elaborate paper a number of them should be printed and distributed amongst those members of the Chamber interested in this subject.

Mr. E. Gardiner also supported the proposition. He spoke strongly against water-closets, more particularly in farm-houses, and said they were most mischievous when considered in connection with sewage irrigation.

The President, in reply, mentioned several places, some in Essex, where the authorities were in great trouble about their sewage, and explained that he probably might not have gone so deeply into the subject but for the fact that when he was Chairman of the Halstead Local Board the subject was brought somewhat painfully under their notice. He thanked the Chamber heartily for the kind way in which they had received his paper, and said he was amply rewarded if he had been the means of doing any good.

The motion was then put to the Chamber, and carried unanimously; as was also a resolution to have 250 copies of the paper printed and circulated amongst the members.

Mr. Henry Smith, of Great Bardfield, then read the following paper upon the Present Prospects of Farming: In bringing this subject before your notice it is my wish to do it briefly, and also as clearly as I can, that if, as has been said (although I do not think it applies to our Chamber), "the Chambers of Agriculture have become political engines for the landords to air their eloquence at," they may be induced to look at the position of the tenant-farmer, and help to make his prospects brighter than they are at present. But let him at the same time try to help himself; and I believe that if he looks round he will find these Chambers of Agriculture of more benefit to him than he is aware of in accomplishing that object. An extract from a notice of the London Farmers Club says: "Each succeeding year furnishes fresh proofs of the necessity of union among farmers, as it behoves them to adopt the means pursued by other classes of society, viz., that of associating with each other as well for the purpose of mutual information as for the general good of the body." Now, taking the farmers' prospects as regards his means of getting a living, to say nothing of interest for his capital, and some to lay by for a rainy day, every farmer will confess that they are anything but cheerful. First, the unfavourable seasons of the last two years, the great increase in price of all kinds of stock and machinery, the rise in rents, and lastly, the great agitation in the labour market. It will very likely be said that they had bad seasons years ago. No one will deny it, and this is one of the things that no farmer, however clever, can contend against. The increase in the price of all kinds of live stock will of necessity finds its own level, but it must be well-known to the mind of every practical farmer that there is not and

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cannot be the same money got out of stock, sheep, and cattle more particularly, when they are high as when they are at a low price, leaving out of consideration altogether the much greater loss in the event of disease and death, which cannot be avoided. The price of machinery has also gone up very much during the last two or three years; but even with this increase I believe it is cheap compared with what it was years ago, owing to the simplicity of many of our most useful implements, and the great perfection that many of them are arriving at. I must now touch for a minute or two on that very delicate question, the labour of the farm, this being, as I think most will allow, the greatest obstacle the farmer of the present day has to contend with. That great authority on farming matters, Mr. Clare Sewell Read, says that he has saved £100 per year since the advance in wages, but he goes on to say, "The days of neat and tidy farming are over." To a certain extent this must be so. When men were kept on during the winter months more out of charity than anything else, farmers could do the odd jobs that never really paid for doing. But now the case is altered. There is not the surplus labour there was years ago, in fact, it is no use hiding it, there is in some parts really a scarcity. Then comes the question, what is scarcity? An old farmer who had farmed 40 or 50 years ago, if he had not a lot of men standing about doing nothing all winter would say he had a scarcity, but I think he could manage to do without them. The other day, I was talking to an old man who had been on the farm 50 years, and he said, "I recollect when there was four of us cobbing clover seed in this barn and four more drawing it in, and that for two months; now you can get it all done in a fortnight." That is just the point I want to come to. With the increased improvements in machinery and steam power at the back, the work can be done in less than half the time, with fewer men, and if not any cheaper at any rate not much dearer. Then as to the uniform rate of wages. That must be acknowledged to be a bad system. If the work is put out by the piece it makes better men and better masters than if all is done by the day; of course there are jobs which must be done by the day. But as the old labourer once said, "He'd got a two-shilling stroke and he'd got an eighteenpenny stroke." For example, I had two men land-draining in one field—the one with a boy, the other without; they were both engaged exactly the same time; the one without a boy earned £4 16s. 8d., the one with £3 17s. 3d. I have avoided touching on the great conflict now raging between masters and men on our borders, because I think as there is so much difference of feeling on the subject, and as the meeting of this Chamber appointed to be held to consider the subject was abandoned, it is not worth while to introduce this meeting to a question upon which its members differ so widely. Every class of society seems to me to be having a kick at the farmer now he is down. The Church, which gets rich from his tithes, has a kick through one of her bishops; the landlords have kicked him for some time, and now give him one extra; his faithful London paper kicks him, and hints that he ought not to drink claret in his dining-room, but small beer in the kitchen. If he wants his children educated, he should send them to the parish school instead of having a governess, and be content with his weekly trip to market, and leave Continental cities for his landlord and the city merchants. If the very powerful influence of the London press is so brought to bear against the farmers, surely we ought to take steps to prove the gross injustice of these statements, and to ask the world whether farmers have made more progress or gone more ahead of their position than any other class of society. Look at the city merchant, whose father used to live over the shop, and now see his house at Croydon or Norwood; who used to take his family to Greenwich once a year, and now gets as far as Scotland by 12th August. A late chancellor has a kick, and thinks his cart-horses want taxing. Would that we had more clear-sighted sound common-sense ladies like Lady Stradbroke to announce to the country the altogether false position in which tenant-farmers are represented, and to challenge the world to show one man who has made a colossal fortune by farming. As Mr. C. S. Read says, "Where one man has retired on farming are there not twenty who ought to be candidates for admission into the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution?" Most of you have probably seen Mr. Mechi's paper, read at the Farmers' Club in February last, on "The Commercial Principle as applied to Farming." These principles are very good, and no doubt would benefit the farmer, but it is impossible to carry them out under the present existing laws relating to land. Every farmer ought to be allowed to conduct his business in the way by which he can get the best return for his money. This I take it stands A 1 among commercial principles; but how can this be done with an unsecured tenancy, no compensation for improvements, restriction as to cropping and selling, and the refusal of the right to kill game, &c., &c.? There was published a month or two since the draft of a lease to be signed by the tenants of Lord Bateman. I wonder whether his lordship has found anybody in his senses to sign it. It tells how much dung is to be put on per acre—so much if long, so much if short; what weeds are to be taken off the land; how much and how often to fallow; how many acres to sow with clover; what not to sell, leaving nothing but corn available; how to clean the ditches out and stop the gaps—in short, just such a lease as his lordship's tailor might require. What commercial man would have anything to do with a business under these conditions? Mr. Mechi says the want of book-keeping is the weak point of British agriculture. This I think quite true, in spite of the old saying that there was not profit enough to pay for the paper. The progress of agriculture must always keep pace with each succeeding generation. One of our greatest agriculturists, the late John Grey, of Dilston, said, "Let no one speak of perfection in agriculture, rather let him be perfectly assured that perfection will not be attained in his time." There is one thing I think ought to be combined with a farmer's education. Every young man intending to follow farming ought to serve his time at the Veterinary College, and so get an insight into the anatomy as well as the diseases of live stock, with which he has so much to do. This would be a great help to a farmer, and save a deal of expense. Another thing, I would encourage every farmer to take an agricultural paper every week, and study it. Mr. James Howard once said he believed it was a very dear paper from which enough could not be learned to pay the expense. It is often said, "Farming must be a good trade; look at the applications for a farm as soon as there is one to let; often 30 or 40 for a 300-acre farm." Well, in the first place, are all the applications made by persons who require a farm as a means of getting a living? Certainly not. As soon as a merchant or other man of business gets a fortune together, he looks out for a farm as a pleasant means of getting rid of it. He does not look out for a grocer's or a draper's shop, but considers that a farm can easily be managed, and looks upon it to a certain degree as a gentlemanly calling. Another reason is that while the population keeps steadily increasing the acreage does not. Farming is a pleasant and to some extent independent life, hence the great demand for land. The question was asked in *The Mark Lane Express* a month or two since: "Can you inform me how many candidates in their addresses make any reference to agriculture?" I would venture to ask the same question with regard to our own ten members. I cannot find one in this purely agricultural county who alludes either to the farmer or his interests. As long as the farmer is content by sitting still and only grumbling, no one will think he is so badly off as is really the case. If they, like other parties in the country, would insist on being represented in Parliament by their own men, or some who had their affairs equally at heart, instead of, as *The Mark Lane Express* says, gross offenders in the over-preservation of game and raw lads fresh from school, better times would be in store for them, and they would gain that independence which they have never yet known. What other business or profession in which so many hundreds of thousands are engaged can be found that is represented in the House of Commons by one member out of 650? If every county were to return one member only whom the farmers could depend on the measures affecting his interest would not be pushed aside to make room for some of far less importance to himself and the country at large. But now, as an "East Essex Farmer" in *The Mark Lane Express* truly says, "The farmers are mere political nonentities in the House of Commons, their rights trampled on, and their interests neglected." In conclusion, I will just give a resolution proposed by the Newbury Chamber: "That this Chamber requests its members to give their earnest support to any measures embracing the following subjects—Tenant-Right as embraced in Howard and Read's Bill, Local Taxation, alteration of the Game-Laws, Repeal of the Malt-tax, and the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture," and beg to move one similar to it: "That this Chamber resolves

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to promote such measures, especially Parliamentary, which in its opinion will tend to benefit the tenant-farmer."

Mr. HENRY PERTWEE seconded the resolution, and characterised Mr. Smith's paper as a most excellent one.

Mr. J. S. GARDINER said he so entirely agreed with Mr. Smith's paper, that it really left him nothing to say. There was, however, one subject upon which he should like to say a word, namely, upon the labour question, which was a subject concerning them all, and one which, however much they might desire to see it put on one side, would have to be met, and he hoped would be met like men by the farmers. Mr. Gardiner then went on to comment in somewhat strong language upon the position assumed by the N.A.L.U., and the labourers under the guidance of that institution, and quoted numerous extracts of an exciting and violent character from the *Labourers' Union Chronicle*, which, he said, instead of healing the differences now existing between the farmer and his men, had tended only to widen the breach, and to make further and further recede in the distance the prospect of an amicable settlement. He anathematised Messrs. Morley and Dixon, who, he said, had no more right to dictate to the farmers the terms upon which they were to employ their men than they had to go to the factories owned by those gentlemen and dictate to them what wages they should pay their operatives. The delegates, some of whom had ventured to abuse him close to his own house, also came in for some sharp strictures, Mr. Ball being particularly characterised as one who made it his business to go from village to village, stirring up strife between employers and employed. In conclusion, Mr. Gardiner said the farmers had a most kindly feeling towards the men, but they could not pay them more than supply and demand justified, although some of them often did; but he thought they were called upon as employers of labour to discountenance altogether the National Agricultural Labourers' Union.

Mr. YOUNGMAN expressed an opinion that commercial principles between employer and employed must ultimately be established. With regard to the present unhappy dispute, he hoped it was not the general opinion that the violent expressions used by a few gave a fair estimate of the agricultural labourer of the present day. The violent language, too, had not been all on one side, for such, he had no doubt, had been used by the advocates of the farmers, and even the Lady Stradbroke, who had been so highly spoken of, had gone almost as far as some of the labourers' delegates in a recent letter to the *John Bull*. They must admit that a good deal of temper had been shown, and hard things said on both sides; but he hoped that in the course of a few weeks all difficulties would be smoothed away, and that the time was not far off when they would begin to forget all that had been said; and as no doubt the labourers wanted the farmers quite as much as the farmers wanted the labourers, a settlement would be arrived at.

Mr. SMITH, who was warmly applauded, said he was much obliged to the Chamber for the kind way in which they had received his paper, which it had given him great pleasure to read. He, however, wished their meetings were better attended, for he believed that Chambers of Agriculture were of the utmost benefit to the tenant-farmers, although that benefit might be indirect.

The PRESIDENT quite endorsed Mr. Smith's last remarks. It certainly was no fault of the Executive that the meetings were not better attended. He was sorry their friends round Braintree had not attended so largely as they could wish, but those who had come must have been greatly pleased with the capital way in which Mr. Smith dealt with the subject he had introduced. But there was one remark he should like to make, namely, that he thought farmers should be better represented in the House of Commons, and this might be accomplished if they took a long and strong pull together as other classes did. He regretted the absence of one of their own members, who was very regular in his attendance, but who, he presumed, was engaged in Parliamentary duties and so unable to come. He then put Mr. Smith's motion to the meeting and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. SMITH, sen., proposed a vote of thanks to the President for presiding over them that day. Speaking upon the subject of Parliamentary representation, he said he thought that they should send as many farmers' candidates to Parliament as they could, but what was more necessary was that they should help themselves. He also read extracts from a recent speech by Mr. Clare Sewell Read, who, he said, Norfolk ought to be proud of, and who was one of the few who did put the tenant-farmer in his proper position before the public.

Mr. J. S. GARDINER seconded the vote of thanks, and took occasion to express a wish that gentlemen of their President's own class, who, he said, were conspicuous by their absence, would make it convenient to attend their meetings.

The motion was carried unanimously; and, thanks having been accorded to Mr. Smith and Mr. Vaizey for their respective papers, the meeting separated.

THE BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY, AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

The monthly Council meeting was held at the Grant Hotel, Bristol, on July 28, under the presidency of Mr. R. Benyon, M.P. There were also present Messrs. Bremridge, J. Gray, Neville-Grenville, M.P., and J. C. Moore Stevens (vice-presidents); Messrs. C. T. D. Acland, J. T. Boscawen, H. Badcock, C. Bush, R. H. Bush, T. Danger, J. T. Davy, T. Duckham, T. Dyke, Gilbert, C. Gordon, A. R. Grenfell, J. Hallett, H. M. Holdsworth, J. F. Lennard, H. A. F. Luttrell, H. Middleton, R. Neville, S. P. Newbery, J. Quartly, G. Simpson, H. St. John Maule, R. Trood, and J. Goodwin, secretary and editor.

THE BRISTOL MEETING.—Mr. Herbert Williams, as chairman of the Finance Committee, brought up a statement of the receipts at the recent annual meeting, and asked the sanction of the Council to the payment of prizes and other claims to the amount of £6,030 18s. 9d., and the purchase of £2,800 stock, raising the funded capital of the Society to £10,000. These several proposals were adopted and ordered to be carried out.

On the motion of Mr. Herbert Williams, chairman of Finance, it was resolved that the salary of Mr. William Smith, the official accountant of the Society, be increased to £100 per annum.

The stewards and officers for the ensuing year were nominated for election at the next council meeting. To the Stock Prize-sheet Committee Mr. J. Quartly was added; to the Judges Selection Committee, Mr. T. Duckham; to the Arts Committee, Mr. G. Simpson, of Wray Park, Reigate. Messrs. H. M. Holdsworth and C. T. D. Acland were nominated stewards of the yard; Mr. R. Neville and Mr. C. A. W. Troyte, stewards of implements (yard); Messrs. Knollys, Jones, and Dyke, stewards of implements (field); Messrs. T. Davy, H. Fookes, T. Duckham, and A. Grenfell, stewards of stock; Colonel Luttrell and Mr. C. Gordon, stewards of horses; Messrs. R. H. Bush and C. Edwards, stewards of poultry; the Hon. and Rev. J. T. Boscawen, steward of horticulture; Mr. Jonathan Gray, steward of music; Col. Luttrell, Mr. Grenfell, and Mr. Maule, committee of the mess; Mr. H. St. John Maule, steward of refreshments; Mr. J. Gray, Mr. Knollys, and Mr. Moysey, stewards of plant; and Colonel Luttrell, Colonel Lennard, Mr. R. Neville, Mr. C. A. W. Troyte, and Mr. Arthur Grenfell, stewards of arrangements.

The official superintendent was directed to secure the services of a competent storekeeper, who shall also have charge of the weigh-bridge henceforth to be provided.

CROYDON MEETING.—An addition of £100 was made to the amount granted for stock at the Bristol meeting, thus raising it in the aggregate to £1,800. The amount allowed to the stewards of poultry was £215; to the steward of horticulture £130.

Communications from Mr. H. Compton, of Manor House Lyndhurst, Hants; Mr. B. St. John Ackers, of Prinknash-park, Gloucestershire; and Mr. Hudspeth, agent to Mr. W. Nicholson, of Basing-park, Alton, were ordered to be referred to the stewards of stock.

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New members: C. B. Wormop, South Kensington Museum; W. Coles, Wellow; R. B. Hooper, Wellow; T. G. Meetens, Taunton; C. A. R. Hoare, Fleet-street, London; A. Wansey, Bristol; Wills, London.

LEICESTERSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT LEICESTER.

The horse classes were well filled, and the hunters and hacks good. The agricultural classes included some powerful horses, and a number of promising foals. Of cattle there was a very short show. There were but 29 entries, and several of these did not make an appearance. Mr. J. N. Beasley, of Brampton Farm, carried off the prize for the best fat ox: and Mr. F. Cartwright, of Drakelow, that for the best fat cow. There was only one young Shorthorn bull, Mr. W. F. Woodroffe's, of Normanton; and only two older bulls, the best of which was that of Mr. R. Wade, Ashley. Mr. J. J. Sharp, of Broughton, took the first prizes in the three next classes, for Shorthorn cow in milk, in-calf Shorthorn heifer, and Shorthorn stirk. The long-horn classes were chiefly remarkable for the absence of a name formerly among the most successful exhibitors, Mr. Chapman. There was no entry for Alderney or Guernsey cows in the classes, and only a small Alderney shown as extra stock. The sheep, Leicester and long-woolled, were on the whole better represented. Mr. G. Turner, jun., of Thorpelands, took the two prizes for Leicester rams; those for long-woolled shearlings being taken by Mr. R. Johnson (Kirk Ireton), and Mr. R. Wright (Norton Heath); with those for older rams were taken by the same exhibitors in reverse order. There was some competition in Shropshire Rams, the prize for which was taken by Mr. W. H. Clare; in the other classes of Shropshires Mr. S. C. Pilgrim carried off the honours. The pigs were a fair show, though several of the entries did not arrive; and Mr. M. Walker, Mr. R. E. Duckering, and Mr. J. Wheeler were the successful exhibitors. Messrs. Vipan and Headley had a large show of agricultural implements; and Mr. F. Johnson also exhibited an assortment of agricultural machinery. The meeting on the whole was a tame one, the Leicester fixture being rather "harried" by the Society.

PRIZE LIST.

HUNTERS.

JUDGES.—Hon. A. Pennington, Captain Whitmore, and Mr. John Holiday.

Hunter, gelding, or mare, not less than five years old and under ten, open to all England.—First prize, £20, W. P. Hubbersty, Wirksworth, Derby (Sultan); second, £5, J. Smeeton, Husbands, Bosworth Lodge, Rugby. Commended: G. Pilkington, Stoneleigh, Wootton, Liverpool.

Gelding or filly (four years old), adapted for hunting purposes, bred within the limits of the Belvoir, Quorn, Mr. Tailby's Cottesmore, Atherstone, and Pytchley hunts.—First prize, £20, J. E. Bennett, Husbands Bosworth Grange, Rugby (Melrose); second, £5, J. E. Bennett (K.C.B.).

Hunter, not less than four years old, belonging to a tenant-farmer (residing or occupying within the limits of Mr. Tailby's Hunt) or his son living with him, and following the same occupation.—First prize, £10, J. Smeeton; second, £5, A. Innocent, Kibworth. Commended: A. Innocent.

Gelding or filly (three years old), adapted for hunting purposes, bred within the limits of the Belvoir, Quorn.—First prize, £10, Rev. E. Bruxner, the Holt, Thurlaston, Hinckley; second, £5, J. W. Jenkins, Husbands Bosworth, Rugby.

Gelding or filly (two years old), adapted for hunting purposes, bred within the limits of the Belvoir, Quorn, Mr. Tailby's Cottesmore, Atherstone, and Pytchley Hunts.—First prize, a silver cup or money, value £10, Rev. G. E. Bruxner; second, £5, W. E. Oakley, Cliff House, Atherstone. Commended: W. E. Oakley.

Yearling colt or filly for hunting purposes.—First prize, £10, W. E. Oakley; second, £5, J. E. Bennett. Commended: Rev. G. E. Bruxner.

Hack, not less than fourteen hands two inches, and not exceeding 15 hands two inches high.—First prize, £10, J. Hornsby, Castle Gate House, Grantham (Ballet Girl); second, £5, A. Dabbs, Humberstone-gate, Leicester (Star Thistle). Commended: G. W. Sykes, the Pines, Gaddesby; W. Doyley, 108, Highcross-street, Leicester; J. E. Bennett.

Cob, not exceeding fourteen hands and a-half.—First prize, a silver cup or money, value £5, J. Wiggins, Market Harborough (Prince); second, C. Montagu, Manor House, Newton Harcourt.

Pony, not exceeding thirteen hands and a-half.—First prize, a silver cup or money, value £5, J. H. Smith, Oaldby; second, £2, J. T. Jacques, Welford-road, Leicester.

Mare, calculated to breed hunters, that shall have suckled a foal up to the 1st of July, 1874, or is now in foal.—First prize, £10, T. H. Smith, Curborough, Lichfield; second, £5, J. D. Cradock, Quorn, Loughborough.

JUDGES.—J. H. Wood and G. Smith.

Gelding or filly (two years old), best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—First prize, a silver cup or money, value £10, H. Burgess, Middleton, Rockingham; second, £5, H. Bond, Walcote, Lutterworth. Highly commended: T. H. Simpkin, Hoby.

Gelding or filly (one-year-old), best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—First prize, a silver cup or money, value £10, H. Doughty, Sutton Garnagate, Long Sutton (Thumper); second R. Timms, Braunstone, Rugby. Highly commended: W. Barber, Congerstone, Atherstone. Commended: R. Timms.

In-foal mare, best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—First prize, £15, W. Barber, Congerstone, Atherstone; second, £5, T. Stokes, Caldecote, Leicester. Highly commended: T. Marchant, Great Easton Park, Leicester. Commended: H. Burgess, jun.

Foal, adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—First prize, £5, T. Marchant; second, H. Burgess. Highly commended: T. Stokes. Commended: R. Wade, Manor House, Ashley, Market Harborough.

Cart gelding or mare, four years old and not exceeding seven best adapted for dray purposes.—First prize, £15, H. Burgess; second, £5, G. Bass, Bagworth Park, Leicester. Highly commended: T. Allen, Thurmaston, Commended: J. Sheild, Uppingham.

CATTLE.

JUDGES (Sheep and Pigs).—R. J. Newton.
J. S. Turner.
J. Caswell.

Fat ox.—First prize, £10, J. N. Beasley, Brampton Farm, Northampton; second, £5, Sir W. de Capell Brooke, Bart. Reserve: S. Wallis, Barton Seagrave, Kettering.

Fat cow or heifer.—First prize, £10, F. Cartwright, The Grove, Drakelow, Burton-on-Trent; second, £3, R. Wright, Nocton Heath, Lincoln.

Shorthorn bull, above one year and under two years old.—First prize, £7, W. S. Woodroffe, Normanton-on-Soar.

Shorthorn bull, over two years.—First prize, £7, R. Wade, Manor House, Ashley; second, £3, W. H. Johnson, Braunstone, Leicester.

Shorthorn cow, in milk.—First prize, £5, J. J. Sharp, Broughton, Kettering; second, £2, F. Cartwright, The Grove, Drakelow. Reserve: R. Wade, Manor House, Ashley, Harborough.

In-calf Shorthorn heifer, above two and under three years old.—First prize, £5, J. J. Sharp, Broughton; second, £2, C. Marriott, Cottesbach, Lutterworth.

Shorthorn stirk, above one and under two years old.—First prize, £5, J. J. Sharp; second, £2, C. Marriott, Cottesbach.

Longhorn bull.—First prize, £5, W. T. Cox, Spondon Hall, Derby.

Longhorn cow, in milk.—First prize, £5, S. Forrest, The Chase, Kenilworth. Reserve: J. Godfrey, Wigston Parva.

Longhorn heifer, in calf above two and under three years old.—First prize, £5, S. Forrest, The Chase. Reserve: W. T. Cox.

SHEEP.

Pure-bred Leicester shearling ram, the property of or hired by the exhibitor.—Eirst prize, £7, G. Turner, jun., Thorpe-

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lands, Northampton; second, £3, G. Turner, jun. Reserve: S. Spencer, Snaresstone.

Long-woolled shearling ram, whether hired or not.—First prize, £7, R. Johnson, Kirk Ireton, Wirksworth; second, £3, R. Wright, Nocton Heath, Lincoln. Highly commended: T. W. D. Harris, Wootton, Northampton. Commended: T. W. D. Harris.

Long-woolled ram of any age, the property of or hired by the exhibitor.—First prize, £7, R. Wright, Nocton Heath, Lincoln; second, £3, R. Johnson, Kirk Ireton, Wirksworth. Highly commended: R. Wright.

Pen of three under twenty months old long-woolled fat wether sheep.—First prize, £5, H. J. Hopkins, Moulton Grange Farm, Pitsford, Northampton; second, £2, L. Willmore, the Newarks, Leicester.

Pen of five long-woolled ewes.—First prize, £5, T. W. D. Harris, Wootton; second, T. W. D. Harris.

Pen of five long-woolled theaves, under twenty months old, intended for breeding purposes.—First prize, £5, T. W. D, Harris, Wootton; second, £2, L. Willmore.

Shropshire shearling ram, whether hired or not.—First prize, £5, W. H. Clare, Twycross, Atherstone. Highly commended: W. H. Clare.

Pen of three under twenty months old Shropshire fat wether sheep.—First prize, £5, S. C. Pilgrim, the Outwoods, Burbage, Hinckley.

Pen of five Shropshire ewes.—First prize, £5; S. C. Pilgrim. Highly commended: W. H. Clare, Twycross.

Pen of five Shropshire theaves under twenty months old, intended for breeding purposes.—First prize, £5, S. C. Pilgrim.

PIGS.

Boar of the large breed, whether hired or not.—First prize, £5, M. Walker, Stockley Park, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent; second, £2, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipton-on-Stour. Commended: R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsey.

Boar of the small breed.—First prize, £5, R. E. Duckering; second, M. Walker.

Berkshire boar pig, not exceeding eighteen months old.—First prize, £5, M. Walker; second, £2, J. Wheeler.

Breeding sow of the large breed.—First prize, £5, J. Wheeler; second, £2, M. Walker. Highly commended: R. E. Duckering.

Breeding sow of the small breed.—First prize, £5, R. E. Duckering; second, £2, M. Walker. Highly commended: J. Wheeler and M. Walker.

Three breeding pigs, of any breed, of one litter, not exceeding seven months old.—First prize, £5, R. E. Duckering; second, £2, M. Walker.

At the luncheon, Mr. Heygate, M.P., the Chairman said: In this county and district they had been happily entirely free, he hoped he might say, from those unfortunate circumstances which they so much regretted to have seen occurring in the Eastern Counties of England. They might think themselves very fortunate that the relations between capital and labour, as far as agriculture was concerned, were of a very much more happy description here. He did not take especial credit for either the labourer, the farmer, or the landlord for that circumstance; it was probably owing to the fact that they had had in this county and district for many years past a much greater competition for labour, having side by side with the agricultural interest large manufacturing and mineral interests which had competed for labour, and consequently raised the rate of wages. In the Eastern Counties, as they knew, agriculture was almost the on y industry, and consequently the demand for labour, increasing as it had done during the last few years, came upon them suddenly, and the result was, as they were aware, a disturbance of those relations between tenant farmer and labourer, which they so much regretted. He only hoped that now things would work themselves square, that they would settle down, and that those disturbed relations, of which he spoke, would become by degrees arranged in a happy and satisfactory manner. Whichever side might be considered to have gained the victory in this struggle, he hoped would use their success with moderation, and that they might see again those good feelings between all classes, landlord, tenant, and labourer, which had existed so long in this country, and which he hoped might still continue to exist. Referring to the agricultural implements, he might say that it must be an increasing source of interest every year to the occupier of land to see to what an extent he could utilize the mechinery so as to make himself more and more independent of strikes. Old prejudices as regarded machinery had without any question very generally passed away. He was only reading, a few days ago, a story of the late Sir Robert Peel, who had a show at Tamworth, some thirty or forty years since, and purchased a number of iron ploughs, and presented them to his tenants, and at the end of the year he was greatly disappointed that scarcely any of them would use them, as they said they would be sure to make the weeds grow. He thought they had got beyond that, and that there was an increasing feeling that they must take advantage of every agricultural implement which the ingenuity of science could invent.

Mr. T. H. Simpkin: He wished to make a remark about the labour question. He thought the chairman set it rather low when he said that they had nothing at all to do with strikes here. He thought they had. They took the bull by the horns at once: they saw the danger, and paid their men better, and they had been paid better here for the last eight or nine years than in any other district. Had the same thing been done elsewhere, when they found railways and manufactures to contend with, they might have avoided strikes also. He was not saying there were not great difficulties; they had been short of men; but he was glad to see that for the harvest there appeared abundance of labour.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT TEWKESBURY.

There were 48 entries of Shorthorns, and in bulls above two years old there were four competitors—viz., Mr. B. St. John Ackers's Cymbeline, Mr. R. Stratton's Protector, Mr. W. Wilson's Earl of Warwickshire III., and the Rev. E. T. Williams's Earl of March, with Protector put first. In the class 2, for bulls above one and under two years old, there were ten competitors. The three animals on which attention was concentrated included two Royal prize-winners, Mr. William Garne's Aachen, and Col. Loyd Lindsay's Prince Rupert; the first honours being here awarded to Aachen, and the second to Bountiful Duke, one year two months and a day old, bred by Mr. W. Woodward. Of the bull calves Col. Lindsay's Lord Rockville fairly distanced all the rest. He was first at the Royal and also at the Bath and West of England and the Reading Shows. Of breeding cows ten competed, but it cannot be said that th class was good. The competition in the class for heifers under three years old was better, and Mr. Bruce Kennard's celebrated Queen Mary, which ran away from everything else in her class at the Royal, was once more the Champion Shorthorn, as in Essex. The entries in the classes for Herefords were not numerous, but the bulls were declared by the judges to be equal to any ever exhibited. The competition in regard to these animals was so near that the judges were obliged to invite the assistance of the Shorthorn judges. There were only three entries—Mr. H. J. Bayley's King of the Dale, two years and six months old; Messrs. T. Fenn and Harding's Bachelor, seven years two months one week and three days old; and Mr. Philip Turner's Provost, five years and a week old. After a long consultation the judges awarded the reserve number to King of the Dale, and ultimately Bachelor was put first. The bull-calves were the weakest lot among the Herefords. In the class for breeding cows the first prize was awarded to Mr. T. Thomas's Rosalind,

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and also the 5-guinea challenge cup, for the best pure-bred Hereford in any of the classes, she having taken the same cup last year at Bristol. The competition for three dairy cows was watched with much interest, and there was a display of a tolerably even lot of good animals; but the judges had not much difficulty in making their awards, and the prize, by general consent, went to Mr. Joseph Stratton; while the Channel Islands cattle were just a good useful lot. Over the horses the awards of the judges did not receive the general approbation they generally do. Taken throughout, the horse show was a great improvement on those of previous years; and of sheep and pigs there was an average display.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—SHORTHORNS: S. Rich, The Cedars, Fearnal Heath, Worcester; R. Doig, Lillingstone Hall, Buckingham. HEREFORDS: T. Rogers, Coxall, Brampton Bryan; W. Evans, Llandowlais Court, Usk. SHEEP: W. Rigden, Hove, Brighton; R. Garne, Aldsworth, Northleach; R. H. Masfen, Pendeford, Wolverhampton. PIGS: C. Randell, Chadbury, Evesham; E. Little, Lanhill, Chippenham. CART HORSES: R. Craddock, Lyneham, Chipping Norton; J. Rogers, Letchmoor, Presteign. HUNTERS AND ROADSTERS: Major Heywood, Ocle Court, Hereford; T. H. Hatchinson, Manor House, Catterick; J. C. Croome, Bagendon House, Cirencester. CHEESE: C. Brunsdon, Holm, Hereford; D. Long, Whaddon, Gloucester.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bulls above two years old.—First prize, £20, R. Stratton, The Duffrys, Newport; second, £10, B. St. John Ackers, Prinknash Park. Reserved: J. Wilson-Wilson, Austin House, Broadway.

Bull above one and under two years old.—First prize, £20, W. Garne, Broadmoor, Northleach; second, £10, W. Woodward, Tewkesbury. Reserved: Lieutenant-Colonel Loyd Lindsay, C.B., M.P.

Bull above six months and under one years old.—First prize £10, Lieutenant-Colonel Loyd Lindsay; second, £5, W. Garne. Reserved and highly commended: Earl Beauchamp.

Cow in calf, or in milk, having had a calf at its full time within twelve months of the day of exhibition.—First prize, £10, J. Stratton, Alton Priors; second, £5, R. Stratton. Reserved and commended: J. Wilson-Wilson.

Heifer in calf, or in milk, under three years old.—First prize, £10, R. Stratton; second, £5, B. St. J. Ackers. Reserved and highly commended: Earl Beauchamp.

Heifer under two years old.—First prize, £8, Rev. R. B. Kennard, Blandford; second, £3, Viscount Sudeley. Reserved: J. Bickford, Bushbury.

Heifer calf above six months and under one year old.—First prize, £5, Lieutenant-Colonel Loyd Lindsay; second, £2 10s., O. Viveash, Strensham. Reserved: B. St. J. Ackers.

For the best pure bred Shorthorn in the yard.—Challenge cup, value 100 gs., Rev. R. B. Kennard.

HEREFORDS.

Bull above two years old.—First prize, £15, Fenn and Harding; second, £7 10s., P. Turner, Pembridge. Reserved: H. J. Baily, Rosedale.

Bull above one and under two years old.—Prize, £15, H. N. Edwards, Leominster.

Bull above six months and under one year old.—First prize, £6, T. Fenn, Ludlow; second, £3, H. N. Edwards, Leominster.

Cow in calf or in milk, having had a calf at its full time within twelve months of the day of exhibition.—First prize, £6, T. Thomas, Cowbridge; second, £3, T. Thomas. Reserved: T. Cadle.

Heifer in calf or in milk, under three years old.—Prize, £6, T. Fenn.

Heifer under two years old.—First prize, £4 10s., P. Turner.

Heifer-calf above six months and under one year old.—First prize, £3, H. N. Edwards; second, £1 10s., H. N. Edwards. Reserved: E. J. Morris.

For the best pure-bred Hereford in the yard.—Challenge cup, value 25 gs., T. Thomas.

DAIRY COWS.

Three dairy cows in milk.—First prize, £20, J. Stratton; second, £10, Earl Beauchamp. Reserve: J. Bickford, Moseley Hall, Bushbury.

CHANNEL ISLANDS CATTLE.

Bull of any age.—Prize, £4, Rev. C. W. Grove, the Mythe. Reserve: N. N. Dyer, Bredon.

Cow or heifer in calf or in milk.—First prize, £4, Healing and Sons, Tewkesbury; second, £2, N. N. Dyer, Bredon. Reserve: C. Andrew, Ham Court. Commended: S. J. Martin, Upton-on-Severn.

BREEDING SHEEP.

LONG-WOOL.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £7, R. Swanwick, Royal Agricultural College Farm, Cirencester; second, £3, R. Swanwick. Reserve: J. Gillett, Tangley, Chipping Norton.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £7, R. Swanwick; second, £3, J. Wheeler, Long Compton. Reserve: H. E. Raynbird, Basingstoke. Highly commended: R. Swanwick.

Five yearling ewes.—First prize, £8, R. Swanwick; second £4, T. Thomas.

SHORT-WOOLS.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £7, H. S. Waller, Farmington; second, £3, Sir W. Throckmorton, Buckland. Reserved: H. S. Waller.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £7, Sir W. Throckmorton; second, £3, H. S. Waller.

Five yearling ewes.—First prize, £8, Sir W. Throckmorton second, £4, H. S. Waller.

OXFORDSHIRE DOWNS.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £7, G. Wallis, Old Shifford; second, £3, G. Wallis. Reserved: C. Hobbs, Maisey-hampton.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £7, G. Wallis; second, £3, G. Wallis.

Five yearling ewes.—First prize, £8, G. Wallis; second, £4, W. T. Horniblow, Ripple.

SHROPSHIRE DOWNS.

Yearling ram—First prize, £7, Mrs. Beach, Brewood; second, £3, J. Pulley, Hereford. Reserved: J. H. B. Lutley, Brockhampton.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £7, W. Baker, Atherstone; second, £3, W. Baker.

Five yearling ewes.—First prize, £8, Mrs. Beach; second, £4, J. Pulley. Reserved and commended: W. Baker.

PIGS.

UNDER A YEAR OLD.

Boar of the Berkshire breed.—First prize, £5, R. Swanwick; second, £2, W. Hewer, Sevenhampton. Reserved and highly commended: A. Stewart, Gloucester.

Boar of any other breed.—First prize, £5, J. Dove, Bristol; second, £2, M. Walker, Burton-on-Trent. Reserved: J. Dove.

Sow of the Berkshire breed.—First prize, £4, A. Stewart, Gloucester; second, £2, R. Swanwick. Highly commended: R. Swanwick.

Sow of any other breed.—First prize, £4, M. Walker; second, £2, J. Dove. Reserved and commended: M. Walker.

OVER A YEAR OLD.

Boar of the Berkshire breed.—First prize, £5, W. Hewer, Highworth; second, £2, R. Swanwick. Reserved and highly commended: W. Hewer. Highly commended: H. Humfrey. Commended: H. Humfrey and A. Stewart.

Boar of any other breed.—Prize, £5, J. Dove. Reserved: J. Wheeler

Sow of the Berkshire breed.—Prize, £4, A. Stewart; second, £2, R. Swanwick. Reserved and highly commended: H. Humfrey. Commended: H. Humfrey and R. Swanwick.

Sow of any other breed.—First prize, £4, J. Wheeler; second, £2, J. Dove.

Three sow pigs of the same litter, under nine months old.—First prize, £5, A. Stewart; second, £2 10s., R. Swanwick. Reserved and highly commended: H. Humfrey. Commended: J. Wheeler.

Sow and pigs (not less than six), her own produce, the pigs under twelve weeks old.—First prize, £5, A. Stewart; second, £2 10s., R. Swanwick. Reserved and highly commended: J. Wheeler.

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HORSES.

Stallion for agricultural purposes, above two years old.—First prize, £20, J. Yeomans, Wolverhampton; second, £10, S. Davis, Pershore. Reserved: W. Wynn, Alcester.

Mare and foal, her own offspring, for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £10, W. Priday; second, £5, R. Cochrane, Naunton. Reserved: I. James.

Gelding or filly for agricultural purposes, above two and undee three years old.—First prize, £10, H. Reynolds, Dauntsey; second, £5, S. Davis, Woolashill. Reserved: W. Baker. Commended: E. Passey.

Gelding or filly for agricultural purposes, under two years old.—First prize, £8, withheld; second, £4, S. Davis.

Stallion calculated to get hunters or hacks.—First prize, £25, Earl of Coventry; second, £10, M. Biddulph, M.P. Reserved: Major J. Ballard.

Mare calculated to breed hunters, with her foal at foot, by a thoroughbred horse.—First prize, £10, C. Andrew, Upton-on-Severn; second, £5, H. Carter, Almondsbury.

Hunting mare or gelding of any age.—First prize, £20, T. H. Ashton, Temple Laugherne; second, £10, F. P. Jones, Cheltenham. Reserved: T. Cook, Taddington.

Hunting mare or gelding under five years old.—First prize, £15, W. Smith, Queenhill; second, £6, T. H. Ashton. Reserved: T. W. Brain. The class highly commended.

Hackney, equal to carry 15 stone, not exceeding 15 hands high.—First prize, £10, withheld; second, £5, W. Nicks, Gloucester.

Hackney, equal to carry 12 stone, not exceeding 15 hands high.—First prize, £10, Major Quentin; second, £5 5s., C. A. Jacobs, Clifton. Reserved: A. Perret.

Pony, above 12 and not exceeding 13 hands high.—First prize, £7, C. A. Jacobs; second, £4, C. Allen, Cirencester. Reserved: J. Bennett, Berkeley.

Pony, not exceeding 12 hands, to be ridden in the ring by boys.—First prize, £5 5s., C. A. Jacobs; second, £3, F. B. Jones, Cheltenham.

Ladies' hack, to be ridden by ladies, exceeding 15 hands high.—Prize, £5, C. A. Jacobs.

Harness horse, to be driven in harness round the ring.—Prize, £5, withheld.

CHEESE.

Hundredweight of thick cheese, not more than three cheeses to the hundred weight, made from land in his own occupation.—First prize, £5, S. M. Harding, Almondsbury; second, £2 10s., J. Smith, Nupdown. Highly commended: S. M. Harding. Commended: H. Reynolds.

Hundredweight of double cheese, not more than six nor less than four cheeses to the hundredweight, made from land in his own occupation.—First prize, £5, C. Harris, Berkeley; second, £2 10s., T. Witchell, Nympsfield. Highly commended: J. Smith. Commended: H. Reynolds.

Hundredweight of thin cheese, made from land in his own occupation, in the county of Gloucester.—First prize, £5, J. Smith, Thornbury; second, £2 10s., E. Wilkins, Bourton-on-the-Water. Highly commended: C. Hadley. Commended: W. Harris.

At the dinner, Mr. J. R. Yorke, M.P., said: You may ask "What has been done this session for agriculturists?" I am afraid I cannot say we have done very much; but then you must consider the circumstances under which the present Government came into office. They were called upon to propose their measures with very little time for deliberation; they were surrounded by claimants of every description, some reasonable and others unreasonable; and I am sure that in a session in which the ladies themselves have clamoured in vain for admission to the franchise the farmers of England will not be so ungallant as to regret that they were not preferred before the ladies. We have at any rate done something for the farmers this session—we have made an onward step in the matter of the relief of the grievances of the local taxpayers. The tax upon horses has been taken off, which in some cases will prove a considerable relief to the farmers, though they were not compelled even heretofore to pay for the beasts they used for their own purposes. I hope that in the next session we shall be able to give you a better account of our proceedings. There are, however, one or two matters on which I may congratulate you. In the first place we have a better prospect of a good wheat crop than we have had for several years past; and in the next place news has lately reached us of what I hope will prove to be the final settlement of the agricultural labourers' dispute in the Eastern Counties. It is owing to the undaunted courage and perseverance of the farmers in those counties that that dispute has been brought to a final termination. I can only express a hope that the farmers will be as moderate in their victory as they have been determined in the fight, and that they will recollect that the men who have been counselled to take a course which in the end has proved so disastrous to them, are kindly, honest, and simple folk, who have been misled by the men who have deluded them for their own purposes. Now the battle is over I trust that both parties will shake hands, and go on in the future as good friends as they have been in the past.

Sir E. H. Lechmere, the President, expressed a hope, with regard to the over-fatted pigs, that the Royal Agricultural Society, or one of the local societies, would some day devise a means by which they might have some standard in accordance with which such animals as pigs should be sent for exhibition, instead of their being exhibited as at present in a frightful state of obesity. He suggested the desirability of three such societies as the Hereford, the Worcester, and the Gloucester Agricultural Associations sometimes holding a united meeting.

Mr. E. Bowly said: I hope this labour question is now settled. There is one thing which Mr. Arch and some of his people have been trumpeting about the country which I must deny. They say that if the land were divided into four-acre pieces we should be in a much better state than at present. I can only tell you that if you come to four-acre pieces you will be starved; everybody knows that who knows anything they are talking about; but these labourers, and a parcel of shopkeepers, shoemakers, and tailors, who go spouting about the country don't know any better. Let any practical man come to me, and I will take him a drive of fifty miles and show him that the largest farms are the best cultivated and produce the best crops (Shouts of "No, no," from outside the tent, and "Quite right," from within). Come up to me and I will show you; it is a parcel of humbug to tell me differently. It was tried by Fergus O'Connor years ago, and he brought ruin on every parish in which he tried it.

A CAUTION TO BUYERS.—A case has been in dependence for some time before Sheriff Shirreff, which may prove useful as a hint to farmers to exercise as much caution as possible in their transactions at cattle markets. At last Hallow Fair, Mr. Johnston, Letham Mains, accompanied by aide of his sons and Mr. Cameron, a son-in-law, were in the market looking after cattle. While there they were accosted by Aaron Sisson, a reputed cattle dealer, who showed them a lot of stirks, ten of which Mr. Johnston purchased for £95, £50 being at once paid in cash, and credit being given for the remainder. Some time afterwards, Sisson met Andrew, another son of Mr. Johnston's, and asked him for a bill for the remainder of the price of the cattle, which, on application to Mr. Cameron, was granted, and cashed by Sisson, Mr. Cameron duly meeting it at maturity. So far, to all appearance, the transaction seemed closed; but Mr. Johnston, after the bill had been granted, was applied to by Messrs. Robert and David Campbell, farmers and cattle dealers, Whitsaugh, Roxburghshire, for payment of the balance of the price of the cattle, founding their claim on the fact that the cattle sold were not the property of Sisson, but belonged to them at the time of the sale, and that Mr. Johnston, when he bought them, was aware of the real ownership. The claim resulted in an application to the Sheriff, who took a long proof in the case, and heard a good deal of evidence on both sides. The other day he issued his interlocutor, in which, after narrating the facts as they came out in the evidence, he finds that the balance of proof is in favour of the defender, and that the pursuers have failed to prove that at the time of the sale Mr. Johnston was warned by them that the cattle belonged to them, and not to Sisson. He therefore leaves the pursuers to find their remedy against Sisson, who on his side asserts that he was part owner of the cattle, and assoilzies Mr. Johnston from the conclusion of the summons with expenses.

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MALTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—HUNTERS and HACKS: R. Botterill, Wandby Brough; J. Hall, Sedgfield, Durham; J. Holliday, Barmston, Burlington. COACHING and AGRICULTURAL: S. Robson, Deighton, Wetherby; J. Stephenson, Wheldrake, York; W. Stephenson, Cottingham, Hull. CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS: T. Dodds, Wakefield; W. Brown, Holme-on-Spalding Moor; B. Topham, Bainton, Driffield. IMPLEMENTS: W. Smith, Mowthorpe; R. Ellerby, Salton.

HORSES.

Hunting colt foal.—First prize, Miss Starkey, Hutton; second, W. Muzeen, South Holme.

Hunting filly foal.—First prize, W. Muzeen; second, H. Watson, Filey.

Coaching colt or filly foal.—First prize, J. Wood, Gilling; second, J. Reader, Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

Roadster colt or filly foal.—First prize, J. Hickson, Swinton; second, W. Harrison, Slingsby.

Agricultural colt foal.—First prize, T. Scoby, Rook Burgh; second, W. Tennant, Selby. Commended: F. C. Lett, Leavening.

Agricultural filly foal.—First prize, G. Olliver, Old Malton; second, J. Elsworth, Yedingham.

Yearly hunting gelding.—First prize, W. Muzeen; second, J. Inman, Boroughbridge.

Yearling hunting filly.—First yrize, R. Barker, Malton; second, H. Bleasby, Carlisle.

Yearling coaching gelding or filly.—First prize, J. Houlden, Langton; second, W. Welburn, Whitby.

Yearling roadster gelding or filly.—First prize, W. Harrison; second, R. Yates, Malton.

Yearling agricultural gelding or filly.—First prize, T. Scoby; second, H. Brown, Strensall.

TWO-YEAR-OLDS.

Hunting gelding.—First prize, J. Sedman, Pickering; second, Sir G. Cholmley, Howsham. Commended: L. Parker, Thorpebassett.

Hunting filly.—First prize, S. B. Robson, Ganton; second, W. Halton, Oswaldkirk.

Coaching gelding or filly.—First prize, J. White, Easingwold; second, W. Peacock, Bulmer. Commended: J. Miles, West Heslerton.

Roadster gelding or filly.—First prize, J. Campion, Thorpebasset; second, L. Parker.

Agricultural gelding or filly.—First prize, W. Preston, Burythorpe; second, G. Harrison, Newton-on-Derwent. Commended: J. Stillborn, Hutton.

THREE-YEAR-OLDS.

Hunting gelding.—First prize, J. P. Crompton, Burton Agnes; second, S. B. Robson, Ganton. Highly commended: H. Watson, Filey.

Hunting filly.—First prize, H. Brigham, Settrington; second, J. Lett, Scampston.

Coaching gelding or filly.—First prize, G. Leefe, Fryton; second, T. Stamper, Nunnington.

Agricultural gelding or filly.—First prize, J. Cussons, Oswaldkirk; second, W. Duggleby, Duggleby, Commended: W. Duggleby.

BROOD MARES.

Mare, with foal at foot, for hunting purposes.—First prize, H. Watson; second, J. T. Robinson, Helperby. Highly commended: W. Muzeen.

Mare, with foal at foot, for agricultural purposes.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; second, W. Tennant.

Mare, with foal at foot, for coaching purposes.—First prize, J. Reader; second, J. Wood.

PONIES.

Pony not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, W. H. Blackman, Howden; second, T. Mitchell, Bradford. Highly commended: H. Smithson. Malton.

Pony not exceeding 12 hands.—First prize, J. Robson, Old Malton; second, Rev. R. J. Cooper, Whitby. The class generally commended.

Four-year-old hunting gelding or filly.—First prize, R. Holtby, Driffield; second, R. Ellerby, Salton.

Five-year-old hunting gelding or filly.—First prize, F. P. Newton, Norton; second, W. Johnson, Norton. For jumping: First prize, T. Robson, Thornton Marshes; second, J. Burnett, Langton.

Lady's hack.—First prize, J. Welburn, Scackleton Grange; second, R. Barker, Malton.

Gentleman's hack.—First prize, W. H. Cranswick, Burton Agnes; second, C. Rose, Malton.

Pair of agricultural horses, mares, or geldings, that have been regularly worked by a tenant-farmer, and used exclusively for farming purposes.—First prize, T. Ellerby, Whitwell; second, W. Tennant.

Horse or mare of any age, that has been regularly used for carting purposes in the borough of Malton.—First prize, W. and J. Metcalfe, Malton; second, W. and G. Lovel, Norton.

Gelding or mare for single harness, to be driven on the ground.—First prize, T. G. Mallory, Great Habton; second C. Rose, Malton. Highly commended: W. Muzeen.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Foal, colt, or filly, by Black Douglas,—First prize, G. Olliver, Old Malton; second, W. Thorpe, Scagglethorpe. Commended: J. Hickes, Scagglethorpe.

Foal, colt, or filly, by George Osbaldeston.—First and second prizes, W. Muzeen.

Foal, colt, or filly, by Dear Tom.—First prize, Miss Starkey; second, J. Hickson, Swinton.

Foal, colt, or filly, by Dalby.—First prize, W. Boyes, Slingsby; second, W. Smith, High Mowthorpe. Commended: E. Woodward, Welburn.

Foal, colt, or filly, by Blooming Heather or Wellington.—First prize, F. C. Lett; second, W. Bradshaw, Amotherby.

Three-year-old agricultural gelding or filly.—Prize, silver cup, J. Headley, Catterick. Highly commended: J. Smith, Helperby.

CATTLE.

Bull, over one and under two years old.—First prize, C. and J. Smith, Westerdale; second, C. Leonard, Sledmere. Highly commended: Rev. W. B. Prest, Ampleforth College.

Bull, under twelve months old.—First prize, W. Smith, High Mowthorpe; second, T. Stamper, Nunnington.

Cow, in calf or milk.—First prize, T. H. Hutchison, Catterick; second, executors of F. Jordan, Driffield. Highly commended: T. Stamper. Commended: J. Snarry, York.

Heifer, over two and under three years.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson (objected to); second, T. Strickland, Thirsk. Highly commended: C. and J. Smith, Yarm.

Heifer, over one and under two years old.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, T. Strickland. Highly commended: J. Corner, Slingsby. (First prize objected to on account of having won prize at the Royal or Yorkshire Show.)

Heifer, under twelve months.—First prize, W. Smith, High Mowthorpe; second, J. Corner.

Beast of any age or breed.—First prize, J. Key, Musley Bank; second, J. Fenwick, Swinton.

Cottager's cow.—Prize, J. Walker, Coneysthorpe.

Bull of any age.—First prize, G. Jackson, East Ayton, York; second, executors of F. Jordan. Highly commended: I. Garbutt, Farndale.

Cow for dairy purposes.—First prize, J. Borton, Barton-le-Street; second, F. Coates, Little Habton. Highly commended: J. Russell and Sons, Malton.

Best female animal in the yard.—Prize, T. H. Hutchinson.

SHEEP.

Aged ram.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, W. Coverdale, Helmsley (Leicester).

Shearling ram.—First and second prizes, T. H. Hutchinson.

Tup lamb.—Second prize, W. Coulson, Gatherley, Castle Howard.

Five gimmer shearlings.—First prize, executors of F. Jordan; second, T. H. Hutchinson. Highly commended: R. Tarbottom, Cawton.

Five gimmer lambs.—First prize, A. Robson, Howe Bridge; second, F. Coates.

Five wether lambs.—First prize, H. Robson; second, F. Coates.

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EXTRA STOCK.—First prize, W. Coulson; second, G. Wright, Broughton.

Five ewes that have suckled lambs up to the 1st July.—First prize, cup, W. S. Lovel, Knapton; second, T. H. Hutchinson. Highly commended: W. Coverdale, Lund Court.

Three shearling rams.—First prize, piece of plate, T. H. Hutchinson; second, W. Kendall, East Ness. Highly commended: W. Coverdale.

Best pen in classes 51, 52, and 53.—Prize, piece of plate, executors of F. Jordan.

PIGS.

Sow, middle breed.—First prize, H. Blanchard, Malton; second, Major Worsley, Hovingham; extra, — Graham, Leeds.

Boar, middle breed.—First prize, W. Lister, Armley, Leeds; second, G. Sedgwick, York.

Sow, small breed.—First prize, W. Lister; second, G. Sedgwick.

Boar, small breed.—First prize, — Graham; second, G. Sedgwick.

Three store pigs.—First prize, R. Smeeton, Menithorpe; second, T. Strickland, Thirsk Junction.

Cottager's pig, rent under £12 per year.—First prize, — Graham; second and third, E. Lawson, Elswell; fourth, E. Dobson, Swinton.

IMPLEMENTS.

Corn hoe.—First prize, H. Bushell, York (Priest and Woolnough's R.A.S. prize horse-hoe); second, R. Yates, Malton.

Dog-cart or Whitechapel.—First prize, Pickering and Co., Beverley; second, F. Houlgate and Co., Scarborough.

Swing-gate.—First prize, H. Bushell; second, Read, Malton.

Blacksmith, shoeing horses for riding.—First prize, J. Yorke, Malton; second, J. Waller, Malton.

Stand of implements.—First prize, R. Yates; second, T. Read.

Single-horse waggonette.—Prize, Pickering and Co.

THE DORCHESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT DORCHESTER.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE AND HORSES: J. Ford Rushton; J. Coate, Hammoon; Walter Farthing, Bridgwater. SHEEP: E. Cave, Almer, Blandford: Culverwell, North Petherton, Bridgwater; and G. Tett, Chesilborne.

CATTLE.

Bull under two years.—Prize, £3, J. A. Smith, Bradford Peverell.

Three heifers, under two years old.—Prize, £5, J. A. Smith,

Bull, above two years old.—Prize, £5, C. Davy, Horn Park, Beaminster. Highly commended: S. Bennett, Wareham.

Three dairy cows, under seven years old.—Prize, £5, J. A. Smith.

Three heifers under three years old.—Prize, £3, J. A. Smith.

SHEEP.

Dorset ram.—Prize £2, A. J. Pitfield, Eype.

Southdown ram.—Prize, £2, G. W. Homer, Athalhampton.

Short-woolled ram, otherwise than horned or Southdown.—Prize, £2, and highly commended, T. C. Saunders, Watercombe.

One-year Dorset ram.—Prize, £2, A. J. Pitfield.

One-year Southdown ram.—Prize, £2, G. W. Homer.

One-year old short-woolled ram, otherwise than horned or Southdown.—Prize, £2, T. C. Saunders.

Pair of Dorset ram lambs.—Prize, £1, A. J. Pitfield.

Pair of Southdown ram lambs.—Prize, £1, G. W. Homer.

Pair of short-woolled ram lambs, otherwise than horned or Southdown.—Prize, £1, G. W. Homer.

Horn stock ewes (100) under two years old.—Prize, £5, W. S. Hull, Druce.

Twenty Southdown full-mouthed ewes.—Prize, £5, Harding, Waterson.

Twenty short-woolled ewes, otherwise than horned or Southdown, under two years old.—Prize, £5, T. C. Saunders.

Down stock ewes (100), under two years old.—Prize £5, E. Baunton, West Knighton.

Twenty Dorset full-mouthed ewes.—Prize, £5, A. J. Pitfield.

Twenty Dorset ewes, under two years old.—Prize, £5, A. J Pitfield.

Twenty short-woolled full-mouthed ewes, otherwise than horned or Southdown.—Prize, £5, G. Wood Homer.

Twenty Southdown ewes, under two years old.—Prize, £5, E. Baunton, West Knighton.

Twenty chilver lambs.—Prize, £5, J. H. Saunders, Forston.

PIGS.

Boar.—Prize, £5, H. W. Hawkins, Martinstown.

Three breeding sows.—Prize, £5, J. A. Smith. Highly commended: T. Walden, Came.

HORSES.

Pair of cart horses, not exceeding five years of age.—Prize, £5, T. Chick, Stratton.

Cart stallion.—Prize, £5, T. Chick.

Hackney colt or filly, under four years old.—Prize, £5, Chamen, Charminster. Highly commended: Mr. Hooper, Turner's Puddle.

Cart, colt or filly, under three years old.—Prize, £5, J. H. Saunders, Forston. Highly commended: J. A. Smith.

Cart mare and foal.—Prize, £5, J. Chick, East Compton. Highly commended: T. A. Homer, Tolpuddle.

THE BRIDLINGTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The entries were more numerous than at any previous show of the Society: sheep 34, cattle 25, horses 205, pigs 30. The sheep included shearlings from Mr. Hutchinson's flock at Catterick, and many from farms in this district, and Mr. Hutchinson was also a large exhibitor of Shorthorns. Sir Talbot Constable, was another successful exhibitor of stock bred on his own estate. The principal award for aged Shorthorns, however, went to Knight of the Vale. The hunters included among their number the majority of prize-takers, King of Diamonds, Palmerston, Rover, and some 16 others being entered for the silver cup for the best hunter.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES. — SHEEP, CATTLE, PIGS, AND AGRICULTURAL HORSES: J. Simpson, Staveley, Tibthorpe, Driffield; W. Brown, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor; T. Barber, Sproatley Rise, Hull. Hunting, Roadster, and Coaching Horses: T. Ellerby, Whitwell, York; J. T. Robinson, Leckby Palace, Thirsk; T. Robinson, Nuthill, Hedon.

SHEEP.

Shearling ram adapted for the district.—First prize, S. Tatham and C. T. Leake, Brough; second, J. J. Simpson, Hunmanby.

Pen of three shearling rams adapted for the district.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; second, J. J. Simpson.

Pen of five shearling gimmers.—First prize, T. H. Hutchson; second, R. Tarbotton, Cauton Gilling.

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Ten wether lambs.—First prize, J. and C. Nesfield, Buckton; second, E. A. Hay, Buckton.

Ten gimmer lambs.—First prize, E. H. Bowser, Reighton; second, J. J. Simpson.

EXTRA STOCK.—Ten gimmer lambs: First prize, E. H. Bowser; second, J. J. Simpson.

SHORTHORNS.

Two years old or aged bull—First prize, G. Jackson, Ayton; second, G. Harrison, Newton-on-Derwent.

Yearling bull.—First prize, Sir T. C. Constable, Hull; second, J. T. Robinson, Driffield.

Bull-calf under twelve months old.—Prize, Sir T. C. Constable.

Cow in calf or in milk.—First and second prizes, T. H. Hutchinson.

Two years old heifer.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, F. Strickland, Thirsk.

Yearling heifer.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, F. Strickland.

Fat ox, cow, or heifer of any age.—Prize, T. Crompton, Lowthorpe.

HORSES.

Hunting mare and foal.—First prize, H. Watson, Filey; second, Sir G. Cholmley, Bart., Boynton Hall.

Three years old hunting gelding.—First prize, J. P. Crompton, Bridlington; second, S. B. Robson, York.

Two years old hunting gelding or filly.—First prize, H. Watson, Newbegin, Filey; second, J. J. D. Jefferson, Thicket Priory, York.

One-year-old hunting gelding or filly.—First prize, Sir G. Cholmley, Boynton Hall; second, W. Hall, North Burton, York.

Coaching mare and foal.—First prize, J. Reader, Holme on Spalding Moor, York; second, J. Train, Aalaby, Hull.

Three years old coaching gelding.—First and second prizes, J. Johnson, Brigham, Driffield.

Three years old coaching filly.—Prize, J. Kirby, Burton Fields, Stamford Bridge.

Mare or gelding for agricultural purposes.—First prize, cup, W. H. Cranswick, Thorpholme; second, W. Stephenson, Cottingham.

Hackney mare and foal.—First prize, Mrs. Cook, Huggate, Pocklington; second, Mr. Aguello, Kirby, Market Weighton.

Three years old hackney gelding or filly.—First prize, W. Stephenson; second, J. Major, York.

Two years old hackney gelding or filly.—First prize, J. Wilde, Holme, York; second, J. Taylor, jun., Burton Agnes.

Mare or gelding for agricultural purposes.—First prize, cup, W. Tennant, Barlow, Selby; second, W. Tennant.

Mare and foal for agricultural purposes.—First prize, R. Wise, Bridlington; second, Mrs. Woodcock, Flambro' Head Farm.

Three years old agricultural gelding or filly.—First prize, T. Hornby, Wansford; second, J. Sawden, Bessingby.

Two years old agricultural gelding or filly.—First prize, G. Everingham, Brough; second, E. Nesfield, Scarbro'.

Nag or mare pony, not exceeding 14 hands high.—First prize, cup, J. W. Jordan, North Burton; second, J. Scott, South Cliff, Brough.

Nag or mare pony, not exceeding 12 hands high.—First prize, C. B. Hudson, Harpham; second, A. Blanshard, Whitton Brigg.

Hunting stallion.—First prize, W. H. Simpson, Market Weighton; second, H. Trowell, Preston, Hull.

Roadster stallion.—First prize, G. and D. Bourdas, Bridlington; second, R. Cowton, Kelk, Lowthorpe.

Coaching stallion.—First prize, R. Harper, Risby, Beverley; second, J. Sherbourne, High Calton, York.

Stallion for agricultural purposes.—First prize, W. Robson, Old Malton; second, J. Johnson, Bempton.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Hunting mare or gelding, any age.—First prize, cup, H. Jewison, Raisthorpe, York (Palmerston); second, T. Darrell, Spicker's-hill, West Ayton, York. Highly commended: J. P. Cormpton, Thornhole, Bridlington.

Hunting mare or gelding, four years old.—Prize, cup, T. Darrell.

Best jumper of any description.—First prize, cup, W. W. Lovel, Nafferton Grange, Driffield; second, J. P. Crompton.

Lady's hack that has not won a prize.—Prize, 2 gs., W. Simpson, Bridlington.

PIGS.

Boar, large breed.—First prize, W. Lister, Armley, Leeds; second, G. Chapman, Seamer, Scarborough.

Sow or gilt, large breed.—First prize, Mr. Graham, Leeds; second, W. Lister.

Boar, middle breed.—First prize, Mr. Graham; second, G. Chapman.

Sow or gilt, middle breed.—First prize, W. Lister; second H. Blanshard, Malton.

THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.

MEETING AT INVERNESS.

It must be a matter of wonder to the older Highland Chiefs and the members of their clans, of whom there are here some grand specimens dressed in their picturesque costume, to see in this their Highland capital, 200 miles north of Edinburgh, such an exhibition of implements and stock as is now shown brought together. The first Agricultural Show which was held at Inverness was in 1831, at which time the total stock shown was 428, implements 4, premiums offered £318; whilst now the total stock is 1,597, implements 1,000, premiums £2,080: such has been the effect upon the Highland Society of the progress of enterprise and civilisation—aided, doubtless, most materially by the indefatigable exertions of the Society's past and present secretaries, who, with a small private staff of assistants, appear to bear or have borne upon their shoulders the whole management.

A great number of the implements were despatched by the exhibitors early in last week, and many of the cattle arrived on Saturday night; and thus, notwithstanding the limited facilities afforded by a single line of railway, and a little grumbling on the part of passengers, when the judges entered the yard on Tuesday everything appeared orderly and in its place. After a short committee-meeting, the judges were handed over to the care of attending members, policemen, and an army of men with ropes; and so despatched to their duties in a most methodical and characteristic manner. In the midst of their labours occurred a thunderstorm of almost tropical violence; the rain fell in torrents; the field being flat, was almost flooded; and directors, attending members, and judges might be seen clambering about from hurdle to hurdle in a most undignified manner, to escape the pools of water which threatened to swallow them up. The roof of the Grand Stand was struck with lightning, and then blown clean off by the wind; happily, without damage to man or beast.

The Shorthorn classes were well represented, and although there were several blank stalls amongst the aged bulls, yet that class cannot be said to have been badly represented, when two such bulls as Lord Irwin and the Duke of Aosta were in it. As might have been expected when two such champions met, each one had its admirers and friends; and we suspect that the judges themselves were somewhat divided in opinion as to which they should put first. We rather fancied the younger one, for he has beautiful quality, straight back, well-sprung ribs, and good flanks; whilst the old one is a little inclined to be gutty, and therefore, too, does not look so good in the flank; still, he is a great animal. Mr. Linton's two-year-old is a good quality beast, but what we

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thought the most promising bull in the Show was Mr. Browne's (of Chathill) yearling bull-calf Rosario, by Duke of Aosta. He is quite worthy of his sire, and, if lucky, will soon equal if not excel him. He is a trifle coarse in his horn, but will improve of that.

In the old cow class Her Majesty shows a very good-looking animal—Coldcream 4th; but she was not noticed by the judges; and Mr. R. Bruce took first prize with a very pretty little cow—good quality and back. Mr. Lawrence's entry is a fine, long, good-coated beast, and one not easy to beat in a competition. Her Majesty's first prize heifer is "little and good;" whilst Mr. Cran, a local breeder, does credit to his county by bringing forward Nectar in this class, and bearing off third prize. Mr. Marr shows a very beautiful heifer-calf, and the Duke of Richmond brings out a very nice couple. Indeed, the Shorthorns on this side of the Border are very good, and England will have to "look to herself;" for the Scotch have in their Shorthorns, not only size and quality, but also constitution, from the healthy manner in which they keep their stock.

Thus, on our road here, we stayed at Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochrie (well-known to tourists), and hearing Mr. Fisher had been a breeder of Shorthorns for twenty years, we asked him to show them to us. After a walk of about a mile, we arrived at a field of clover on a mountain-side, really divided only by a wall from the hill pasture of heather and woods. Here, to our astonishment, we found a splendid herd of Shorthorn cows and calves grazing, of pure Booth and Knightley blood, looking in good bloom and condition. And Mr. Fisher assured us that they had no artificial food, but only what they could pick up for themselves; adding that he had made up his mind to sell off the whole herd in October. We could not help thinking that those who want quality, size, and constitution should attend the sale.

One great feature in this show is the splendid class of Polled Angus: as we were told it was the best display ever seen. They have size and quality, and are also said to have good feeding and milking qualities—are hardy and appear to come early to maturity. The friends of the Galloway cattle, however, claim for them superiority in hardihood, milking, and feeding properties; but they appear to us to be coarser in quality and hair, and altogether not such "taking" animals. The first beast in the class was an old bull, which had won first prize at Kelso in 1872, a very large, long animal, but not in show condition, probably because in this class, as also in other classes, the bull and cow which have taken the Society's prize at a previous show appear to be brought up at the ensuing show to receive a gold medal without competition.

The Duke of Buccleuch bore off most of the prizes in the Galloway and Ayrshire classes, there not being a great show of Galloways. The Ayrshire entries were not large, but very good. The first-prize old bull is a fine beast, with capital quarters, but a little want of rib. Amongst the cows in milk cases were discovered in which their udders and teats had been "doctored" before entering the show-yard, for the purpose of improving their appearance. We are sure, in some cases, that the owners had not lent themselves to such a proceeding, and that the directors need only promulgate their views on the matter to exhibitors, and the practice will be stopped, especially if it were publicly notified that all cows would be examined by competent judges on their entry into the show-yard. Perhaps the best cow of this class was the Duke of Buccleuch's Modesty, though in point of size she was distanced by the second-prize cow belonging to Mr. Graham, of Paisley: to an Englishman's eye the latter appeared the more useful animal to breed from; but she is said to be almost too large for the pastures in the West.

The Highlanders were grand beasts, and a large class, Mr. John Stewart taking the gold medal for a magnificent black cow, seven years old. There appears to be some difficulty in this class, on account of the animals' wildness, in ascertaining their ages, and in making sure that no animal is shown in a class to which it is not entitled. The first-prize four-year-old fat ox, belonging to Sir W. Gordon Cumming, is a perfect mountain of flesh.

The show of Clydesdales was quite up to the average, especially when we remember that the breed has only of late years penetrated so far north as Inverness. We think Mr. Riddell's Never-Mind-Him a good horse, and fairly entitled to the first prize; but in the three-year-old class we can scarcely coincide with the judges' decision. Honest Sanday is a nice colt, but wants middle; whilst the second-prize horse is bigger and better in most of his points. The mares in foal were a very good class; and amongst the two-year-olds Mr. Hardie's filly was quite admirable. We thought Mr. Clarke's first-prize carriage horse looked more like hunting than "machinery;" while Sir Dudley Marjoribanks shows two nice harness horses, two roadsters, and a very good pony under 14 hands. But the chief sight of the day was a little roan pony under 12 hands, belonging to Miss Norton, Rannock Lodge—a perfect picture, like a beautiful miniature coach-horse, for which we understand the fortunate owner had £300 bid at Islington. The hunters were not good, and the leaping a failure.

The sheep at the show consisted chiefly of Cheviot, Border Leicester, and Blackfaced or Mountain sheep; of which three classes there was a good and large display. To begin with the Cheviots, it struck us that no animal appeared more capable of improvement by care and breeding than this. One could scarcely suppose that some of the prize animals here were of the same genus as those one occasionally sees hawked about at markets under the name of Cheviots. The first-prize tup above one shear was a beautiful short-legged, good-woolled animal, full of mutton, really almost fit, as far as shape went, to compete as a Southdown. The first-prize shearling tup was a pretty sheep; but evidently his owner, Mr. Johnson, of Moffat, for some reason best known to himself had not given sufficient time or pains to get him into show condition, and we fancied the judges had shown considerable discrimination in selecting this sheep for the first prize. Amongst the blackfaced sections, Mr. Archibald, of Overshiels, showed some grand sheep, such as might produce first-class four-year-old wether mutton; and the Border Leicester was a good class. Mr. Thomas Foster, Northumberland, carried off the first prize amongst the tups above one shear with a fine large sheep, good quality and wool; whilst among the shearling tups we fancied Mr. Andrew Smith's sheep, who took the third prize, and also thought that if Sir George Dunbar could have brought up five gimmers as good as were four of his lot, he might have had a chance of bearing off the highest honours instead of only third. Mr. Colman showed two good tups in the Southdown class; if both first and second-prize sheep were somewhat deficient behind, and the latter also inclined to "run to gut," whilst his ewes were a very nice lot and of good character. We thought Mr. Colman's shepherd entitled to great credit for the way in which his sheep were got up. We observed in the Shropshire tup class that the judges did not award a first prize; as we presume they considered Lord Strathmore's sheep to which they awarded second prize did not not come up to the mark with regard to his back whilst possibly they considered the third prize sheep, somewhat coarse and short, and doubtlessly he had large slugs or horns. There was another very good three-shear

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sheep of Lord Strathmore's in the yard, but he was not qualified to compete, as he had won the Society's prize last year. The Strathmore gimmers (first prize) were good; but in this class, and in several other sections, the sheep's tails were cut off so short that it is impossible to know whether they would or not have had good docks. Amongst the cross-bred hoggs, there were three very good sheep exhibited by Mr. Sutherland, and got by a Shropshire tup out of Cheviot-Leicester ewes.

The implement show was large, but with nothing very worthy of noting for its novelty. There were Hughes' patent laid-corn lifter, a very useful-looking implement, invented by a Midland Counties tenant-farmer; Hope's improved stone-crusher, and the Sutherland plough, which we hope, by his Grace's kind invitation to the directors and judges, to see at work at Lairg. We understand the Duke intends to bring into cultivation by means of this plough one thousand acres a year at a cost of about £24 per acre, and it is supposed the rental value of the land afterwards will average about £1 per acre. His Grace is said to have 40,000 acres to work on.

The Inverness Show has certainly been a success in one way if not in another. Up to Wednesday evening the receipts were £600 short of those at Stirling last year, at the same period of the show; and yet Stirling meeting entailed a loss. We cannot conclude this letter without acknowledging the extreme kindness and courtesy with which we have been treated by every member of the Society with whom we have been brought in contact.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE—Shorthorns: J. Reid, Greystone, Alford, Aberdeen; J. Wood, Harewood Hill, Darlington: A. Young, Keir Mains, Dumblane. Polled Angus or Aberdeen: The Hon. Charles Carnegie; R. Hampton, Castle Fraser, Aberdeen; G. J. Walker, Portlethen, Aberdeen. Galloways: M. Clark, Culmain, Crocketford; W. Routledge, Elrig, Port William. Ayrshire: H. D. B. Hyslop, Tower, Sanquhar; H. Kirkwood, Killermont, Maryhill, Glasgow; D. Tweedie, Castle Crawford, Abington. Highland: D. Fayer, Knowehead, Campsie, J. M'Arthur, Accurach, Inverary; D. Stewart, Achalader, Tyndrum. Fat stock: M. Elliot, flesher, Inverness; J. Geddes, Orbliston, Fochabers; A. Mitchell, Alloa. HORSES—For agricultural purposes: S. Clark, Manswrae, Kilbarchan; J. Dove, Crosshall, Coldstream; L. Drew, Merryton, Hamilton. Hunters, roadsters, and ponies: J. Hope, Duddingston, Edinburgh; N. Milne, Faldenside, Melrose; A. Gillon, Wallhouse. SHEEP—Cheviot: G. Maccall, Burrance, Lockerbie; J. Miller, Downreay, Thurso; J. Scott, Delorain, Selkirk. Blackfaced: [As for Highland cattle.] Border, Leicester, and other longwoolled sheep; T. Ferguson, Kennocktay, Coupar Angus; R. Hardie, Harrietfield, Kelso; T. Harris, Stoneylane, Bromsgrove. Southdown, Shropshire, and other shortwoolled sheep: R. Scot Skirving, Camptown, Drem; R. C. Yeoman, Marske Hall, Marske, Yorkshire. PIGS: J. Gibson, Woolmet, Dalkeith; C. Small Keir, Kindrogan, Pitlochrie; P. B. Swinton, Holyn Bank, Haddington. COLLIE DOGS: Cluny Macpherson, Cluny Castle, Kingussie J. Blake, Dunrobin Mains, Golspie. IMPLEMENTS—The Society's inspecting committee: W. Hunter, Thurston; D. Stevenson, C.E.; J. D. Park, Edinburgh; Professor Wilson, Edinburgh; J. Munro, Fairnington, Kelso; T. Mylne, Nyddrie Mains; R. Wilson, Durn, Perth; R. Hutchinson, Carlowrie, Kirkliston.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bulls calved before 1st January, 1872.—First prize, R. Bruce, Newton of Stuthers, Forres; second, A. H. Browne, Doxford, Chathill, Northumberland; third, W. Marr, Uppermill, Tarves; fourth, W. Scott, Glendronach, Huntly.

Bulls calved after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, W Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York; second, J. Fletcher, Rosehaugh Avoch; third, E. Baillie, Dochfour, Inverness.

Bulls calved after 1st January, 1873.—First prize, A. H. Browne; second, J. Bruce, Burnside, Fochabers; third, E. Baillie; fourth, R. Scott, Manbean, Elgin.

First prize cows at former shows, exhibited for medium gold medal (Stirling, 1873), when the property of present exhibitors.—A. H. Browne.

Cows of any age.—First prize, R. Bruce; second, W. Mitchells, Aucnagathle; third, J. Cran, Kirkton, Inverness; fourth, J. Laurence, Thornhill, Forres.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, The Queen; second, W. S. Marr, Uppermill; third, J. Cran; fourth, A. Longmore, Retrie, Banff.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1873.—First prize, W. S. Marr; second, The Duke of Richmond, Gordon Castle, Fochabers; third, J. Bruce; fourth, J. J. Sharpe, Broughton, Kettering, Northampton.

POLLED ANGUS OR ABERDEEN.

First prize bulls at former shows, exhibited for medium gold medal (Kelso, 1872), Sir G. Macpherson Grant, of Ballindalloch, Bart. (Adrian).

Bull calved before 1st January, 1872.—First prize, A. Bowie, Mains of Kelly, Arbroath; second, the Earl of Fife, K.T., Duff House; third, Sir G. Macpherson Grant; fourth, W. Robertson, Burnside, Ballindalloch.

Bulls calved after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, J. Scott, Easter Tulloch, Stonehaven; second, G. Reid, Baads, Paterculter; third, G. Gordon, Tullochhallum, Dufftown; fourth, J. Morrison, Auchlen, Turriff.

Bulls calved after 1st January, 1873.—First prize, The Earl of Fife; second, G. Reid; third, W. M'Combie, Easter Skene; fourth, W. J. Taylor, Rothiemay House, Huntly.

First prize cows at former shows, exhibited for medium gold medal (Stirling, 1873), when the property of the present exhibitor, Sir G. Macpherson Grant (Bertha).

Cows of any age.—First prize, W. Taylor, Rothiemay House; second, Earl of Fife; third, Sir G. Macpherson Grant; fourth, Marquis of Huntly, Aboyne Castle.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1872.—First and second prizes, Earl of Fife; third, W. M. Skinner, Drumin, Ballindalloch; fourth, G. Reid.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1873.—First and second prizes, G. Read; third, the Earl of Fife; fourth, the Marquis of Huntly.

GALLOWAYS.

First prize bull at former shows, exhibited for medium gold medal (Stirling, 1873), when the property of the present exhibitor, J. Cunningham, Tarbreoch, Dalbeattie (Pretender).

Bulls calved before 1st January, 1873.—First prize, The Duke of Buccleuch; second, R. Jardine, Castlemilk; third, G. Graham, Oakbank, Longtown (breeder of the best bull).

First prize cows at former shows exhibited for medium gold medal (Stirling, 1873), when the property of the present exhibitor, The Duke of Buccleuch (Louisa 2nd).

Cows of any age.—First and second prizes, the Duke of Buccleuch; third, F. Graham, Parceltown, Longtown.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, the Duke of Buccleuch; second and third, J. Cunningham.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1873.—First and second prizes, the Duke of Buccleuch; third, J. Cunningham.

AYRSHIRE.

Bulls calved before 1st January, 1873.—First prize, the Duke of Buccleuch; second, R. Wardrope, Garlaff, Cumnock; third, D. Edmond, Ballochruin, Balfron; fourth, Sir M. S. Stewart, Ardgowan.

First-prize cows at former shows, exhibited for medium gold medal (Stirling, 1873), when in milk, and the property of the present exhibitor.—R. Wilson, Forehouse, Kilbarchan (Hornie).

Cows in milk, of any age.—First prize, Duke of Buccleuch; second, R. Wilson; third, Duke of Buccleuch; fourth, Duchess Dowager of Athole.

Cows in calf, of any age, or heifers in calf, calved before 1st January, 1872.—First prize, Duke of Buccleuch; second, J Graham, Oldsmithhills-street, Paisley; third, D. Ross. fourth, J. Stewart, Burnside Cottage, Strathaven.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, Duke of Buccleuch; second, W. M. Ure, Bogton, Falkirk; third, J. Stewart; fourth, Duke of Buccleuch.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1872.—First, second, and third prizes, Duke of Buccleuch; fourth, J. Stewart.

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HIGHLAND.

First-prize bulls at former shows, exhibited for medium gold medal (Kelso, 1872), when the property of the present exhibiter.—The Hon. Lady Menzies, Rannoch Lodge, Pitlochrie (Rannoch).

Bulls calved before 1st January, 1871.—First prize, Duke of Athole; second, A. Stevenson, Lochawe; third, Cluny Macpherson; fourth, Duke of Sutherland.

Bulls calved after 1st January, 1871.—First prize, J. Grant, Inverlaidnan, Carrbridge; second, the Earl of Seafield; third, W. Fraser, Lairg; fourth, Duke of Sutherland.

Bulls calved after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, J. Stewart, Bochastle, Callander; second, Lord Middleton, Lochcarron; third and fourth, J. Stewart, Portree.

Bulls calved after 1st January, 1873.—First prize, A. Stewart, Essay, Stornoway; second and third, Earl of Seafield; fourth, Colonel Greenhill Gardyne, Mull.

Cows of any age.—First and second prizes, Duke of Athole; third, J. Stewart; fourth, Earl of Seafield.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1871.—First prize, Duke of Athole; second, J. Stewart; third, Hugh Mann, Meadowfield, Nairn; fourth, Earl of Seafield.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, J. Stewart; second, Duke of Athole; third, Earl of Seafield; fourth, C. M. Campbell, Ballimore.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1873.—First prize, J. Stewart; second, third, and fourth, Earl of Seafield.

FAT STOCK.

Shorthorn oxen calved after 1st January, 1871.—First prize, R. Bruce, Newton-of-Struthers; second, J. Cran, Kirkton, Inverness.

Shorthorn oxen calved after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, R. H. Harris, Earnhill, Forres.

Highland oxen calved after 1st January, 1870.—First prize, Sir W. G. Cumming, Altyre; second, Duke of Sutherland; third, Earl of Seafield. Commended: Sir D. C. Majoribanks, Guisachan, M.P.

Highland oxen calved after 1st January, 1871.—First prize, Sir W. G. Cumming; second, Sir D. C. Majoribanks; third, E. Baillie, Dochfour. Commended: Sir D. C. Majoribanks.

Oxen of any other pure or cross breed calved after 1st January, 1871.—First prize, A. Mathieson, Ardross, M.P.; second, A. Munro, Ord, Invergordon; third, J. and W. Martin, Aberdeen.

Oxen of any pure or cross breed calved after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, Messrs. J. and W. Martin; second, J. Cran, Kirkton; third, W. Brown, Linkwood, Elgin.

Cross-bred heifers calved after 1st January, 1871.—First prize, G. Grant, Pollo, Invergordon.

Cross-bred heifers calved after 1st January, 1872.—J. Cran, second, J. and W. Martin.

EXTRA CATTLE.

Highly commended and minor gold medal: R. H. Harris, (Short-horn). Highly commended and silver medal: R. H. Harris (Devon). Commended and medium medals awarded: Earl of Seafield (Highland).

HORSES.

HORSES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Stallions, foaled before 1st January, 1871.—First prize, D. Riddell, Kilbowie; second, J. Duncan, Methlick, Aberdeen; third, D. Riddell; fourth, P. Crawford, Drumgoyack, Strathbarne.

Entire colts, foaled after 1st January, 1871.—First prize, D. Riddell; second, R. Andrews, Allen, Paisley; third, R. Brewster, Bridge of Weir; fourth, A. M. Ogilvy, Tillinaught, Portsoy.

Entire colts, foaled after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, R. Brewster; second, D. Riddell; third, R. Andrews; fourth, the Earl of Strathmore, Glamis.

Entire colts, foaled after 1st January, 1873.—First prize, D. Riddell; second, A. Weir, Newhouse Mill, Kilbridge; third, J. Lawrence, Thornhill, Forres; fourth, Sir W. G. Gordon Cumming of Altyre.

Mares (with foal at foot), foaled before the 1st January, 1871.—First prize, J. Sutor, Collie, Orton, Fochabers; second, A. Munro, Ord, Invergordon; third and fourth, J. Lawrence.

Mare (in foal) foaled before 1st January, 1871.—First prize, R. Murdoch, Hallside, Newton, Cambuslang; second, A. K. Leitch, Inchsteeley, Forres; third, A. Montgomery, Boreland, Castle Douglas; fourth, J. Hendrie, Castle Heather, Inverness.

Fillies foaled after 1st January, 1871.—First prize, A. Buchanan, Garscadden Mains, New Kilpatrick; second, P. Beattie, Dunnydeer, Insch; third, E. Baillie of Dochfour, Inverness; fourth, A. Munro.

Fillies, foaled after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, W. Hardie, Borrowstoun Mains, Linlithgow; second, Earl of Strathmore; third, J. R. Mitchell, Drynie, Inverness; fourth, P. Beattie.

Fillies, foaled after January, 1872.—First prize, H. D. Adamson, Dalquaharn, Alford; second, Earl of Strathmore; third, D. G. Forbes of Milburn, Inverness.

Draught geldings, foaled after 1st January, 1872.—First prize, J. Miller, Seafield, Cullen; second, D. G. C. Scott, Park of Inches, Inverness; third, J. M'Lennan, Fortaighty, Nairn.

HUNTERS AND ROADSTERS.

Mares or geldings, suitable for the field, foaled before January, 1871.—First prize, E. Mather, Glendruich, Inverness; second, A. M. M'Intosh, Moyhall, Inverness; third, R. Walker, Altyre, Forres.

Mares or geldings, suitable for carriage, foaled before 1st January, 1871.—First prize, A. M. Clark, Middat, Parkhill; second, R. Walker; third, Sir D. C. Majoribanks, M.P., of Guirachan.

Mares or geldings, suitable as hackneys or roadsters, between 14 and 15 hands high.—First and third prizes, Sir D. C. Majoribanks; second, A. G. Dallas, Dunsin, Inverness.

PONIES.

Mares or geldings, between 13 and 14 hands high.—First prize, Sir D. C. Majoribanks; second, D. A. M'Rae, Fernaig, Strome Ferry; third, M. E. Mather.

Mares or geldings, between 12 and 13 hands.—First prize F. Walker, Ness Castle, Inverness; second, T. P. Biscoe, Newton, Inverness; third, A. G. Dallas.

Entire stallions, 12 hands and under.—First prize, Miss A. Norton, Rannoch Lodge, Pitlochrie; second and third, Hon. Lady Menzies, Rannoch Lodge.

Mares or geldings, 12 hands and under.—First prize, E. M'Intosh, Daviot, Inverness; second, L. M'Lean, V.S., Inverness; third, R. Anderson, of Lochdhu Nairn.

EXTRA HORSES.

Thorough-bred stallion.—T. Bland, Greystone, Alford (Blucher) winner of the Society's £50 prize at Inverness in March last. Highly commended and silver medal awarded—D. Davidson, of Tulloch, Dingwall, for a mare and gelding; commended and medium silver medal awarded—J. Cameron, Kingussie.

SHEEP.

CHEVIOTS.

Tups, above one shear.—First prize, T. Welsh, Ericstane, Moffatt; second, J. Archibald, Glengelt, Lauder; third, J. A. Johnston, Archbank, Moffatt; fourth, J. Brydon, Kinnelhead, Moffatt.

Dinmont or shearling tups.—First, second, and fourth prizes, J. A. Johnston; third, J. Brydon.

Pens of ewes, above one shear, with lambs.—First prize, J. Brydon; second, W. Mitchell, Ribscill, Tongue; third, T. Elliott, Hindhope; fourth, D. Mundell, Strathbran, Dingwall.

Lambs.—First prize, T. Elliott; second, J. Brydon.

Pens of five shearling ewes or gimmers.—First prize, A. James, Glengeft; second, J. Boydon; third, T. Elliott; fourth, W. Mitchell.

Blackfaced tups, above one shear.—First and second prizes, J. Archibald, Overshiels, Stow; third and fourth, J. Greenshields, Westown, Leemahagow.

Dinmont or shearling tups.—First and third prizes, J. Archibald; second and fourth, J. Greenshields.

Pens of five ewes, above one shear, with lambs.—First and second prizes, J. Archibald; third and fourth, J. Macpherson, Clunas, Cawdor.

Lambs.—First and second prizes, J. Archibald.

Pens of five shearling ewes or gimmers.—First and second prizes, J. Archibald; third, P. Robertson, Achilty, Dingwall; fourth, J. Macpherson, Clunes.

BORDER LEICESTERS.

Tups above one shear.—First prize, T. Foster, Ellingham, Northumberland; second, third, and fourth, Capt. Warrand. Ferintosh.

Dinmont or shearling tups.—First, second, and fourth prizes, G. Torrance, Sisterpath, Dunse; third, A. Smith, Castlemains.

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Pens of five ewes, above one shear.—First prize, T. Simeonson, Blainslie: second, J. Nisbet, Lambden, Greenlaw; third, Sir G. Dunbar, Ackergill Tower.

Pens of five shearling ewes or gimmers.—First prize, G. Torrance; second, J. Hunter, Dipple; third, Sir G. Dunbar; fourth, J. Nisbet.

LONGWOOLLED, OTHER THAN BORDER LEICESTERS.

Tup, above one shear.—Frst prize, J. Gibson, Woolmet; second, E. Sutherland, Tannachie House, Fochabers; third, Lord Kinnaird, Rossie Priory.

Diamont or shearling tups.—First prize, J. Gibson; second E. Sutherland.

Pens of five shearling ewes or gimmers.—J. Gibson.

SOUTHDOWNS.

Tups of any age.—First and second prize, J. J. Coleman, M.P., Eastern Lodge Farm, Norwich.

Pens of five ewes, of any age, or gimmers.—J. J. Coleman, M.P.

SHROPSHIRES.

Tups of any age.—First prize, Earl of Strathmore, Glamis Castle, Forfar; second, E. Sutherland.

Pens of five ewes, of any age, or gimmers.—First prize, Earl of Strathmore; second, J. Gibson, Woolmet, Dalkeith; third, Earl of Strathmore.

EXTRA SECTIONS.

Pens of five Cheviot wethers, not above three shears.—First and second prizes, Duke of Sutherland.

Pens of ewes, blackfaced wethers, not above four years.—First prize, J. and W. Martin, Newmarket, Aberdeen; second, Earl of Seafield, Balmacaan, Drumnadrochit.

Pens of five wether hoggs, of any cross, not above one shear.—First prize, Sir W. G. Gordon Cumming, of Altyre; second, E. Sutherland.

Goat.—Commended, The Hon. Lady Menzies, Rannoch Lodge, Pitlochrie.

PIGS.

Boars, large breed.—First prize, R. E. Duckering, Nerthorpe, Kirton Lindsey; second, H. C. R. Davidson, younger of Tulloch, Inverbroom House, Lochbroom; third, W. Macdonald, Woodlands, Perth.

Boars, small breed.—First prize, R. E. Duckering; second, third, and fourth, J. Moir, Clark, Garthdee, Aberdeen.

Sows, large breed.—First prize, R. E. Duckering; second, J. M. Clark; third and fourth, W. Macdonald.

Sows, small breed.—First prize, J. M. Clark; second, R. E. Duckering; third, the Hon. Lady Menzies, Rannoch Lodge; fourth, J. M. Clark.

Pen of three Pigs, not exceeding eight months old, large breed.—First prize, J. M. Clark; second, R. E. Duckering; third, W. Macdonald.

Pen of three pigs, not above eight months old, small breed.—First prize, J. M. Clark; second, Lord Lovat, Beaufort Castle, Beauly.

COLLIE DOGS.

Dogs not exceeding six years old.—First prize, R. Bruce, Newton of Struthers, Forres; second, Sir G. Macpherson Grant, of Ballindalloch.

Bitches, not exceeding six years old.—First prize, J. Sinclair, Kintessack, Forres; second, J. Ogilvy, Rosevalley, Elgin.

The following are the implement awards:

SILVER MEDALS.—Alfred Hughes, Brompton Ash, Market Harborough, Northamptonshire, for set of corn lifters attached to a self-raking reaper; D. M. Osbone and Co., 41, Fox-street, Liverpool, for Kirby's two-wheel combined mower and reaper, fitted with jointed or hinged frame, by which breakage is avoided when cutting over rough land; Samuelson and Co., Britannia Works, Banbury, Oxfordshire, for patent original self-raking reaper; Walter A. Wood, 36, Worship-street, London, for new self-delivery reaper; Lillie and Elder, Tweedmouth, Berwick-on-Tweed, for patent mangold and turnip sower; G. W. Murray and Co., Banff, for "Tiny" hand thrasher, with new shaker; Naughty and M'Kimmie, Dingwall, for Lorne dog-cart, with registered shaft adjuster to suit any size of horse; Pickaley, Sims, and Co., Bedford Foundry, Leigh, for general collection; Richmond and Chandler, Miller-street, Salford, for chaff-cutter No. 65; J. Sellar and Sons, Elgin, for collection of agricultural implements, &c.; Thomas Gibson and Son, Bainfield, Edinburgh, for wrought-iron fieldgate, with framework of T iron and collection; Mactavish and Mackintosh, implement merchants, Inverness, for collection; the Northern Agricultural Implement and Foundry Company, Inverness, for collection; John Fowler and Co., Leeds, for Sutherland plough for reclamation of waste land and roundabout set of implements for steam cultivation; ditto, for collection; Arthur Hope, Victoria Foundry, Edinburgh, for stone-breaking machine; Robey and Co., Lincoln, for collection.

MEDIUM SILVER MEDALS.—Williamson Brothers, Kendal, for three-horse-power fixed combined thrashing, shaking, and winnowing machine; A. J. Main and Co., Glasgow and Edinburgh, for Ransomes, Sims, and Head's Star horse-rake; Murray and Co., Banff, for turnip sower; Haughton and Thomson, Carlisle, for new patent self-acting hay-rake and collector; John Kennedy, Balmacaan, Inverness, for the Glen Urquhart straining posts, &c.; Lindsay and Anderson, Lilliehill Fire-Clay Works, Dunfermline, for pressure pipes, irrigation pipes, and collection; Robert Mitchell and Son, Peterhead, for collection; T. Pirie and Co., Kinmundy, Aberdeenshire, for collection; Ben. Reid and Co., Aberdeen, for collection; George Sellar and Son, Huntly, for collection.

MINOR SILVER MEDALS.—John Crowley and Co., Sheffield, for chaffcutter, invented by Samuel Edwards, Salford; John Unite, Edgware-road, London, for horse cloths.

RECOMMENDED FOR TRIAL.—John Richardson, Carlisle, grass seed dressing machine; Thomas Hunter, Maybole, Ayrshire, patent double-drill turnip-thinning machines; George Sellar and Son, Huntly, turnip-raiser; Robert Willacy, Preston, cart fitted with patent manure spreader, and machine for spreading artificial manures; John Fowler and Co., Leeds, turnip-lifter. The above are recommended by the Inspecting Committee for trial in a convenient locality, and at a season of the year suitable for their operation. The Local Committee have selected the reaping machine in the yard and Hughes' patent lifter for trial, the arrangements for which will be carried out by the committee.

THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND'S RECLAMATIONS.

[SPECIALLY COMMUNICATED.]

On Friday, the last day of July, by the invitation of the Duke of Sutherland, a deputation from the Highland Society, accompanied by a large number of others interested in agriculture went by special train from Inverness to view the extensive operations which his Grace is carrying on for the purpose of bringing under cultivation a large tract of his moor land at Lairg.

The train left Inverness at 8.10 a.m., but on account partly of the stoppages made on the way to pick up fresh and numerous passengers, and partly on account of the sublime indifference to time which characterises the Highland Railway Company, we did not arrive at Lairg until considerably after the expected time. Having then proceeded by road from the station to the Loch (Shin) we sailed up to the scene of operation in his Grace's steam yacht "The Midge"—at least that was we understood the English of the Gaelic characters emblazoned on her flag—our progress being somewhat slow owing to a large barge being lashed to us full of enterprising agriculturists.

The first operation (where required) is to clear the land of trees. This is done apparently with the utmost facility by means of steam power. A chain attached to the rope belonging to the steam engine, and composed of steel wire, is fastened round three or four trees, which are then torn up, roots and all, by the engine, and taken away with as much ease as a man would pull up mushrooms. Nothing we had previously seen gave us such an idea of the stupendous power of steam—though of course the trees were not *very* large, nor their roots very deeply fixed. The plough has a sort of double share with one breast turning on a hinge, so that it can work both ways. At each end in front of the share there is a large steel wheel, which cuts through the turf or heather, and makes a line in which the share follows; in addition, at each end, behind the plough, there is a drag—something like a ship's anchor—which pulls up the stones, and also acts as

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a subsoiler. The plough has four wheels (two on each side), perhaps three feet broad, which prevent it from overturning, and one of which acts as a presser on the furrow after being turned up by the plough. This presser is on the whole necessary and advantageous, as it consolidates the land, and keeps in its proper place the enormous furrow, one, we should say, 18 inches broad by 10 inches deep, which might otherwise fall back again; still we fancied this presser with its enormous weight left the land laid almost too flat, and would thereby prevent the winter frost from having its full effect in mellowing the soil. The plough is said to be able to turn up about 1½ acre per day, which we think probable; because, although the pace does not appear much greater than that of an ordinary horse plough, the furrow is considerably broader.

It was wonderful to see the plough going over stony ground, turning up many large stones, and passing over, without any apparent damage to the machine, the rocks that were too large for it to move. The work was well done, though once or twice we observed in soft places the soil was pushed along for a *short distance* in front of the plough, instead of being turned clearly over.

After the plough followed a number of labourers to pick the stones out of the open furrow and throw them back.

Another very simple, but most useful implement was the machine for gathering the stones off the land; also worked by the steam engines. It is something like a box, without a lid, covered in at the ends, open in the middle, and slightly curved, like the rockers on a rocking-chair. This is dragged over the land upside down, and collects a large number of stones underneath it. It is then turned over by steam power; the stones are thrown into it by hand; and it is then dragged away, and discharges its load where stones are required for fencing or building.

Wide open drains are being made, as *main* drains, in various places by manual labour to carry off the water; whilst an implement, again worked by steam, is used to assist in making the sub-drains. This is also something ike an anchor, with two small wheels in front, and by bringing it along the same line twice, the soil is *loosened* to a depth of about three feet. The rest of the cutting and the throwing out of the soil is done by labourers. We thought this implement still in its infancy, and capable of great improvement. The rocks and roots of trees, which are too large to be taken out by steam power, are blasted with dynamite.

The cost of the works, including clearing, ploughing, draining, buildings, fencing, and road making, is estimated at from £23 to £25 per acre; while the Duke deserves great credit for his energy and public spirit in undertaking such enormous works, by which he will confer considerable benefit on the country; but as to whether, as a mere question of profit and loss, these works will be a success we do not venture to express an opinion; certainly the crops on the land which was cultivated last year are very good, both oats and turnips, and we thought some of the land where the turnips were growing appeared of a very nice mixed soil. The land which is at present under cultivation varies much in character and quality: some of the stuff which is turned up is clayey, some mixed with a sort of a weak whitish sand, some peat (which, by-the-bye is burned in the engines), and did we not know by experience that mow land is sometimes much better than it appears, we should say that a good deal of it would scarcely pay for cultivation.

The climate is probably better than a stranger would imagine in such a northern region, as the land does not lie at a high elevation, and the severity of the frost is mitigated by its proximity to the Gulf tream and the sea.

Both the Duke and the chief directors of the works were most kind and anxious that we should see and understand everything, and after the inspection was over his Grace entertained the whole party at luncheon.

The deputation appointed by the directors of the Highland Society consisted of Colonel Fraser, of Aldowrie; Mr. Robertson, of Kindrace; Sir Kenneth Mackenzie, of Gairloch; Sir G. Macpherson Grant, of Ballindalloch; Mr. Erskine, of Cardross; Mr. Munro, Farnington, Kelso; Mr. Swinton, factor for the Marquis of Tweeddale; Mr. Hutchison, Carlowrie; Mr. Park, engineer to the Society; Principal Williams, New Veterinary College, Edinburgh; Mr. Henderson, Steamster; and Mr. Wilson, The Duru, Perth. Among others were Lord Middleton; Mr. Dallas, of Dunain; Captain Fraser, of Palmain; Mr. Dunbar, Brawl Castle; Mr. Purves, Rhifail; and Wm. Strong, W.S., Edinburgh; Mr. Tait, C.E., Thurso; Mr. Wm. Reid (of Messrs. B. Reid & Co.), Aberdeen; Mr. Mackay, Melness; Mr. Murray, Banff Foundry; Mr. Mackay, Shepick; Mr. Smith, Whittingham; Dr. Carruthers, Inverness; and many more.

AGRICULTURE IN INVERNESS.

Perhaps in no quarter of Great Britain could there be found so great a diversity of climate, soil, and configuration of the land. Not only is Inverness-shire the largest county in Scotland, but it has the largest area of land under heath, and contains the loftiest mountain in the United Kingdom. The shire is divided into two nearly equal parts by the great glen of Albyn or Glenmore, in the basin of which has been constructed the Caledonian Canal. North-west of the canal are to be found rugged hills, heathery moors, and treacherous morasses; while a large proportion of such agriculture as the county can boast is to be found in the south-east, besides stretches of well-cultivated land in the north-east. Notwithstanding the repeated visits of the Highland and Agricultural Society, and the exertions of reputable local associations, the system of farming pursued in the district may be regarded as third or even fourth rate. This remark applies, it should be explained, simply to arable farming. Only in a few parishes immediately surrounding Inverness can the tillage of the soil be said to be carried on according to scientific principles. Undoubtedly of late years considerable improvement has been effected, and, apart from the more immediate causes of this—such as a growing interest in agriculture as an art, the more scientific education of farmers, and the necessity engendered by keen competition—the opening of the Highland Railway in 1863 has no doubt had a great influence on the prosperity of the district. It is a noticeable circumstance, and at the same time a sad one, that with the improvements in tillage there has simultaneously been going on a decrease in the population. This statement, however, is as applicable to the Lothians as Inverness-shire. In 1841 the population of the county, which comprises an area of 4,256 square miles, or 2,723,501 acres, was 99,242; ten years later it was 96,500; in 1861 it had decreased to 88,888; and at the last census the number was 87,480. But while men have disappeared, wealth has accumulated; for, whereas at the Revolution the rental of the entire country only reached £6,099, it was in 1872 £296,353. It has been said that the soil is variable, and the truth of this may be judged from the fact that, while in Beauly there is excellent coarse land, upon which heavy crops of wheat and other cereals are raised; and in Strathglass and Strathfarar rich alluvial soil, which bears splendid crops of oats, barley, and turnips, the county also embraces the soil of Petty, which sometimes disappears with all the crops upon it before a stiff gale, and the barren rocks and shingle of the Western Isles. Agriculture never can advance unless good roads intersect a country, and the splendid macadamised roads which have been constructed in Inverness-shire during the last thirty years have in no small degree contributed to the steady progress of the country. Hovels which were the disgrace of Highland proprietors, and in a less degree of Highland farmers, are gradually giving place to

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spacious and commodious steadings. In the uplands, indeed, very little has yet been done to make farm buildings comfortable or commodious. Of course it may be said that the leading branch of enterprise in these higher districts is sheep farming, for which expensive buildings are unnecessary, and that, even where other stock is kept, Highland cattle form the bulk of it, and these require no stall feeding or warm housing to induce growth. There are, however, still far too many of the wretched shielings which belong properly to a past age. "In Badenoch, and especially in the Laggan district," says a recent agricultural writer, "not only the huts in which the cattle are sheltered from the winter blast, but also the dwelling-houses of some of the people, are constructed of at least three parts of turf. In the West Highlands, Skye included, it is no rarity to meet with the kitchen, parlour, bed-rooms, byre, barn, stable, pigsty, and poultry-house all under one roof, and in a very small compass." Previous to 1845 a complete farm court was only now and then to be met with, even in the best cultivated and highest-rented districts; but the noble example set by the Master of Lovat, the Earl of Moray, and the Earl of Seafield, has been followed by many of the great landed proprietors, and fair proportioned farm offices and houses are springing up in the straiths and glens of Inverness. Although leases have been common in the Lowlands of Scotland for two or three hundred years, it is not more than fifty years since they were granted in this county. As might be expected, during the reign of the chief of clans, feudal tenure prevailed and the patches of corn raised in the uncertain periods of peace between rival clans were cultivated jointly. After the attempt of the Young Chevalier to regain the throne of his fathers in 1745-46, an individual tenancy was introduced; but the occupants of the soil remained tenants at will till the absolute necessity of enterprise and capital to bring out of the soil the riches thereof induced the landlords, between 1810 and 1830, to grant leases. At first these ranged from five to fourteen years, but gradually as the short "tacks" expire, new leases are being granted for nineteen years. Even the crofters, who for a century or more have snatched a scanty livelihood from their small holdings by pursuing agriculture on the rude rig-and-furrow system, are beginning to feel the advantage of the impulse given by leases, and, especially on the mainland, these small farmers are now receiving a guaranteed tenure for ten or fourteen years. As a matter of course, they are thereby not only enabled to cultivate their ground under a better and more profitable system, but they are being gradually assisted to increase their holdings by the reclamation of waste land from the surrounding moors or bare hill-sides. All that can be said of the system of farming pursued before the introduction of leases was that the farmers took white crop after white crop off the land till the soil was quite impoverished, and then it was fallowed till it had sufficiently recovered to enable the ruinous system to be resumed. With the introduction of leases, however, the five-course rotation was brought into practice with benefit not only to the land, but to the tenants. In many places in the uplands and in the islands the tillage is as rude as the appliances are primitive. Indeed, it may be questioned whether even in the newest colony there are not more facilities for raising, ingathering, and preparing the crops. In the lowlands and fertile valleys of the Ness and Spey, thrashing machines are commonly to be met with, and of late years reaping machines have been employed in cutting the grain; but in Lochaber, Badenoch, and Glenelg most of the grain is thrashed by the flail, and, in the absence of barn fanners, advantage is taken of the passing breeze to separate the chaff from the corn. Even more primitive are the processes practised in some of the isles. There grain, raised by painful hand and spade labour, is cut with the sickle or scythe, and the stooks when ripened carried to the crofters' houses on the backs of women and children. And in the long winter evenings, instead of thrashing out the grain, the family sit around the glowing peat fire and pick the corn from the straw and chaff! Instead of the clumsy implement by courtesy entitled the plough, the drill plough and grubber are being introduced with advantage, and handsome farm carts are taking the place of the ancient wooden-axled box-cart, little larger than a wheelbarrow, or the creels which were slung over the backs of Highland ponies. As may have been gathered from the foregoing remarks, a large extent of land has during the past twenty or thirty years been reclaimed in the county. For instance, about 1845, not more than 40,000, out of the 2,723,501 acres in the county, were under a course of crops; whereas in 1872 the acreage cropped was 83,950, or, including bare fallow grass, 118,786. It must be remembered, in looking at these figures, that there are in the county 124,240 acres of rivers and lakes, 500,000 acres of wood, natural and planted, and 260,000 acres enclosed as deer forests. There are 1,700,000 acres covered with heath or bare rock, and the most of this land is of no value whatever except for grouse shooting, many portions being even useless for that. Among the districts where the most noteworthy reclamation of land has taken place are Moy, Croy, Ardersier, Drumore, Ness Castle, Dumnaglass, Dores, Stratherrick, the Valley of Glass, Glen Urquhart, Glenormiston, and Strathspey. The process in nearly all the districts has been that, after enclosing the land, the heather was burned, surface drainage secured, and the ground trenched and ploughed, the great difficulty being often experienced in removing stumps of ancient trees and large boulders which had got fixed in the soil. The land was then freely limed, and after being allowed to lie in a maiden-furrow for a year, was cropped. It should not be forgotten that in the island of Lewis Sir James Matheson has brought under cultivation over 3,000 acres which were formerly barren. Waiving the vexed question of deer *versus* sheep, we turn to a few statistics as to the grain produced in the county. In 1872 there were 1,778 acres under wheat, and that principally in the Aird and Beauly districts, as compared with 1,031 acres in 1866; 7,083 under barley or bere, 30,006 under oats, 1,081 under rye, 40 under beans, and 111 under peas—giving a total of 40,099 acres under corn crops. There were in the same year 19,254 acres under green crops, of which 8,423 acres were potatoes, 10,657 were turnips, 8 mangold, 2 carrots, 5 cabbage, and 159 vetches. In the county there were at the same date 8,371 horses, 47,038 cattle, 788,001 sheep—the highest number maintained by any county in Scotland except Argyll—and 5,099 pigs. The breed of cattle natural to the county is the Highland, and there are probably more animals of this type in Inverness-shire than in any other district north of the Tweed. The most extensive herd of pure Highlanders is at Faillie, seven miles south of Inverness, and there are herds of repute at Leys, Raigmore, Daltulloch, Castle Grant, Inverlaidnan, South Kinrara, Invertromie, Ballochroan. These are all on the mainland, but in the Western Islands are found not only the largest but probably the best Highland cattle. Perhaps the finest herd in Skye is that belonging to Mr. Stewart, at Duntulm, who can enumerate no fewer than a hundred grand, shaggy, and massive kyloes. At Claigan, Waternish, and Balranald, South Uist, there are also large and important herds. There are few Shorthorns in the county, but small herds have been established with beneficial effect at Kirton and Dochfour. Polled cattle are even fewer than Shorthorns, and only in one or two of the most advanced districts are there any Ayrshires. Among the sheep farmers of the county the breeds most in repute are blackfaces and Cheviots, the latter stock having of late years advanced much in favour with farmers. The rich pastures of Strathglass carry perhaps as fine Cheviots as are to be found in Britain, while other noteworthy districts are the Loch Arkaig Range, Inverlochy, Fassifern, and Errochd. The finest flocks of blackfaces are found in Laggan, Craigdhu, Aberarder, Glenspean, and Glenroy. Few Leicesters are to be met within the county, though on the lowlands and in the highly cultivated land a large number of half-breds are fed.—*The Scotsman.*

REAPING MACHINES IN FRANCE.—At another trial, held near Lubeck, where nineteen machines competed, Messrs. Johnston's harvester and reaper received each a first prize, Messrs. Williams and Wood second prize, and Messrs. Burdick and Buckeye a third prize.

REAPER TRIAL IN RUSSIA.—After six days' trial at Tamboff in Russia, the first prize, a gold medal, with 250 roubles, was awarded to W. A. Wood, of London, making eighteen prizes gained by these machines in 1874, including one in Germany, after a three days' trial.

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THE YORKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SHEFFIELD.

There is no place like Sheffield—at least we hope not—and fear the perpetual cloud of smoke in which it is always enveloped must have had something to do with the mapping out of the show ground, about the worst arranged that we have seen of the Yorkshire Society; for, with plenty of room for a nicely-connected exhibition of live-stock, the ground which ought to have been occupied by the cattle, sheep, and pigs was usurped by machinery and implements, and thus the cattle were shut off from the horses, and, in fact, made a show of themselves, not to be found without first looking at the plan in the catalogue. There, too, out of sight of the horse-ring and the stand, were most of the agricultural and coaching classes judged, instead of as heretofore, in a ring adjacent to that of the nags, where the public, with an eye to what was going on, could stroll from ring to ring, while the judges were debating over their verdicts. Then, on Thursday, the cattle were paraded at the same time as the nags, but in different rings, instead of before the stand, in the same ring as the horses. Surely, if the Royal can get judged, in one day an entry of 412 horses and 410 cattle, and on each consecutive day of the show parade the 822 in the same ring class after class, so that the public may see something for their money, the Yorkshire Society might have done as much with an entry of 264 horses and 107 cattle only, instead of spinning out the parade of horses from half-past ten in the morning until half-past three in the afternoon. Even then many a horse came out without a breast number, while others never made their appearance at all. Then the cattle had no breast numbers, and those on their heads, during the parade, were kept towards the official in the ring for his own special information. Adding to this that many a stall of an absentee was filled up by some animal sent for sale, and not in the catalogue, we must say that the management was very slack and a great falling off to the days when we had the pleasure of holding up the Yorkshire Society's show as a pattern for all. "Sims Reeves, this evening!" was posted all over the walls of the smoky town, and though rather an old and favourite star, still many an animal in the show-yard had been all over the country starring it, and was quite as well known as the great vocalist and his Pretty Jane. In fact, there are too many shows going by half; and as the Yorkshire comes on late in the year, it is but an abbreviated third, fourth, or fifth edition of some of the others, and consequently to the show-goer stale, flat, and unprofitable; while farmers from the horse part of the great county round Driffield did not hesitate in pronouncing it a very bad show of horses, and the aged hunters a disgrace to the county. We look for better things at Driffield next year; and if the public must go through the machinery and implements on their way to the show of live stock, do not let it be at the sacrifice of the animals, but keep them together by all means, and let us have no more unconnected, disjointed affairs.

The show of Shorthorns was good for Yorkshire, which does not mean a strong muster, although it will be seen many of them were old stagers, and the three prizes in the bulls of any age above three were an echo of the Royal verdict, the other competitors being Master Blithe, from Downham Market, whose rump was bare through being so often manipulated by the professors of touch, and Leeman, from Harefield. A novelty in the Shorthorns was the giving of prizes for the best *family* of Shorthorns, not including John Bull, the family man, but only Mrs. Bull and her *offspring*—a cow's offspring! O dear, how this world improves as we grow older; The tug of war laid between the fatherless families from Singleton Park and Bainesse, the first lot being Lancashire Ringlet, a nice cow, and two very taking daughters, Ringlet 4th by White Duke (32849) and Ringlet 5th by Flag of Ireland (28613), which have both been out before, but not the old lady who is by Bywell Victor (21353), dam by Lord of the Valley (14837), granddam Rose Duchess, by Red Duke (13571). The Catterick family was the well-known Sylvia and two daughters, Baroness Conyers by Baron Killerby, and Miss Fox by Royal Windsor. The other families were from Duffryn, Newport, The Manor House, Carperby, Broughton, and Kettering. In a good class of seven bulls above two and not exceeding three years old it was another repetition of the Royal edict, with the exception of Oxford Cheerboy, he third Royal, which was here beaten by General Wharfdale, though the General was only commended at Bedford, but he beat Robert Stephenson at Grantham. The other three were Newburgh 4th, King of Trumps, and Superb from the Halls of Thurcroft, Killerby, and Keele. The eight bulls above one and not exceeding two years old were headed by a Royal winner, the very good-looking Lord Godolphin, with Rapid Rhone taking second place in the absence of Prince Rupert, the third being the very good-looking Rosario; in fact, it was a good class, the others were Mr. B. St. Acker's Prince of the Blood, Baronet from Farnley, Otley, Telemachus VI., Windsor Crown from Carperby and Cambridge Duke IV. of Mr. Sharp, Broughton. In the bull-calves the second Royal was first, with Bright Knight, a small but neat third, at Lincoln, who here beat May King, the first there. Then there was Telemachus 9th, good looking, with quality, and three others.

Viviandere, Victoria Victrix, and Dairy Girl were the first three in the catalogue, and placed as they stood; the same thing occurring for the Oaks this year, the fillies coming in 1, 2, 3, as placed on the card. But we think it was a much nearer thing with the cows, as Vivandiere looked shelly, and Victoria Victrix the grander animal and of more wealthy appearance, while Dairy Girl made a very good third, backed by Lady Louisa from the same herd, with Moll Gwynne, Seagull, and Prize Bud well up. We could not see that that little bit of quality, Queen of Georgians, ought to have been put before Lady Playful or Rose of Wytham, while Baroness Conyers being in attendance on her dam Sylvia, let Royal Rose, who played second to her at the Royal, in for first honours. There were eight very nice heifers not exceeding two years old, five heifer-calves, three or four good dairy cows, and a couple of nice Alderneys.

The sheep were good, but the entries in many of the classes small. The Leicesters were represented by the well-known flocks of Messrs. George Turner, John Borton, T. H. Hutchinson, and W. Brown's, with an entry or two from Messrs. Kendall and Coulson. In the shearling rams some good sheep from the Manor House, Catterick, did not gain a place, but in the rams of any age a two-year-old bred by Mr. Hutchinson, and his only entry, beat three of the Thorpelands flock and the same number

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from Mr. Borton. The pens of five shearling gimmers were very neat and matchy with representatives from thep same flock. The Lincolns, mustering about sixty shee- all told, were good, and the following flockmasters com, peted: Messrs. Dudding, Cartwright, Wright, Newcomb-Pears, Howard, Byron, Lister, F. T. Turner. The shear ling rams were the best class, Mr. Cartwright winning with a fine sheep. There were only six old rams, the second being a coarse sheep. Messrs. Bosanquet, Tweedie, and Forster sent a few nice specimens of the Border Leicesters, the Ellingham ram of any age being a grand sheep. Of Shropshire Downs there were only a dozen—three shearling rams, four of any age, and a pen of five gimmers from the flocks of Messrs. Baker and Pilgrim, who sent some fair specimens. A few of Sir Edwin Landseer's models made up the show.

The pigs made a fair show, with a few remarkable specimens in the large breeds, with here and there one with a fleece of hair, but most of them of the useful type. Then there were some sleeping beauties of the small breed, while others to our mind were not improved by snouts like-unto a Blenheim spaniel's, and a few neat ones of the black breed, but scarcely a representative of the real Berkshire. There were chosen champions to do battle for the prizes from the piggeries of Lords Wharncliffe and Ellesmere, Messrs. Dove, Beswicke, Matthew Walker, Duckering, Garbutt, Nicholson, and Rose. Leaving the hogs to dream of milk and barley-meal, with critics occasionally rapping them over the shins, in the vain endeavour of getting them on their legs, by the assistance of the plan we get back to the horse ring, where we find the thoroughbred stallions Knowsley, Citadel, and Laughing Stock, three sons of Stockwell; Ploughboy, by Van Galen, out of Village Maid by Stockwell; Dickey Sam, by Oberon, dam by Stockwell; Cromwell, by Blair Athol, and Kelbourne, by Knowsley. "Blarm me, it's nought but Stockwell!" says a Yorkshireman; while we are thinking whether horses have gained as much in constitution as they have in inches since the days of some of the little ones, when Cartouch was only fourteen hands high, but could beat anything with 8 or 12 stone up when six and four-mile heats were in fashion—and which was the preferable horse, he or the *greatest* miler ever known? Although the thoroughbred, upon which we depend so much for the breed of our horses—and one may affect the whole breed of a kingdom in time—does not now run heats and long distances, still many of them do more galloping than the old ones ever did, and before they are anything like matured. In fact, they are oftentimes said to be fit when their insides have been nearly galloped out of them; and there have been instances when, through accident, a horse was obliged to be indulged with rest, so that the trainer could not *finish* him, that with 50, 60, and 70 to 1 against him, and no takers, he has won the great race of the year. It is not altogether the racing itself that has done so much to injure the constitution of our breed of horses as the ignorant training groom (we don't apply this to all) who, if he can get a goer with a constitution and legs of iron to stand his preparation, and win a race by a head, is an awful clever fellow, as there is nothing so successful as success with the world; but the world does not take the trouble to count upon its fingers how many patrons of the turf have sunk fortunes to keep such clever fellows going. Clever, indeed, for we recollect the time when race-horses, no matter of what constitution or the state of their bodies, were all put through the same strong physic to commence with, backed by the customary gallops and sweats, and we have seen stout-built high-spirited youngsters return washy, jaded, heartless things, like unto poor Smike, that Mrs. Squeers, of Yorkshire notoriety, over-dosed with brimstone and treacle. Of the winner, we said in our notice of the Grantham meeting—"Mr. Chaplin deserves the thanks of the county for the thoroughbred stallions he introduces into Lincolnshire, and Knowsley by Stockwell is really a grand horse, and none the worse for a heap of flesh taken off since we saw him at Oxord." The Hermit, Dalesman, and Snowstorm, with a slight stain in his pedigree, are also at Blanckney. Citadel we gave a full account of a few weeks back, when a winner in the London district and at Bedford; and so we have of Laughing Stock since he was first shown at Newcastle. Kelbourne is a neat horse, and Ploughboy useful, but Dicky Sam as leggy as a stork; while Cromwell might do some good, as there are many worse about, and lots of half-bred brutes, but he has not bone enough for getting weight-carrying hunters. He is a short, deep horse, rather high on the leg, very gay and showy, with wonderful flashy action for a thorough-bred, and if caparisoned as a light charger would be invaluable to any young swell fond of playing at soldiers, and winning glances from the eyes of the fair. Now come the hunters. O dear, O dear! what a falling-off is here to shows of yore! Take Beverley, when Dalesman was head man and there were 440 horses. To compare the two catalogues one would think the Society must be in a state of bankruptcy at the end of the week; but never was show-yard more crowded, and Sheffield young and old shove and push as if a disturbed wasps' nest was behind them. But it is the fashion in those parts, and nothing goes like "Fashion" in the coaching stallions, though Landmark is the more fashionable of the two, and Palestine useful, though scarcely with breed enough for the day, while Emperor could go as could Oma Pacha, which, with four more, made anything but a good class. Young Fireaway is a nice-sized roadster, and a good stepper, and three-year-old, but he had an old and a formidable rival in Merrylegs, a nice clean-made roadster, and a grand goer, of which stamp we should like to see more about. Young Lord Derby and several others were present, but not equal to the two placed.

Poor again were the cart horses for Yorkshire, though Young Champion from Stand Hall, a knight errant turns up everywhere, and we think it is time he started for Palestine. He here headed a baker's dozen, including the gaudy coloured Young Honest Tom, stepping out like a ballet-girl with his white stockings and blazing face, followed by Lincolnshire, a nice stamp of light cart-horse, if a little light in his second thighs; while Georgie, a neat moving Clydesdale, Honest Tom 2nd, and some other useful ones, made up the class. We should like to see some of these heavy fellows and their lasses in the traces at a standing pull just to ascertain if they have any pluck. Royal Tom, at the head of six two-year-old agricultural colts, is a stout-built horse with one toe in; Rainbow was nicely made and moved, and Mr. Johnson's colt was rather high on the leg. Jewell, a good-looking brood mare, headed five other useful active cart mares. The geldings, or mares not less than four years old or more than seven, for dray or lurry purposes numbered but eight, Prince being a compact, fine-looking horse with a grand forehand; the second and third were good, and so were Mr. Mappin's Stead and Mr. Thom's Bess. There was one very useful couple of two-year-olds, and two of the three-year-olds were good. Then the coaching classes were very small, and three nice mares and foals had as many prizes, and a couple of two-year-old geldings, the same while of fillies there were none. The three-year-old geldings were a stylish class, with some nice horses out of the eight; and the fillies of that age, numbering three, were a fair sample. Miss Polly, a cobby mare, and Fingall, a curious name for a mare, by Fingall, had form and action, and headed a class of five hackney brood mares and foals. It was next to a walk over for Mr. Harvey

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Bayly's Enterprize, which, after a successful career, never having been beaten, goes to Newburgh. The hackney mares and geldings made a fair show if not a large one, with Ozone or Zone, the Hull mare, first; but the mare of all others that shone on the Thursday was Mr. Stephenson's Princess, which is a well-known and nicemade mare, and a wonderful goer when let out, so much so that a Yorkshireman exclaimed, "That would make a sister of mercy look round." Mr. P. Hornby had a showy chesnut by False Alarm, that would suit the Shah. There were some fair ponies, and the son of Mr. James Hornsby, of Grantham, whose sky-blue agricultural implements are so well-known to travellers on the Great Northern, a very quiet, clever little horseman with good hands on a nice mannered pony, won his second pair of spurs, which will no doubt qualify him to act as a judge, so we hope to see him in the ring with both pair on. The Society must have had a suspicion of a short gathering as there were a few match pairs, and considering the ring was on the slope, and as they went bumping over ridge and furrow, it was undoubtedly a novelty. In the first ot Mr. Holmes won with a nice pair of bay carriage-horses fit for my Lady in town, but if we had a choice we should have taken Mr. Watson's browns, with nice character and easy, true steppers. The others were not a pair, but two odd ones, one having quiet gentlemanly action and the other being a very high, sharp, and angry goer. Mr. Holmes was again to the front with a neat pair of browns, backed by two decent pairs and an ordinary one. Mr. Horrocks Miller, with a very clever matchy pair of roan cobs, and a nice turn out altogether, could not have been more popular with the crowd had he been member for Sheffield, and was followed by two pretty white ponies with a dash of the Arabian in them, as well as being extraordinary steppers, and a nice pair of cobs from Beverley. Several of the pairs were very fresh and inclined to kick over the traces, but there was no runaway match, when the horse bolts with his rider, or the rider with the horse, and Lothair with Miss Love or Miss Love with Lothair, which upon mature consideration will be found not a distinction without a difference. The two-year-old hunters, as a class, were poor and small in numbers, although Mr. Hutchinson's Chatsworth is a fine grown colt, with action, and likely to grow into a weight-carrier, but we know not his sire Baron Cavendish although we do Cavendish well. It sounds to us like Shorthorn nomenclature, and hope the Baron is not a bull; while Sunshine, a first at Grantham, we said "is of good form, and could go, but has not wearing looking legs." Prince Imperial is a dark chesnut, and finely built, with the use of his legs, and out of the good-looking Lady Decanter, a first at Grantham, but here beaten by that gay deceiver Lady Derwent, a taker of hundreds of prize money, which we hope may gain more fame as a brood mare than she did as a hunter. Then, Mr. Hornby was in luck, getting third honours with the very prettily-made blood hack Lioness, but of no substance to breed hunters up to any weight. Undoubtedly this was an error in putting her before Go-ahead, as old as she is, or the slashing looking, blood-like mare of Mr. Stephen Kirby, though her shoulder might be faulty, and her pedigree, which is imperfect in this form, "brown, ten years old, s. Newminster, d. by Melbourne." Mr. Hutchinson was again to the fore with a very nice brown two-year-old filly by Honesty, a winner of many races, beating Golden Horn, a chesnut of some form, with action, and a rather nice one of Mr. Preston's by Windham, and two others. In the three-year-olds, Talisman, a nag we met at Hull and Gainsborough last year, is a big-framed horse, very taking in spite of his bad colour, and here scores another first prize, seconded by a compactly-built brown from Killerby, and the rather plain Brackendale by Theobald. Mr. Danby's The President by Cain was worthy of notice.

Out of five three-year-olds the Gem was a neat stiff-built mare with a good action, and Lady Mary a very symmetrical blood-like filly; and of both we said a good word for at Grantham, where they were not placed. The four-year-olds were poor, and only nine in, with Cawton at their head, King of Diamonds second, and Duke of Connaught third. Cawton and King of Diamonds have been out several times this year, and we said we were not in love with them. The Duke of Connaught, Court Card, and Prize-taker can go. Seabreeze, Fairy, and Mr. Goodlass' mare were of fair form in a small class of six. The Jester and Marshal McMahon, two well-known prize horses, headed a very poor class, the Marshal shirking the parade, but he was not the only one absent. Mr. Nelson's King Charming moved, and to look at is very much of a gentleman and quite a man of business, and goes to Hasketon. Mr. Goody's Marguerite, a brown of nice form by the neat Grandmaster, could use her legs well. In the six-year-olds and upwards, up to not less than fifteen stone, Mr. Brady Nicholson's neat horse Wallet, by Wamba, that we said knew how to use his legs at Grantham, was fancied by several here; and a useful old-fashioned horse of Mr. Kitchin's, up to great weight at a certain pace, and with Emperor, a very middling one to look at, and two others, were headed by Iron King, started this year at Islington, and riddenby Lord Waterford on the sawdust, and here by Mr. Richardson, the well-known steeple-chase rider, whom he took unawares and sent over his head. We did not see this; but when the huntsman had dined, two or three got on him and galloped him round the ring, and methink he is one of the most wooden nags we have seen since the days of Master of Arts and Voyager. As a standstill horse, no doubt he is up to more weight than the varmint Wallet, and so is the horse which George the Fourth strides in Trafalgar-square; but we doubt if they took Brummel's fat friend to a meet he would see much of a run in his slippers with no girths or stirrups. Amos Clarke, a goer and prizetaker of Sir George Wombwell's, a nice chesnut Flotanby that we fancy we have seen before; and the merry-going Treasurer, with a stout one from Raistorpe, but not like his namesake and well-known prizetaker Captain Heygate's Mountain Dew, which, with one or two more made up the class; barring Marmalade and Joe Bennett, two well-known prizetakers which the judges considered fifteen stone hunters, and were very properly ignored, as they ought to have been in the heavy-weights. Mr. A. L. Maynard, of Newton Hall, Durham, acted for Mr. H. Bolton; otherwise, it would have been Colonel Luttrel and Mr. Bolton, as at Hull last year and at Grantham a few days back. Now let the judges be the best or the worst in the world, it spoils all interest in a show to have the same on continually; and really it is not fair to defeated exhibitors who come in the expectation of having their cause tried over again before other judges.

There being no prizes for implements this section is never a very prominent one at a Yorkshire show but with the meeting on such a site as Sheffield, there was a better display in this way than is usually seen, the town itself being very strongly represented. The following firms had stands: Ashby, Jeffery, and Co., T. H. Ashton, R. Awdas, G. Bagshaw, J. G. Bass, Belcher, Gee, and Co., Beverley and Terry, E. and C. Blyde, J. Blyde, Boulton and Co., C. Bownes, R. J. Boyall, T. Bradford and Co., Burgess and Key, T. Burke and Co., H. Bushell, Bush and Co., Burys and Co., W. Carson and Son, J. Carter and Co. (seeds), G. Chevin, W. Clarke, Clayton and Shuttleworth, Coleman and Morton, J. Cooke, M. Cooper, J. Coultas, J.

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Cowley, J. Crowley and Co., W. Dale, Davis and Co., J. Davis and Co., Day, Son, and Hewitt, T. H. P. Dennis and Co., A. A. Dixon, Driffield Cake Co., H. Duffield, Easterbrook and Co., J. B. and T. Edlington, J. C. and J. S. Ellis, A. Fletcher, W. Foster and Co., Foster and Smurthwaite, T. Foster, J. Fowler and Co., E. P. Gilling, A. M. Graham, W. Genn, R. H. Haggard and Son, R. Hall (Stockton), R. Hall, Head, Wrightson, and Co., Heaps and Robinson, J. Heselwood, W. Hill and Co., W. H. Hilton, C. Hopkinson, W. Hopperton, R. Hornsby and Sons, R. Howard, J. Howard, Howes and Sons, J. Howlden, E. Humphreys, Hunt and Tawell, Hydes and Wigfull, H. Inman, H. and G. Kearsley, B. Kittmer, Lawrence and Co., J. Littlewood, H. C. Littlewood, Lyon and Co., J. T. McGrah, W. McKay, Maldon Iron Co., J. T. Markall, H. R. Marsden, R. Marsden, Marshall and Son, F. C. Matthews, W. Mattison, T. Myers, J. G. Needham, Newton, Chambers, and Co., J. Pickering, Pickaley and Sims, Penney and Co., W. Rainforth and Son, Ransomes and Sims, W. S. Redfern, T. Redmayne, W. E. Rendle, Reynolds and Co., Riches and Watts, W. Richardson and Co., Richmond and Chandler, Rimmington and Co., Robey and Co., Ross and Horrocks, Ruston and Procter, W. Sawney, R. Scholefield, J. W. Sears and Co., J. Shaw, jun., E. Sherwood, W. Smith, J. D. Snowden, Spear and Jackson, T. R. Starey, B. Stead, Steel and Garland, R. Store, Tasker and Son, Taylor and Co., Taylor Brothers, Taylor Sewing Machine Co., Thomas and Taylor, Thornton and Co., Tomlinson and Co., E. Tong, J. Turner, Wade and Cherry, W. Waide, T. B. Wales and Son, Wheeler and Wilson, B. Wheeler and Co., J. White and Co., S. Witkinson, Wilson and Sons, S. Windover, J. Winkley and Co., Winder Brothers, Wingfield and Co., E. B. Wood and Co., W. A. Wood, Wood and Cocksege, W. Wray and Sons, J. Yeardley,

LIST OF PRIZES.

JUDGES.—CATTLE—A. Mitchell, The Walk House, Alloa, N.B.; S. Rich, The Cedars, Fearnhall Heath, Worcester; T. Wetherell, Clay-path, Durham. SHEEP—J. H. Caswell, Loughton, Folkingham; C. Randall Chadbury, Evesham; F. Spencer, Alma House, Claybrook. PIGS—E. Little, Lenhill, Chippenham; J. Fisher, Carhead, Crosshills; J. Crabtree, Branch Hotel, Shipley, Leeds. HORSES—Hunters and roadsters: Col. Lutrell, Bagworth Court, Axbridge, Somerset: A. L. Maynard, Newton Hall, Durham; J. M. Richardson, Limber Magna, Ulceby, Lincolnshire.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Families of Shorthorns, to consist of cow of any age, and two or more of her offspring.—First prize, £50, J. Outhwaite, Bainesse, Catterick (Sylvia, and her offspring Baroness Conyers and Miss Fox); second, £25, T. H. Miller, Singleton Park, Lancashire (Ringlet II., and her offspring Ringlet IV. and Ringlet V.).

Bulls of any age above three years old.—First prize, £25, R. Bruce, Newton of Struthers, Farres (Lord Irwin); second, £10, Marquis of Exeter, Burghley Park, Stamford (Telemachus); third, £5, A. H. Browne, Doxford, Chathill (Duke of Aosta).

Bulls above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £20, W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton (Sir Arthur Ingram); second, £10, Messrs. Dudding, Panton House, Wragby, Lincoln (Robert Stephenson); third, £5, R. Moss, Whisby, Lincoln (General Wharfdale).

Bulls above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £20, J. Outhwaite (Lord Godolphin); second, £10, Lady Pigot, Branches Park, Newmarket (Rapid Rhone); third, £5, A. H. Browne (Rosario).

Bull calves above five and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £15, J. Outhwaite (Duke of Chamburg); second, £10, Lady Pigot (May King); third, £5, T. Rose, Melton Magna, Wymondham, Norfolk (Bright Knight).

Cows of any age above three years old, in calf or milk.—First prize, £25, J. Outhwaite (Vivandiere); second, £10, Lady Pigot (Victoria Victrix); third, £5, T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick (Dairy Girl).

Heifers not exceeding three years old in calf or milk.—First prize, £20, J. Thom, Lark Hill, Chorley (Royal Rose); second, £10, B. St. John Ackers, Prinknash Park, Painswick, Gloucestershire (Queen of the Georgians); third, £5, T. H. Hutchinson (Lady Playful).

Heifers not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £20, Lady Pigot (Rose of Lincoln); second, £10, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Whitefield, Manchester (Robin's Rose); third, £5, T. H. Hutchinson (Lady Alicia).

Heifer calves above five and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £15, B. St. John Ackers (Lady Carew); second, £10, Lady Pigot (Moorish Captive); third, £5, Marquis of Exeter (Queen of Ithaca).

DAIRY CATTLE.

Cow for dairy purposes.—First prize, £10, J. Fawcet, Beeston, Leeds (Moggey); second, £5, T. Statter.

Alderney, Jersey, or Guernsey cow or heifer, in calf or milk.—First prize, £10, and second £5, J. Brown, Rossington Hall, Bawtry (Landscape and Honesty).

SHEEP.

LEICESTERS.

Shearling rams.—First prize, £20, G. Turner, jun., Thorpelands, Northampton; second, £10, W. Brown, Highgate House, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, York; third, £5, I. Borton, Barton House, Barton-le-street, Malton.

Rams of any other age, £15, T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick; 2 and 3, £7 and £3, G. Turner, jun.

Pen of five shearling gimmers, £7, G. Turner, jun.; 2, £3, J. Borton.

LINCOLNS.

Shearling rams.—First and second prize, £15 and £7, T. Cartwright, Dunstan Pillar, Lincoln; third, £3, J. Pears, Mere, Lincoln.

Rams of any other age, £10, J. Pears; 2, £5, R. Wright, Nocton Heath, Lincoln.

Pen of five shearling gimmers, £10, J. Pears; 2, £5, W. Hesseltine, Braumont Cote, Barton-on-Humber.

BORDER LEICESTERS.

Shearling rams.—First and second prize, £15 and £7, Rev. R. W. Bosanquet, Rock, Alnwick.

Rams of any other age, £10, T. Forster, jun., Ellingham, Chathill; 2, Rev. R. W. Bosanquet, Rock, Alnwick.

Pen of five shearling gimmers, £10, Rev. R. W. Bosanquet; 2, £5, R. Tweedie, The Forest, Catterick.

SHROPSHIRE DOWNS.

Shearling rams.—First prize, £15, W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone; second, £7, S. C. Pilgrim, The Outwoods, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

Rams of any other age, £10, W. Baker; 2, £5, S. C. Pilgrim.

Pen of five shearling gimmers, £10, W. Baker.

MOUNTAIN SHEEP.

Rams of any age.—First prize, £10, J. Pickup, Rose, Cottage, Warter, Newchurch, Lancashire; second, £5, T. Waind, Ankness, Kirby-Moorside.

Pen of five breeding ewes, with lambs sucking, £5, T. Briggs, Guard House, Keighley.

PIGS.

TWELVE MONTHS OLD AND UPWARDS.

Boars of large breed.—First prize, J. Dove, Hambrook, Bristol; second, Earl of Ellesmere, Worsley Hall, Manchester.

Sows of large breed, in pig or milk, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Pyke House, Littleborough; 2, £2, R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton-in-Lindsey.

Boars, small breed, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; 2, £2, Earl of Ellesmere.

Sows, small breed, in pig or milk, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; 2, £2, R. E. Duckering.

Boars of best or Berkshire breed, £5, R. E. Duckering.

Sows, black or Berkshire breed, in pig or milk, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; 2, R. E. Duckering.

Boars of any breed, not qualified to compete in classes 26, 28, and 30, £5, Earl of Ellesmere; 2, £2, J. Collis, Hillfoot, Sheffield.

Sows of any breed, in pig or milk, not qualified to compete in classes 27, 29, and 31, £5, R. E. Duckering; 2, £2, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

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NOT EXCEEDING TWELVE MONTHS OLD.

Boar of large breed.—First prize, £5, J. Simpson, Freegate, Cowling, Skipton; second £2, Earl of Ellesmere, Worsley Hall, Manchester.

Sows of large breed, £5, Earl of Ellesmere; 2, £2, J. Garbutt, jun., South Cave, Borough.

Boars of small breed, £5, Earl of Ellesmere; 2, £2, J. Dove, Hambrook, Bristol.

Sows of small breed, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; 2, £2, Earl of Ellesmere.

Boars, black or Berkshire breed, £5, T. Rose, Melton Magna, Wymondham, Norfolk; 2, £2, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Sows of black or Berkshire breed, 1, £5, and 2, £2, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Pens of three breeding sows of any breed, from four to nine months old, £5, Earl of Ellesmere; £2, T. Rose.

HORSES.

Stallions, thoroughbred, for getting weight-carrying hunters.—First prize, £50, Henry Chaplin, M.P., Blankney Hall, Lincoln (Knowsley); second, £20, F. Barlow, Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk (Citadel); third, £10, R. Hutton, Gloucester-place, Portman-square, London (Laughing Stock).

Stallions for getting roadsters.—First prize, £10, W. Vary, Buckthorpe, Stamford-bridge, Yorkshire (Young Fireaway); second, £5, J. Gill, Howden Park, Silsden, Leeds (Merrylegs).

HUNTERS.

Two-year-old gelding.—First prize, £15, T. H. Hutchinson; second, £5, J. Everatt, Laughton, Gainsbrough (Sunshine).

Two-year-old filly.—First prize, £10, T. H. Hutchinson (May Queen); second, £5, S. R. Robson, Windle Beck, Ganton (Golden Horn).

Three years old geldings.—First prize, £25, J. M. Tattersall Musgrave, Beverley (Talisman); second, £10, J. B. Booth, Killerby, Catterick (Berwick); third, £5, J. P. Crompton, Thornholme, Burton Agnes, Hull (Brackendale).

Three years old fillies.—First prize, £15, J. Lett, Scampston, York (The Gem); second, £5, J. Goodliff, George Hotel, Huntingdon (Lady Mary).

Four years old geldings.—First prize, £30, Sir G. O. Wombwell, Bart., Newburgh, Easingwold, Cawton; second, £15, T. Darrell, West Ayton, York (King of Diamonds); third, £5, R. Nelson, Barton Hill House, York (Duke of Connaught).

Four years old mares.—First prize, Mrs. A. H. Browne, Doxford Hall, Chathill (Sea Breeze); second, C. Rose, Market Hill, Malton (Fairy); third, R. Goodlass, Willerby Ganton.

Five years old geldings or mares.—First prize, £30, T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick (Jester); second, £15, J. Goodliff, George Hotel, Huntingdon (Marshal MacMahon); third, £5, P. Hornsby, 9, Castlegate, Grantham (White Stockings).

Geldings or mares, six years old and upwards, and qualified to carry at least 15 stone with hounds.—First prize, £30, R. Hutton (Iron King); second, £10, B. Nicholson, Starton Grange, Garforth, Leeds (Wallet); third, £5, T. W. Jeffcock, Shire House, Sheffield (Emperor).

Geldings or mares, six years old and upwards, and qualified to carry not less than 12 stone with hounds.—First prize, £20, Sir G. O. Wombwell, Newburgh, Easingwold (Amos Clark); second, £10, G. Bingrosé, Flixton House, Ganton, Yorkshire (Flotmanby); third, £5, C. E. S. Cook, St. Catherine's, Doncaster (The Treasurer).

Stallions for getting coach horses.—First prize, £20, G. Burton, Thorpe Willoughby, Selby (The Fashion); second, £10, G. Holmes, Bar House, Beverley (Landmark); third, £5, F. Leake, Hotham Carrs, North Cave, Brough (Emperor).

Stallions for getting agricultural horses, three years old and upwards.—£20, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Whitfield, Manchester (Young Champion); second, £10, J. F. Crowther, Knowle Grove, Mirfield (Young Honest Tom); third, £5, J. Forshaw, Burley in Wharfedale, Leeds (Lincolnshire Hero).

Entire agricultural colts foaled in 1872.—First prize, £20, F. Long, Cliff House, Wetherby (Royal Tom); second, £10, S. Barker, Mart Hall, Doncaster (Rainboro); third, £5, W. and E. Johnson, Hatfield, Doncaster.

Brood mares for breeding hunters, with foals sucking.—First prize, £30, E. Hornby, Flotmanby, Ganton, Yorkshire (Lady Derwent); second, £15, H. Watson, Newbegin, Filey (Lady Decanter); third, £10, E. Hornby (Lioness).

Brood mares for breeding coach horses, with foals sucking.—First prize, £25, J. Reader, Beacon Farm, Holme, York; second, £10, J. T. Whitemoor, Selby (Wasp); third, £5, W. B. B. Bank, Sheffield (Fanny.)

Brood mares for breeding roadsters, with foals sucking.—First prize, £15, T. E. Morrell, Hellaby Hall, Rotheram (Miss Polly); second, £5, F. Cook, Thixendale, York.

Brood mares for breeding agricultural horses, with foals sucking.—First prize, £30 T. Appleyard, jun., Wistow Lordship, Selby (Jewel); second, £15, J. Thom, Sark Hill, Chorley (Jeanie); third, £10, T. H. Hutchinson (Jean); fourth, £5, C. Utiley, Stansfield Ash, Sheffield (Depper.)

HORSES FOR DRAY OR LURRY PURPOSES.

Geldings or mares, not less than 4 and not exceeding 7 years old.—First prize, £20, P. Stephenson, Rainton, Thirsk (Prince); second, £10, G. Wood, Hayfields, Doncaster (Violet); third, £5, T. Ward, Parkhouse Farm, Intake, Sheffield (Farmer).

HORSES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Two-year-old agricultural geldings or fillies.—First prize, £15, W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone.

Three-year- old agricultural geldings or fillies.—First prize, £15, W. Bramley, Amcotts Villa, Doncaster, Lincoln; second, £10, J. Staniforth, Paddocks Farm, Sheffield Park (Flower); third, £5, J. Smith, Humbarton, Borough Bridge (Prince.)

COACH HORSES.

Two-year-old geldings.—First prize, £10, T. Jackson, Deep Dale, Cayton, Scarborough (Talbot); second, £5, C. and J. Smith, Harthill, Kiveton Park, Sheffield.

Three-year-old geldings.—First prize, £20, J. Johnson, Brigham, Hull (Prince Charlie); second, £10, T. Plummer, Birdorth, Easingwold; third, £5, J. Kirby, Stamford Bridge, York (Royalty).

Three-year-old fillies.—First prize, £10, D. Wilson, Park House, Cottingham, Hull (Wild Flower); second, £5, J. Kirby (Flora.)

CARRIAGE HORSES AND PONIES.

(To be exhibited in harness.)

Match pairs, not less than 15½ hands high.—First prize, £30, G. Holmes, Bar House, Beverley; second, £10, H. E. Watson, Shirecliffe Hall, Sheffield; third, £5, J. Rogers, Abbeydale, Sheffield.

Match pairs, not less than 14½ and not exceeding 15½ hands high.—First prize, £20, G. Holmes; second, £10, G. Wilson, Banner Cross, Sheffield; third, £5, C. H. Firth, Givendale.

Match pairs of ponies, not exceeding 14½ hands high.—First prize, £20, T. H. Miller, Singleton Park, Poulton-le-Fylde; second, £10, Mrs. Trickett, Brinkland House, Sheffield; third, £5, G. Holmes.

ROADSTERS, HACKNEYS, AND PONIES.

Hackney or roadster, gelding or mare, from four to eight years old, equal to carry 15 stone.—First prize, £25, T. H. D. Bayley, Edwinstowe House, Ollerton (Enterprise); second, £10, J. Fairbrother, Attercliffe, Sheffield (Bob).

Hackney or roadster, gelding or mare, from four to eight years old, equal to carry 12 stone.—First prize, £15, F. C. Matthews, Driffield (Ozone); second, £10, W. H. Cranswick, Thornholme, Burton Agnes (The Pet).

Pony, gelding or mare, from four to eight years old, and not less than 12½ and not exceeding 14½ hands high.—First prize, £10, W. H. Blackman, Wressle, Howden, Yorkshire (Fairy); second, £5, R. Barker, Malton (My Lady).

Pony, any age or sex, not exceeding 12½ hands high, suitable for children, to be ridden in the ring by boys under fifteen years of age.—First prize, £10, H. T. Newcome, Kirkleatham Hall, Redcar (Jet); second, £5 and spurs, J. Hornby, Castlegate House, Grantham (Little Wonder).

HOUNDS.

JUDGES.—Colonel Fairfax, John Parrington, John Walker.

Unentered hound, pupped since 1st December, 1872, £15; to huntsman, £5.—First prize, the Quorn (Governor); second, the Grove (Ambrose).

Two couples of entered hounds, no hound being older than a seven-season hunter, £10; to the huntsman £3.—First prize, Earl of Eglinton (Lincoln, Gambler, Furrier, and Tuner); second, Lord Yarborough (Aider, Nathan, Gimcrack, and Rocket).

Stallion hound, not less than a two-season hunter, £5; to the huntsman, £3.—Prize, the Quorn (Alfred).

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Unentered hound, pupped since the 1st December, 1872, £15; to the huntsman, £5.—First prize, the Burton (Alice); second, the Grove (Amazon).

Two couples of entered hounds, no hound being older than a seven-season hunter, £10; to the huntsman, £3.—First prize, the Grove (Bridesmaid, Captive, Spinster, Languish); second, Earl of Yarborough (Glory, Gandy, Namesake, and Nimble).

Brood bitch, having reared a litter since the 1st December, 1873, £5; to the huntsman, £3.—First prize, the North Shropshire (Rocket); second, Earl of Yarborough (Gandy).

The champion cup, value twelve guineas.—Prize, the Barton (Alice).

SHOEING SMITHS.—Judges: T. Bowman, Croome, Sledmere; and W. Gadsby, Harewood, Leeds.—First prize, £5, J. Page, 5th Brigade Royal Artillery, Sheffield; second, £3, J. York, Malton; third, £2, Watson and Hodgson, White Hartyard, Wakefield; £3 for apprentice, T. Riley, Halifax.

At the meeting of the Council, Lord Auckland in the chair, there were three deputations—viz., from Driffield, Bridlington, and Howden. The show, it was pointed out, had never been at Driffield, but it had at Howden and Bridlington. Earl Cathcart proposed Howden, and Mr. Robert Swann seconded it. Major Worsley proposed that the 1875 show should be at Driffield, and Mr. Legard seconded. Mr. F. Bacon Frank proposed Bridlington, which found a seconder in Mr. Moorsome, of Harewood. The question was then put to the vote and taken by a show of hands, when by a large majority Driffield was selected for the show in 1875.

BELLE VUE CATTLE SHOW,

AT MANCHESTER.

Ten Shorthorn bulls over two and under four years old were shown, and the first prize went to Mr. George Fox, Harefield, Wilmslow, for Leeman, bred by Mr. Linton, of Sheriff Hutton. The second prize of £10 was obtained by Mr. Charles Beart, Stow Westhead Farm, Norfolk; and the third by Mr. Willis, Manor House, Carperby, Bedale, who was also commended. The class of yearling bulls was good, and the winner was Lord Godolphin. In the general competition for the champion bull of the show, Lord Godolphin carried off the prize cup. Second to him in his class was Baron Barrington III., shown by Mr. Thompson, Mythop Lodge, Blackpool; and Lady Pigot was third with Rapid Rhone. In the class of bull-calves, Hero, shown by Mr. Statter, was first; Baron Tregunter, shown by the Rev. P. Graham, Turncroft, Over Darwen, second; and Cheerboy II., shown by Mrs. Atkinson, Ribchester, third. For cows over three years old, Mr. Outhwaite's Vivandière was placed first in her class, and also obtained the silver cup offered for the best cow in the yard. Victoria Victrix was placed second, and Mr. Statter's Lady Graceful was third. The remaining prizes in the cattle classes were awarded as follow:

Heifer, exceeding two and not over three years old.—First prize, Lady Pigot (Rose of Wytham); second, T. Statter (Rosalbina 6th); third, J. R. Patterson, Hallbeck, Barrow-in-Furness.

Heifer, exceeding one and not over two years old.—First and second prizes, T. Statter (Robin's Rose and Robin's Stanley Rose); third, Lady Pigot.

Heifer calf.—First prize, G. Fox; second, C. W. Brierly, Rhodes House, Middleton; third, W. J. Legh, M.P.

Hereford bull.—First prise, H. N. Edwards, Broadward, Leominster; second, R. Tanner, Frodesley, Dorrington, Salop.

Devon, in calf or milk.—First and second prizes, T. L. Senior, Broughton, Aylesbury.

Hereford, in calf or milk.—First prize, R. Tanner; second, T. Nott, Selton, Brampton Brian, Hereford.

Other Breeds.—Bull: First prize, T. Statter. Cow: First and second prizes, T. Statter.

Channel Island cow.—First and second prizes, J. Pilling and Co., Davenport Green, Old Hall, Holes, Cheshire.

In the other classes the entry was very indifferent.

HORSES.

Thorough-bred stallion for getting hunters.—First prize, E. Stanley, The Height, Grange, Carnforth; second, Ambery and Cocklin, Wilmslow; third, T. Statter.

Thorough-bred stallion for getting agricultural, dray, or lorry horses.—No first prize awarded; second, J. and J. Wylde, Worth Hall, Poynton, Stockport.

Stallion colt foaled in 1872.—Prize, J. Braid, Bell Vue, Garstang.

Stallion for getting roadsters.—First prize, J. Gill, Howden Park, Leeds; second, T. Statter.

Brood mare for breeding hunters.—Prize, J. Moffat, Kirkbarton Park, Carlisle.

Mare for breeding draught horses.—First prize, J. Waterworth, North Ashton, Wigan; second, T. Statter.

Brood mare for breeding hackneys or roadsters.—First prize, T. E. Morrell, Rotherham; second and third, F. Cook, Thexendale, York.

Cart gelding or mare, four years old or upwards.—First, second, and third prizes, C. W. Brierley, Rhodes House, Middleton.

Gelding or filly, three years old.—First prize, E. Waterworth, Wigan; second, W. Kirkham, Poulton-le-Fylde; third, H. Nield, Worsley.

Gelding or filly, under three years old.—First prize, D. Partington, Kersal; second, J. Cheers, Chester.

Gelding or filly under two years old.—Prize, T. Statter.

SHROPSHIRE SHEEP.

Ram.—E. Nock, Sutton House, Shifnal.

Shearling ram.—Prize, J. Coxon, Freeford Farm, Lichfield.

Ram of any other age.—W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone, Warwickshire.

Two ewe lambs.—E. Nock.

Two shearling ewes.—J. Wilkes, Brewers' Oak, Shifnal.

Two ewes, any other age.—Sarah Beach, The Hattons, Brewood, Stafford.

SOUTHDOWN OR HAMPSHIRE DOWN.

Shearling ram.—Prize, S. Ashton, Timperley.

Two shearling ewes.—First, second, and third prizes, S. Ashton.

Long-woolled ram lamb.—Prize, F. T. Turner, Armthorpe, Doncaster.

Shearling ram.—First, second, and third prizes, W. Norman, Hall Bank, Aspatria.

Two ewe lambs.—First prize, F. J. Turner; second and third, W. Norman.

Two shearling ewes.—First and second prizes, F. T. Turner.

Six Irish lambs.——First prize, T. Reed, Hope Farm, Eccles; second, C. Reed, Eccles.

Tenant farmers' classes: Ram lamb.—Prize, S. Ashton.

Ram lamb, over one year old.—Prize, S. Ashton.

Two ewe lambs.—Prize, S. Ashton.

Two ewes over two years old.—Prize, S. Ashton.

PIGS.

Boar, large white breed, over one-year-old.—Prize, Earl of Ellesmere.

Sow, large white breed, over one-year-old.—Prize, Earl of Ellesmere.

Boar, small white breed.—Prize, Earl of Ellesmere.

Sow, small white breed.—First and second prizes, Earl of Ellesmere.

Boar, black or Berkshire breed.—Prize, M. Walker, Burton-on-Trent.

Sow, black or Berkshire breed.—First prize, M. Walker; second, H. Nield; third, J. Garvell, The Grange, Bolton.

Boar, middle breed.—First and second prizes, Earl of Ellesmere.

Sow, middle breed.—First and second prizes, Earl of Ellesmere.

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Boar, large white breed, under one-year-old.—Prize, Earl of Ellesmere.

Sow, white breed, under one-year-old.—Prize, J. Nuttal, Heywood.

Boar, middle breed.—First and second prizes, Earl of Ellesmere.

Sow, middle breed.—Prize, Earl of Ellesmere.

Boar, black or Berkshire breed.—Prize, W. H. Brady, Stockport.

Boar, small white breed.—Prize, Earl of Ellesmere.

Sow, small white breed.—Prize, M. Walker.

Litter of two pigs, small breed.—Prize, Earl of Ellesmere.

Litter of two pigs, large breed.—Prize, M. Walker.

CHEESE.

Two cheeses, over 40lb.—Prize, G. W. Prescot, Minshull Vernon, Newhall Grove.

Two cheeses under 40lb.—Prize, G. Harris, Lower Cain, Dursley, Gloucestershire.

BUTTER.

Six-and-a-half pounds fresh butter.—Prize, J. Partington, Francill, Castleton, near Heywood.

Six-and-a-half pounds of fresh butter, the production of a tenant farmer resident within ten miles of Manchester.—Prize, H. Nield, Worsley.

VEGETABLES.

Collection of vegetables.—First prize, T. Broadhurst, Prestwich; second, H. Simcock, Brighton Grange, Barton Moss.

Stand of seeds and roots.—Prize, G. Yates, Royal Oak Mills, Stockport.

IMPLEMENTS.

Collection of machinery for agricultural purposes.—First prize, J. Higson; second, F. and W. Richmond.

Collection of agricultural implements and tools.—First prize, J. Higson; second, F. and W. Richmond.

Collection of articles for domestic use.—Prize, Thomas and Taylor, Salford.

Stable and cow-house fittings.—First prize, St. Pancras Ironworks Company; second, F. W. Richmond.

THE SHORTHORN IN AMERICA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—The bull 2nd Duke of Hillhurst has gone back to his old quarters; although with a good back, he was, like all the rest of the Dukes, thin through the heart, and consequently inheriting the constitutional failing. The general impression is, that Mr. Robins, who purchased the 2nd Duke of Hillhurst at Mr. King's sale, did it to make a sensation, and to lead fanciful men on to a state of enthusiasm very far beyond the bounds of reason. As to the famous cows, you are aware that the forty-thousand dollar cow is dead; and her daughter, purchased by Mr. Alexander for 20,000 dollars at the same sale, is gone after her. Mr. Murry's cow of the same family, and which he valued at ten thousand dollars, was too precious to have her hide taken off, and ought to have been buried with a long procession of carriages. How many more are gone, kept in secret, is yet a myth, but such deaths will out. Shorthorn bulls are so numerous in this country that they are quite a drug at sales as well as privately, and I have seen capital bulls and good stock-getters sold from a hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars. Still fashion even controls the show-ring to such an extent that a Kentucky breeder suggests whether it would not be as well to send the pedigree without the animal, and let the judges make the award on that. I know a breeder in Kentucky who had as fine and uniform a herd of Shorthorns as any man in that State—compact, beautiful in symmetry, quality, on short legs, fine bone, possessing strong constitutions, and they lay on as much flesh for food consumed as could be desired. He was persuaded by the fanciful, fashionable breeder to sell them. "You must have pedigree, or they will not do," said they. He took their advice, and sold them for less than half their value. Another writer in *The National Live Stock Journal*, speaking of him, says: "The last we heard of our friend was, he was looking out among some light, leggy animals for pedigrees. We suggested that, having made some reputation by the excellence attained in his old herd, he certainly should not begin now by selecting animals that were far inferior to them. 'To tell you the truth,' said he, 'I have not been able to find their equals at any price.'" Pedigree and pampering for speculative purposes are the ruin of good breeding.

Yours,

WM. H. SOTHAM.

Cass Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, July 16th.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION. — There is at present a great falling off in the number of emigrants from this country as compared with last year. We observe in *The Standard* a statement that the reduction in the number of emigrants from the Mersey in the month of July was 3,990, and the decrease for the seven months of the year which have now elapsed, is 49,355, which shows a very great falling off indeed. Similarly the accounts from New York refer to a great falling off in the immigration there, the amount of this falling off being so great that it is expected the number for the year 1874 will be about 100,000 only, as compared with an average of about 250,000 annually. Something has thus evidently happened to checked emigration, and it is impossible not to connect the facts with statements which are repeated in many quarters as to the number of emigrants who are now returning—from the United States especially—disappointed with the reality which they find as compared with their anticipation. The effect of the last crisis in the United States has been most severe, and has aggravated the evils of a protective tariff and want of capital which have long helped to make the United States much less of a paradise to the working man relatively to his condition in older countries than was formerly the case. The rise in wages in England and on the Continent during the last few years has no doubt also helped to diminish, if not altogether to remove, the relative advantages which the United States possessed for rude labour, not even excepting, perhaps, the rudest kind of agricultural labour, which is the sort that has hitherto had the most advantage in changing from an old to a new country. Whatever the explanation may be, the question of this re-immigration, as well as of an immigration of foreigners into this country, appears to us so interesting that we would again repeat a suggestion we have more than once made—that the statistics of both movements, the inward as well as the outward current of population, should be collected and published with equal care by those who are charged with the duty. Statistics of emigration by themselves, if there is any return current of importance at all, are entirely misleading; and that there is such a current at the present moment is beyond a doubt. We showed lately that the comparison of the census returns for 1861 and 1871 indicated that an immigration on a very large scale had taken place in that decade, and the reports now current as to the extent of the immigration in progress make it the more important that all the facts should be noted at the time, instead of one portion of them only.—*The Economist.*

DESTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY. —It would seem, that the outrages which characterised the conduct of numerous bands of agricultural labourers many years ago, upon the introduction of machinery into farming work, have not yet entirely died out. At Preston Wynne, in the county of Hereford, there was at work, in the early part of the month, in a field on the farm of Mr. Henry Perry, a reaping machine. During the night time it was broken to pieces and the pole and some other important parts of the machine carried off and thrown away altogether, so that it was rendered completely useless, and the workmen employed with it were stopped. Inquiries are being by the police, and a reward for the apprehension and conviction of the offenders offered.—*Hereford Times.*

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THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

MONTHLY COUNCIL, Wednesday, August 5.—Present: Viscount Bridport, President, in the chair; Mr. Amos, Mr. Edmonds, Mr. Brandreth Gibbs. Mr. Hemsley, Mr. Holland, Colonel Kingscote, M.P., Mr. Leeds, Mr. Pain, Mr. Sanday, Mr. Whitehead, and Professor Simonds.

The following members were elected:

Addington, Thomas, Wyboston, St. Neots
Andrews, Henry, Court Lodge Farm, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent
Arnot, James, Woodcote, Carshalton, Surrey
Barnard, Thomas, Cople House, Bedford
Bingley, Joseph, Beckingham, Gainsborough, Notts
Bourne, John, Hankelow House, Nantwich
Brydone, Henry Gray, Petworth, Sussex
Carey, Arthur. Rochford, Essex
Davies, Thomas William, Sugdon, Wellington
Davis, Francis Charles, Wichford, Long Compton
Eardley, John, Norton Farm, Market Drayton
Eder, Carl, Norfolk Farm, Windsor Great Park, Staines
Edwards, Charles, The Grove, Wrington, Somerset
Evans, John, Abernant, Llanwrtyd, Brecon
Fawkes, Ayscough, Farnley Hall, Otley
Glover, James William, Warwick
Goodall, Brittain, Helshaw Grange, Market Drayton
Hague, Jenkin, Biddenden, Staplehurst, Kent
Hanmer, Wyndham E., Stockgrove, Leighton Buzzard
Hill, Lord Arthur, Wakehurst-place, Hayward's Heath
Hoare, Charles A. R., Eden, Beckenham, Kent
Hutchence, William A., Northallerton, Yorkshire
Ivimy, Edward Thomas, Herriard Grange, Basingstoke
Jones, John, Higher Grange, Ellesmere, Salop
Lester, Thomas, Ollerton, Market Drayton
Lewis, George, Mickley Farm, Prees, Salop
Lloyd, John, The Queen's Hotel, Oswestry, Salop
Lloyd, jun., Richard, Broad-street, Newtown, Mont.
Macan, Turner A., Elstow, Bedford
May, George, Harton Collieries, South Shields
Meysey-Thompson, Bart., Sir Henry M., Kirby Hall, York
Needham, John Louth, Hutloft Grange, Alford, Lincoln
Neve, Thomas, Sissinghurst, Staplehurst, Kent
Packard, jun., Edward, Bramford, Ipswich,
Finder, Robert, Whitwell, Oakham, Rutland
Rust, George John, Alconbury House, Huntingdon
Rutherford, George, Printonan, Coldstream, N.B.
Scriven, Charles Herbert, Castle Ashby, Northampton
Scriven, Richard G., Castle Ashby, Northampton
Scott-Chad, Joseph S., Thursford Hall, East Dereham
Stafford, Robert Barry, Bedford
Talbot, George C., Temple Guiting, Winchcombe
Theobalds, Hope, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent
Waterman, jun., James, Tenterden, Ashford, Kent
Wittingham, Lewis Browne, Llandrinio Hall, Oswestry
Whitton, Joseph W., Potcote, Towcester

FINANCE.—Col. KINGSCOTE, M.P., presented the report, from which it appeared that the Secretary's receipts during the past month had been examined by the Committee and by Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., the Society's accountants, and were found correct. The balance in the hands of the bankers on July 31 was £7,288 12s. 3d., the sum of £2,000 remaining on deposit.

The Committee recommended that the Secretary be authorised to transfer the amount of £2,000 now on deposit to the current account. They also proposed to make a special report to the Council in November, on the state of the Society's funds, and to call attention to the desirability of appointing local agents throughout the country, for the purpose of increasing the number of members of the Society.—This report was adopted.

GENERAL BEDFORD.—Mr. B. T. BRANDRETH GIBBS reported that the Committee had examined various bills connected with the Bedford meeting, and recommended their payment by the Finance Committee. They also recommended that the contractor be paid £1,222, as his fourth instalment on account, in accordance with the surveyor's certificate; also that the surveyor's account, amounting to £101 6s. 9d. in addition to a year's salary of £100, be paid, together with £10 10s. for expenses and report upon the Harrogate show of the Yorkshire Society.—This report was adopted.

GENERAL TAUNTON.—Mr. HOLLAND (Chairman) reported the recommendation of the Committee that the surveyor be instructed to inform the Taunton local authorities what levelling and other works require to be done to the site of the Taunton showyard.—This report was adopted.

HOUSE.—Col. KINGSCOTE, C.B., M.P., reported that the Committee recommended that the estimate for painting the inside of the house, sent by Messrs. D. G. Laing and Son, be accepted, and that the usual white-washing and house-cleaning be done during the recess.—This report was adopted.

SELECTION.—Col. KINGSCOTE, C.B., M.P. (chairman), reported that the Committee recommended the election of members of Council to fill the existing vacancies being postponed until November.—This report was adopted.

VETERINARY.—Col. KINGSCOTE reported that a letter from Colonel Coryton's agent, requesting part payment of Professor Axe's fees for inspecting and reporting upon an outbreak of splenic apoplexy among his cattle in Cornwall had been laid before the Committee, and that they did not recommend that the request be complied with, as the outbreak was not in any way unusual or remarkable. The Committee had received a report from Professor Simonds on "the health of animals of the farm" during the past six months, including descriptions of experiments in reference to splenic apoplexy and pleuro-pneumonia, accompanied by reports of five investigations of special outbreaks of disease; and they recommended that these reports be published in the next number of the *Journal*.—This report was adopted.

The President reported the death of the Earl of Egmont, a Vice-President of the Society; and of Mr. James Webb, of Fladbury, Pershore, a member of the Council.

On behalf of Earl Cathcart and himself, as representatives of the Society on the governing body of the Royal Veterinary College, Colonel Kingscote called attention to a proposed college charter, with a view to its consideration, and asked for instructions, inasmuch as they did not regard themselves as substantive governors of the college, but as representatives of the council of the Royal Agricultural Society. Professor Simonds thereupon explained that the college having accumulated a considerable sum of money, the governing body were now applying for a charter to enable them to hold property, and to sue and be sued; and they were endeavouring to take advantage of this opportunity to increase the scope of the college by obtaining powers to hold matriculation and other examinations, and to award scholarships, without interfering with the examinining body which already had the power of conferring degrees vested in it by Royal Charter, namely, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The President stated that, in his opinion, the two institutions (the College and the Society), though perfectly distinct, were mutually useful; and Mr. Holland congratulated the governors on the step they were taking with a view to increase the usefulness of the college as an educational institution. Finally, it was moved by Mr. Brandreth Gibbs, seconded by Mr. Leeds, and carried unanimously,

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"That the Council requests that Lord Cathcart, in conjunction with Colonel Kingscote, will continue to act as representatives of this Society on the governing body of the Royal Veterinary College."

Mr. Holland gave notice, on behalf of the Earl of Lichfield, that at the Council-meeting on November 4, he will move for the appointment of a Committee to take into consideration the Society's Charter, and to suggest what alterations, if any, are advisable to be made therein, for the purpose of bringing members of Council into more frequent communication with members of the Society, also for permitting the discussion in Council of measures of a practical agricultural nature, although pending or to be brought forward in either of the Houses of Parliament. The suggestions made by members of the Society at the General Meeting held in the showyard at Bedford having been read, it was moved by Mr. Brandreth Gibbs, seconded by Mr. Whitehead, and carried unanimously, "That in order to ensure the suggestions made by members of the Society at the last general meeting having thorough consideration, these suggestions be referred to a special committee to report to the Council thereon, such committee to consist of the chairmen of the standing committees, the stewards of live stock, implements, and finance, and the honorary director."

A communication from the Society of Arts, enclosing a prospectus of examinations in the technology of Agriculture and Rural Economy, was referred to the Education Committee.

A letter was read from Mr. J. S. Parker, in reference to the awards of the judges in class 107 at Bedford, and the Secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Parker that in accordance with the terms of the prize-sheet, all protests must be sent in before six o'clock on the Monday of the show week, unless a satisfactory reason can be assigned for the delay.

Letters were read in reference to the price of Messrs. Ball and Sons' waggon, No. 1306, and the Secretary was instructed to state that Messrs. Ball and Sons had undertaken to execute all orders for that article at the catalogue price, in compliance with the conditions on which the entry was made.

A letter was read from Messrs. Sharman and Ladbury in reference to the title of their second prize chisel Harrow (Hull Trials, 1873), and the Secretary was instructed to inform them that any references to the Society's prizes must be in conformity with the terms of the judges' awards.

A letter was read from Mr. T. H. Vergette, asking for two silver cups in place of the money prizes gained by him at Bedford, and the Secretary was instructed to inform him that the prizes having been offered in money must be awarded in money.

The usual holiday having been granted to the Secretary and clerks, the Council adjourned over the recess until Wednesday, November 4.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

At the monthly meeting of the Council in Sackville-street, Dublin, Sir George Hodson in the chair, the other members present were: Hon. Bowes Daly, Sir Allan Walsh, Bart.; William Owen, Phineas Riall, C. U. Townsend, James Robertson, Charles Cannon, George A. Rochford-Boyd, Major Borrowes, Rev. R. W. Bagot, Hans H. Woods, Alderman Pardon, and Laurence Waldron.

Jumping Prizes.—Sir Allan Walsh reported that he had, at the solicitation of the local committee of the Wexford show—who had been under a wrong impression—recommended a mode by which jumping prizes would be provided for horses not entered in the stipulated time. This was to be done by creating a new class for jumping horses, not entered for exhibition, and also for leaping prizes. He now moved that his suggestion, which had been adopted by the local committee, should be ratified by the Council. If the Council approved of the payment of half-fees, those horses would compete for the £5 prize offered by the local committee, on paying a fee of 5s. on entrance into the yard.

Mr. Bagot asked if that was not practically opening the jumping prizes?

Sir Allan Walsh replied in the affirmative. The jumping prizes were not closed, but the others were.

Mr. Townsend inquired who, in that case, was to receive the money.

Sir Allan Walsh said their secretary would receive the money and give the prizes, which latter were given by the local committee.

Mr. Bagot conceived that they should pause before practically adding to the premium sheet.

Major Borrowes opposed the proposition, on the ground that it opened up competition which, by all their rules, had been long ago closed.

Mr. Owen also expressed himself as opposed to giving extra jumping prizes. They would have quite enough to do in attending to the competition already fixed upon, without imposing additional responsibility upon themselves.

The Chairman, after the subject had been discussed at considerable length, said it appeared to be the general feeling of the members of the Council that the request should not be acceded to, and he would make an entry to that effect on the minute book.

A communication was received from the Earl of Clancarty, expressing regret at learning that the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland were likely to withdraw the support which they had heretofore kindly given to the Ballinasloe Farming Society, and urgently impressing on the Council the necessity of paying the amount of its claims. It having appeared that the particulars had not been sent in within the time specified by the rules, the application was refused.

Lieutenant-General Hall, C.B., and Mr. Anthony Lefroy, D.L., being head of the supplemental list, were elected members of the Council in the room of Sir Richard Musgrave and Sir Percy Nugent, deceased.

The report of the Financial Committee was laid on the table, from which it appeared that after payment of current expenses, there remained to the credit of the Society a balance of £539, being £100 more than was in their favour that time twelve months ago.

Mr. Townsend said as the business was now disposed of, he desired to draw attention to the course adopted at the English shows. He had been lately speaking to several members of the Council, who agreed with him in thinking that it would be very judicious if they could give some encouragement in the Poor-law union or district wherever the show was held, by offering prizes for the best-cultivated farms. He thought if something of the kind could be brought forward in connection with their annual shows, it would be very desirable. He proposed that a sub-committee should be appointed to consider the matter, as he was in a position to offer £20 in furtherance of the object. No doubt, it was too late to commence at the Wexford show, but they might begin at Londonderry, and follow the rotation at subsequent shows.

Mr. Rochfort-Boyd, in seconding the motion, said he was persuaded that the proposition, if carried out, would give more local interest, and spread the name of the Society throughout the country more than anything that could be done.

Major Borrowes: This is the most practical resolution that has been brought before the Council for a long time. I think it will be calculated to open up a new field of usefulness and popularity for the Society.

The Chairman remarked that as the question was one which required consideration, it should be postponed till the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. Townsend having assented to the suggestion, the farther consideration of the matter was postponed.

New Members.—Nugent T. Everard, Randalstown, Navan; Walter Gilbey, Hargraves Park, Stanstead, Essex; Alfred Gilbey, Woodburn Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

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MEETING AT WEXFORD.

The entries are more numerous than at Waterford last year, but still in some classes there is a marked scarcity of animals. In the cattle and sheep departments alone there are six empty sections, the best filled division being the Shorthorns, the heifer class, and the Border Leicesters; the Shorthorns being really good. As, perhaps, was not anticipated the blue ribbon has been won by an English breeder—Mr. A. H. Brown, of Doxford, Chathill, Northumberland, with the well-known bull Duke Aosta. In the stall next but one to him was Mr. Wm. Bolton's two-year-old, now the first in his class, as he was at the Royal Dublin Society's Show in April last. To his owner was also given the challenge cup of the County Wexford Stock Improvement Society, a local association, whose object it is to promote the rearing of thoroughbred Shorthorns, thus recognising Mr. Bolton's acknowledged position as chief among the leading agriculturists of the county Wexford. Lady Pigot carried off Mr. Purdon's second challenge cup, with two shorthorned heifers calved in 1873. The Herefords were a poor class, but it contained one animal of merit, Mr. P. J. Kerney's Brandon. The Channel Island cattle are only scantily represented, but the mixed breeds and Kerries are better; and Mr. James Robertson's Kerry cow, Snowflake, rising four years, was considered by the judges to be the finest of the breed ever exhibited. She took a first prize last year at Tralee, in the country of Kerries, and a like honour at the April show in Dublin. The sheep pens were well filled, and for the most part with fair specimens, the Long-wool and Leicester sections being the best. Mr. George Turner, of Northampton, took the challenge cup offered for the best shearling ram, scoring another victory to the English exhibitors. The horses shown were numerous, but it surprised many to find such a poor display of animals suited for agricultural purposes. Indeed it would appear that the horse sections are, now-a-days, swelled by the introduction of hunters, in view of the prizes offered in the jumping competition, an innovation objected to by many, and which, if it tended to detract from the interest previously attached to the agricultural sections should be carefully guarded against by an association having in view the promotion of agriculture. This absurd business, however, was very properly put off until the fag end of the meeting, as it is quite beneath the dignity of a "Royal" society.

Of implements there are fifty-one stands. Those stands include over thirty smaller stands. Twenty-five hail from England—Manchester, London, Warrington, Cheshire, Reading, Bedford, Dudley, and Oxon; while eighteen are from the locality and provinces of Wexford, Gorey, Carlow, and Drogheda; and only eight from Dublin. Among the English exhibitors are Bradford, of Manchester; Picksley, Sims, and Co., Samuelson and Co., Page and Co., Bedford; Thomas and Taylor, Cheshire; Richmond and Chandler, Walter Wood, and the Reading Iron Works Company. On the whole this department is not quite up to the mark of former years.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—SHORTHORNS: C. P. Gell; G. Atkinson. OTHER BREEDS: G. Hewson; R. H. Masfen. SHEEP (Leicesters and Lincolns): T. Harris; A. Warburton. Border Leicesters: G. Hogarth; J. Clarke. Shropshire and other Downs: C. Keeling; R. H. Masfen. HORSES (thoroughbred): H. Thurnall; and St. George Mansergh. Agricultural Horses: A. Darker; J. Byrne. PIGS: H. Thurnall; A. Darker. DAIRY PRODUCE: J. Byrne. CEREALS: J. Robertson.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull calved on or after 1st January, 1869.—The Purdon Challenge Cup, value 60 gs., A. H. Brown, Doxford, Chathill, Northumberland (Duke of Aosta).

Heifers calved in 1873.—The Purdon Challenge Cup, value 60 gs., Lady Pigot, Branches Park, Newmarket (Rose of Lincoln and Moorish Captive.)

Bull, calved on or after the 1st January, 1869, and previous to the 1st of January, 1872.—First prize, A. H. Brown (Duke of Aosta); second, M. O'Reilly, M.P., Knock Abbey, Dundalk (King Richard II.). Highly commended: W. Day, Garryhack, Ballycogley (Wild Boy); W. S. Garnett, Williamstown, Kells (Marmaduke).

Bull, calved in the year 1872.—First prize, £10, W. Bolton, The Island, Oulart (White King); second, M. O'Reilly, M.P. (Prince Royal). Highly commended: Rev. H. B. Hill, St. John's, Enniscorthy (King Cock).

Bull, calved in 1873.—First prize, £10, Major Barton, Straffan (Conqueror); second, R. Chaloner, Kingsford, Moynalty (Alfred). Commended: J. Wilson, Rooske, Dunboyne (Master Frank); Lady Pigot (May King).

Cow, in calf or in milk, calved previous to 1st January, 1872.—First prize, £8, Lady Pigot (Victoria Victrix); second, A. H. Brown (Primrose). Highly commended: W. Day (Venus). Commended: J. Meadows, Thornville, Wexford (Ruth); W. Bolton (Patty Gwynne).

Heifer, calved in 1872.——First prize, £8, W. Bolton (Pansey Gwynne); second, Lady Pigot (Princess of Wytham). Commended: W. Day (Blossom).

Heifer, calved in 1873.—First prize, £8, Lady Pigot (Rose of Lincoln); second, R. J. M. Gumbleton, Glanatore, Tallow, co. Waterford (Princess of Wales). Highly commended: W. Bolton (Glossy the Eighth); Lady Pigot (Mooriah Captive).

HEREFORDS.

Bull of any age.—Prize, £8, P. J. Kearney, Miltown House, Clonmellon (Brandon).

Cow, in calf or in milk.—Prize, £4, P. J. Kearney (Cherry Blossom).

POLLED ANGUS.

Polled Angus or Galloway bull of any age.—Prize, £5, W. Owen, Blesinton, Wicklow (The Earl).

Polled Angus or Galloway cow, in calf or milk.—Prize, £4, W. Owen (Jennie).

KERRY.

Bull of any age.—Prize, £5, J. Robertson, La Mancha, Malshide (George Frederick).

Cow, in calf or in milk.—First prize, £4, J. Robertson (Snowflake); second, Hon. Mrs. Keane, Castletown House, Churchtown, Wexford (Polly).

Heifer calved in 1872 or 1873.—First prize, £4, J. Robertson (Pollie); second, J. Robertson (Snowdrop).

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

Bull of any age.—First prize, £3, Mrs. Lane, Munfin, Ballycarney (Brown Stout); second, Marquis of Ormond, The Castle, Kilkenny (Duke).

Cow or heifer, in calf or milk.—First prize, £3, J. P. Devereux, Rocklands, Wexford (Daisy); second, Marquis of Ormond (Minerva).

Cow in calf or milk (limited for competition to tenant-farmers whose Poor-law valuation is under £100 per annum).—First prize, £8, P. Murphy, Ballinkeele, Oylegate, Enniscorthy (Fanny); second, F. Cullen, Killisk, Castle Ellis (Mayflower). Highly commended: F. Cullen (Daisy).

Heifer calved in 1872.—Prize, £4, F. Cullen (Rosy).

Heifer calved in 1873.—First prize, £4, P. M'Gill, The Island, Oulart, Gorey (Queen of Trumps); second, P. Murphy (Lilly).

SHEEP.

LEICESTERS.

For the best shearling ram, Leicester or Border Leicester.—Cork Challenge Cup, value £50, G. Turner, Northampton (shearling Leicester).

Shearling ram.—First prize, £10, G. Turner; second and third, G. Turner. Highly commended: T. Marris, The Chase, Ulceby, Northampton. Commended: W. R. Meade, Ballymartle, Ballinhassig.

Ram of any age.—First prize, £7, W. Turner, jun.; second, T. Marris. Highly commended: W. Owen, Blesington; W. R. Meade, Ballymartle. Commended: W. Owen.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—Prize, £7, J. Murphy, Mount Loftus, Goresbridge.

BORDER LEICESTERS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £10, Duthie and Beat, Ballykilcavan Mills, Stradbally, Queen's County; second, T. Foster, jun., Ellingham, Chathill, Northumberland; third,

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F. A. Leigh, Rosegarland, New Ross. Commended: T. Foster, jun.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £7, T. Foster; second, A. H. Smith-Barry, Fota Island, Queentown, Cork. Commended: F. Cullen, Killisk, Castle Ellis.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—First prize, £7, Duthie and Beat; second, M. H. Franks, Westfield, Mountrath. Commended: Earl Fitzwilliam, Coolattin Park, Shillelagh.

ROSCOMMONS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £8, O. Kavanagh, Killisk, Ballymurrin; second, Major J. Blood Smyth, Fedamore, Limerick. Highly commended: Major J. Blood Smyth. Commended: J. E. Mayler, Harristown, Ballymitty, Wexford.

Ram of any age.—First prize, £7, M. Crowley, Coolamain, Oylegate; second, Major J. Blood Smyth.

LINCOLNS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £8, J. L. Bland, Blandsford, Abbeyleix; second, J. L. Bland. Highly commended: J. L. Bland. Commended: J. L. Bland.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £7, F. Cullen; second, M. Crowley.

SHROPSHIRE AND OTHER DOWNS.

Short-woolled shearling ram.—Prize, challenge cup, value £20, J. L. Naper.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £10, J. L. Naper, Loughcrew, Oldcastle; second, J. L. Naper; third, A. H. S. Barry, Fota Island, Queenstown, Cork.

Ram of any age.—First prize, £7, T. Marris; second, R. Cosby, Stradbally Hall, Queen's County.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—First prize, £7, Sir A. Walsh, Bart., Ballykilcavan, Stradbally; second, A. H. S. Barry.

Pen of five ewes which have reared lambs for not less than six weeks in 1874 (limited for competition to tenant-farmers whose Poor-law valuation is under £100 per annum).—First prize, £5, J. Crowley, Coolamain, Oylegate; second, F. Cullen, Killisk, Castle Ellis. Highly commended: J. Hayes, Johnstreet, Wexford. Commended: F. Cullen.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—Prize, £5. No award.

PIGS.

COLOURED.

Boar under eighteen months old.—First prize, £5, C. H. Peacocke, Belmont, Wexford; second, P. Marnane, Ballyryan West, Tipperary.

Boar over eighteen months and under thirty-six months old.—First prize, £5, C. H. Peacocke; second, P. Marnane.

Breeding sow under eighteen months old.—First prize, £5, J. Dove, Hambrook House, Hambrook, Bristol; second, J. Molloy, 72, Mountjoy-street, Dublin. Commended: J. Molloy.

Breeding sow over eighteen months old.—First prize, £4. G. Cosby; second, M. Williams, Ballingore, Castle Ellis Commended: E. A. Byrne, Rosemount, New Ross.

Berkshire sow and litter of not less than six pigs under five months old.—Prize, £4, G. Cosby.

Three breeding pigs of the same litter above four and not exceeding eight months old.—First prize, £5, J. Molloy, Mountjoy-street, Dublin; second, C. H. Peacocke. Commended: A. Byrne.

WHITE.

Boar under eighteen months old.—First prize, £5, Earl of Wicklow, Shelton Abbey, Arklow (Snowdrop 2nd); second, J. Dove, Hambrook House. Highly commended: J. L. Naper, Loughcrew, Oldcastle. Commended: C. W. Wise, Rochestown, Cahir, county Tipperary.

Boar over eighteen months and under thirty-six months old.—First prize, £5, J. Dove; second, J. Molloy. Highly commended: H. A. Bolton, Brook Lodge, Waterford (Snowdrop 2nd).

Breeding sow under eighteen months old.—First prize, £5, J. Dove; second R. W. Boyle, Milltown House, Dublin. Commended: J. Dove.

Breeding sow over eighteen months old.—First prize, £4, H. A. Bolton; second, R. W. Boyle. Highly commended: J. Molloy.

Sow and litter of not less than six pigs under five months old.—Prize, £4, J. Molloy. Highly commended: C. W. Wise, Rochestown, Cahir.

Three breeding pigs of the same litter above four and not exceeding eight months old.—Prize, £5, J. L. Naper.

Breeding sow over six and under eighteen months old (limited for competition to tenant-farmers whose Poor-law valuation is over £50 and under £100 per annum).—Prize £4, M. Williams, Ballingore, Castle Ellis.

Breeding sow over eighteen months, in pig or with a litter under five months old.—Prize, £4, M. Williams.

Breeding sow (limited for competition to tenant-farmers whose Poor-law valuation is under £50 per annum).—First prize, £4, M. Marnane, Ballyryan, Tipperary; second, M. Crowley, sen., Coolamain, Oylegate.

HORSES.

The Croker Challenge Cup, value 50 sovs.—M. Donoghue, Fullerstown, Taghmony (Aeronaut).

THOROUGHBRED STALLIONS.

For the thoroughbred sire in the Stud-book, best calculated to improve and perpetuate the breed of sound and stout thoroughbred horses, weight-carrying hunters, and horses for general stud purposes.—First prize, £20, M. Donoghue (Aeronaut); second, J. M'Mahon, Colt Raheen, Mountrath, Queen's County (Roman Bee); third, and silver medal, J Moffat, Ballyhyland, Enniscorthy (Pole Star).

AGRICULTURAL STALLIONS.

Clydesdale or Suffolk breed.—First prize, £15, R. Good, Aherlow, Farren, Cork; second, W. Moody, Rathaspeck, Wexford.

AGRICULTURAL STALLIONS OF ANY BREED.

Prize, £15, J. W. Tarr, West Park, Midleton, Cork.

Mares calculated to produce weight-carrying hunters, in foal, or having produced foals in 1873 or 1874.—First prize, £10, M. A. Maher, Ballinkeele, Enniscorthy; second, J. Walsh, Eastlands, Ballycogley. Highly commended: J. Breen, Ballyhylanh; W. Boxwell, Sarshill, Kilmore. Commended: J. Jeffans, Ring, Broadway; A. Byrne, Connegar, Kilkenny.

Agricultural brood mares, in foal or having produced a foal in 1873 or 1874.—First prize, £10, J. Cooke, New Ross; second, A. Kavanagh, M.P., Borris, Carlow. Commended: W. Moody; C. and A. Cameron, Tottenham-green, Taghmon, Wexford.

Weight-carrying hunters, not less than five years old, fit to carry 14 stone and upwards.—First prize, £10, M. A. Maher; second, F. King, Woodville, Wexford. Highly commended: W. Boxwell.

Hunters, not less than five years old, fit to carry 12st. 7lb. to 14st.—First prize, £10, G. M. Maher, 7th Dragoon Guards, Curragh; second, W. H. West, Farnley, Ferns. Highly commended: R. Cousins, Hill of Kanturk, Kilmore.

Colts or fillies calculated to make hunters, foaled in 1870 or 1871.—First prize, £10, J. Jeffans; second, W. M. Gibbon, Templeshelin, Adamstown, Enniscorthy. Highly commended: F. King, Woodville, Wexford. Commended: M. A. Maher; R. Rickard, Ballydonfin, Enniscorthy.

LOCAL PRIZES.

THE COW CHALLENGE CUP.

Shorthorn Cows.—First prize, W. Day, Garryhack, Ballycogley. Highly commended: W. Bolton, The Island, Oulart, Wexford.

Shorthorned heifers, calved on or since the 1st January, 1872.—First prize, W. Bolton. Highly commended: W. Day.

Shorthorned heifers.—First prize, W. Bolton. Highly commended: J. Meadows, Thornville, Wexford.

Shorthorned heifer calves, calved on or since the 1st of January, 1874.—First prize, A. W. Connon, Cremorne, Oulart; second, J. Meadows.

Extra special prize for best bull in classes 5, 6, and 7.—Prize, £3, W. Bolton.

Shorthorned bulls, calved in 1870 or 1871.—Prize, £7, W. Day. Highly commended: P. Murphy, Ballinkeele, Ballymurrin.

Shorthorned bulls, calved in 1872.—Prize, £7, W. Bolton. Highly commended: Rev. H. B. Hill, St. John's, Enniscorthy.

Shorthorned bulls, calved in 1873.—Prize, £7, J. Moffatt, Ballyhyland, Enniscorthy. Highly commended: J. Meadows.

SHEEP.

Leicester or Border Leicester ram, not exceeding four-shear.—First prize, £3, M. Redmond, Killisk, Ballymurrin; second, £2, F. Cullen, Killisk, Castle Ellis. Highly commended: F. A. A. Leigh, Ballinkeele, Ballymurrin; W. Webster, Garrybrit, Clondaw; J. Brien, Killencooly, Kilmuckridge.

Other pure breeds, not exceeding four-shear.—First prize, £2, M. Crowley, jun., Coolamain, Oylegate; second, £1, F. Cullen. Highly commended: O. Kavanagh, Killisk, Ballymurrin; M. Redmond.

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PIGS.

Pure black boar, not exceeding two years.—First prize, £3, C. H. Peacocke, Belmont, Wexford; second, £2, C. H. Peacocke.

Pure white boar, not exceeding two years.—Prize, £3, F. A. Leigh, Rosegarland, New Ross.

HORSES.

Thoroughbred stallion.—Silver medal, J. Moffat.

Agricultural stallion.—Silver medal, J. Malcolm, V.S., Enniscorthy.

Foal by Polestar.—Prize, £3, W. Lett, Balbriggan, Enniscorthy.

At the dinner, the Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of ABERCORN, said: Ireland has a pretty good balance at her banker's. We have the satisfaction of knowing that the prosperity of Ireland is flowing, and is likely to flow as far as human prescience can see in no doubtful or uncertain streams. That there are certain difficulties in the Irish atmosphere, and that some clouds, though in a measured way still darken its horizon no one can deny, but no one who has studied that horizon for the last ten years can doubt that those difficulties and clouds are only transient, or, at all events, of no alarming magnitude. It is now six years since I had the pleasure of attending one of your annual gatherings in my official capacity. In a country progressing so rapidly as Ireland does, six years is a large epoch in its agricultural history, and it is impossible for one deeply interested as I am, both privately and officially, in the development of the resources of Ireland, not to be struck with the great improvement which has taken place in those years both in the cultivation and reclamation of waste lands, in the improvement of farm-buildings and labourers' houses, and in the more general diffusion of thoroughbred stock, and the following of a higher class of farming by our agricultural communities. I assure you that it is with no ordinary pleasure that I again meet so many familiar faces and so many friends, both personal and official, whose labours have been uniformly directed towards the improvement of Irish agriculture in this society, nor is that pleasure diminished by one meeting being held in a locality which, if not familiar to all of us, is yet deserving of especial notice and approval, both for its agricultural merits and for the order and peace of its population. We can still see in the county of Wexford what Arthur Young saw 100 years ago, when he said that the land in Wexford is better tilled, and the houses of the peasantry of Wexford are of a higher class, than those which he had seen in most parts of Ireland. Well, gentlemen, we shall not have far to seek for the causes of this comfort and prosperity in the fair county of Wexford. I believe we shall find them in the friendly relations that have existed for a long period between the occupiers of the soil and the large and intelligent body of landlords. In the regular and permanent residence of those landlords on their estates, the county of Wexford has been singularly fortunate. and I am informed that, by the spirited exertions of the proprietors of this county, a new harbour at Rosslare is in course of formation, which will be of great benefit to the surrounding districts. I have also great pleasure in adding what has lately come to my knowledge, that the sobriety and order of this district have been greatly promoted by the excellent regulations made by the much respected Roman Catholic bishop of the diocese, who, in a manner which reflects the greatest credit both on himshlf and his spiritual jurisdiction, has induced the closing of public-houses on all Sundays and holidays throughout the year to the great advantage of the peace, sobriety, and order of the population. With regard to the exhibition of to-day, I think we may consider the show of Shorthorns to be exceedingly good, and though we must regret that an Irish bull did not carry away the first prize, yet Mr. Bolton and Mr. Barton and the other Irish breeders fully sustained their reputation in the other classes. The show of horses was good, and that amongst a number of very excellent pens of sheep perhaps not the least most interesting was those of the tenant-farmers. I think that the result of the show to-day may convince us that Ireland is not only not deteriorating in its agricultural progress but that every year brings further advance and improvement. There are, no doubt, many things in which we could wish further advance. We should look for a demolition of useless fences. We should like to see a better clearance of weeds. We should like to see more capital put in the soil and invested in superior stock as well as in improved houses for the farmer and lahourers in different portions of the country. But I think, looking at the improvements that have taken place in the last fifteen or twenty years, we can have no cause to doubt that the progress of time will bring out all these essential elements of improvement, but that which is most essentially necessary for any agricultural association is the certainty and confidence of corresponding and increasing national wealth. I have ventured to express an opinion in accordance with my noble friend's idea that the prosperity of Ireland is running in no doubtful stream; and if you will give me your attention for a few minutes to what I fear, in spite of its importance, may be rather a dull array of figures, I think I shall be able to prove that rarely, if ever, at any period of our history, has the wealth and resources of Ireland been as satisfactory as they are at the present moment. Gentlemen, I begin with that which is most important, and certainly the most interesting. I may term it our population and human wealth. I am happy to be able to state, from the returns that have just been made to me, that the emigration lists of the year ending 30th June, 1874, show a decrease of 14,000 over the corresponding term in 1873. The usual average, as it is called, at the close of the year 1874, will show more than 21,000 decrease over the year 1873, the number in 1874 being culculated 68,000, whilst those of 1873 amounted to 90,000. The numbers also in 1873 are some thousands less than any year of the preceding five years, except 1869, which is slightly below it. We have also the satisfactory fact that looking at the number of able-bodied males for 15 years in workhouses, the year 1874 shows a decrease of some hundreds, the number for the year ending June, 1874, being 1,200 against 1,500 in 1873, the numbers in 1874 being also a little more than one-half what they were in 1863, and little more than one-seventh what they were in 1873. I think, gentlemen, that these figures will show us that the working population of this country, the bone and sinew of the country, is in no depressed or diminished state; and if we turn to that monetary and funded wealth which can best insure for that population the blessings of a complete competence, we shall find that it is in a more satisfactory state. We find that the aggregate Irish investments for the year ending June, 1873, in Government and India Stock, in Irish Joint Stock Banks, and in trust, and savings banks, amounts to £67,000,000, showing an increase of £2,500,000 over the average of the last five years, and an increase of £8,500,000 over the averages of the five years preceding, we find that the amount of deposits in Irish Joint Stock Banks, which I include in the amount, for the year ending June, 1874, amount to £29,800,000, which shows an increase over the averages of the five preceding years of £4,000,000, and over the five years preceding that of £10,000,000. The deposits in the Irish saving banks for the year ending June, 1874, amount to £784,000, which also shows an increase of £150,000 over the averages of the last five years, and of no less than £550,000 for the five years previously. We find also, on looking over the reports of the amount of money passing under probate business for the year 1873, that it amounted to £7,300,000, and that shows an increase of £1,500,000 over the preceding five years. Taking these figures into proper account, there cannot be any doubt that they are signs of increasing wealth in Ireland. If we look to the agricultural statistics of this country we find them to be satifactory. We find for the year ending 1874, that the estimated value of cattle, sheep, and pigs in Ireland amounts to £7,440,000, and that shows an increase of £1,550,000 over the average of the five preceding years, and an increase of no less than £4,900,000 over the average of the five years preceding that beginning in 1863. In connection with that, I received two or three days ago an interesting report from Professor Ferguson, in which he states that at no time has the health of agricultural stock in Ireland been in a more satisfactory state than at the present moment, the only exception being a slight reappearance of foot-and-mouth disease of a mild nature. The whole number of farms in Ireland under restriction for contagious disease amounts only to 69, showing a very agreeable contrast to the year 1872, when 4,470 farms were under restriction for contagious disease. The reports for the year ending June, 1874, show a slight decrease in the number of cattle—about 39,000 under 1873, but this is most satifactorily accounted for by the very large exportation of cattle, amounting to 684,000, which took place in 1873—an exportation which was 68,000 over the exportation of the preceding year. We find also in 1874

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that the number of sheep have slightly decreased—about 47,000, but this is also most satisfactorily accounted for by the enormous exportation of sheep that has taken place within the twelve months, amounting as the report shows, to 163,000 more sheep than were exported in the twelve months previous. Gentlemen, if we come to the statistics of crime, I am really afraid that you will think that I resemble the famous violinist who played a concert during the whole evening on one string. When I say that I must continue, it is my pleasing duty to say that they are extremely satisfactory. We find that the number of offences in 1873 not summarily disposed of were only 6,900, which shows a decrease of 1,780 over the average of the preceding five years, and not less than 2,900 over the average of the five years before that. While upon this subject I must congratulate the county of Wexford upon showing one of the very lowest calendars of crime, in proportion to its population, of any county in Ireland, the amount of outrages during the year 1873 amounting to 32, and there not being a single agrarian outrage in the county, either in the year 1873 or 1874. Gentlemen, I fear that these details of figures may have been rather wearisome, but I was unwilling to give any assurances of progress and prosperity which I could not state upon undeniable evidence. There is no one in this room, there are few, I believe, in Ireland, that would not look with pride and gladness on any sound evidence of wealth and advancement in Ireland. But we must remember that it is not alone by the credit of the husbandman or by the skilled science of the breeder of cattle, or by the hoarded wealth of the successful merchant or tradesman, that national progress and advancement can be attained. Important as are all those elements, they are as yet comparatively valueless unless we are able to combine with them a respect and veneration for the law. A perfect security for person as well as for property, and that general confidence among all classes of the population that will best give due scope to the profitable diffusion of whatever capital is already amongst us, as well as give an inducement to foreign and extraneous capital to find in Ireland a fructifying stream. I believe that the people of Ireland have now those advantages lying easy of access before them. Already the quiet state of a great portion of the country has been the means of bringing over fruitful streams of capital into Irish channels, and of developing many of those sources of wealth which, bountiful as nature has made them, require only guarantees of national peace, order, and abstinence from disturbances to become of double value.

Lord FITZWILLIAM (the chairman) said: Although the entries were not numerous, the quality of the stock was of high character. Not only were the cattle admirable, but the sheep were creditable to the owners of the soil and the tenant-farmers. His Excellency had alluded to the progress made in Ireland of late years, which was an undoubted fact. In fact they had advanced in some respects more in proportion than England or Scotland. With regard to the Shorthorns, Mr. Bolton, Mr. Meadows, and other local men had accomplished much, although the former had been beaten by a lady.

"THE SPENCER SCHEME."

PRIZES FOR BEST MANAGED SMALL FARMS IN IRELAND.

The Prize Scheme to which the following reports for the year 1873 relate, is explained in the subjoined extract from a letter addressed in March, 1872, by his Excellency's private secretary, H. Y. Thompson, to the Commissioners of National Education: His Excellency has long taken an especial interest in the welfare of the very numerous class of Irish small tillage farmers, and has held the opinion, which personal observation of their condition and prospects in various parts of the country has amply confirmed, that their present style of farming and the management of their homesteads admit of considerable improvement. It appears that more than half of all the holdings in Ireland—namely, 317,457 out of 608,864 (from both of which figures, however, some deductions must be made for the cases in which two or more separate holdings being in the occupation of the same individual are enumerated separately) were valued in 1866 at less than £8 a year. His Excellency thinks it will not be disputed that in a vast majority of cases these holdings are imperfectly cultivated, and that the habitations upon them are, speaking generally, both inferior and ill-kept. Under these circumstances, and considering that the settlement of the land question, under the Act of 1870, has turned the attention of the public to the general condition of the farming classes, and has given an impetus to many improvements in the management of farms, the present has seemed to his Excellency a favourable occasion for an endeavour to direct attention to this very large and important class of agriculturists. In doing so, I am to state that he does not desire to raise or to pronounce any opinion on the very difficult question of the proper size of farms. He would carefully avoid that; but, at the same time, he is confident that that most interesting question cannot be satisfactorily solved in this country until the small farmers of Ireland avail themselves of the means at their disposal for careful tillage much more extensively than they do now. Among the methods employed to promote good agriculture, his Excellency is of opinion that nothing has been more calculated to benefit the small farmers than the school-farms or gardens under the inspection of the National Board of Education, which, he is glad to observe, are gradually increasing in number. Accordingly, it has occurred to him—more in the hope of seeing his action, if successfully carried out, imitated by others, than from any notion that so small a contribution can have any very considerable effect in itself—to offer, on certain conditions, prizes to be adjudged in connexion with certain of these school-farms. He has selected eight of them in various parts of the country, viz:

In LEINSTER, Garryhill and Ballinvally;
In ULSTER, Cornagilta and Parkanour;
In MUNSTER, Tervoe and Grange;
In CONNAUGHT, Castlehacket and Killsolan;

and, taking round each of them a radius of five or six miles, he proposes to give annually for the next five years three prizes to be called "The Spencer Small-farm Prizes," and consisting of £3 10s., £2 10s., and £1 10s. respectively, to the occupiers of the three holdings in each of the areas above described, and valued under £8 a year, which shall be adjudged to be the most commendable on the score of (1) the neatness and cleanliness of the house; (2) the amount and quality of the produce of the land; (3) the character and condition of the live stock of all sorts, from horses and cows down to poultry and bees; (4) any other circumstances that may attract the favourable attention of the judges. These prizes should be adjudged about the month of September in each year. In no case should the same individual obtain a prize more than three times in the five years, nor should any prize be given unless there be both competition and merit, as to the requisite extent of which the judges should decide. I am to state that his Excellency's object in addressing the Commissioners on this subject is to solicit the co-operation of the Board to the extent of allowing their agricultural school inspectors—than whom assuredly none could be better qualified, both by their special acquaintance with the subject and by the confidence that would be generally felt in the fairness of their award—to adjudge these prizes, commencing from September next. If this proposal is adopted by the Board, his Excellency believes that, in addition to any direct benefits that may accrue from increased exertion on the part of individuals, it is possible that indirectly a good deal of valuable information may be obtained as to the wants and position of a very large and important class; and that it may be found desirable to have a short yearly report by the inspectors, conveying their impressions on the subject.

No. I.—PARKANOUR, Co. TYRONE, 1873.—We have visited Parkanour School District, Co. Tyrone, for the purpose of adjudicating on the farms entered in competition for the Spencer prizes. We were accompanied in our inspection by Mr. Y. Burgess, son of Mr. Y. H. Burgess, D.L., the proprietor of the Parkanour estate. His father is most desirous of rendering every assistance in his power in furthering the efforts of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant. Should the three Spencer

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prizes be won by his tenants, he would contribute a sum equal to the Spencer premiums, and in addition he has offered a sum of £7 10s. to be competed for by his own tenants on the Spencer plan, with this difference, that he puts no limit to the valuation, thus leaving it open to all his tenants to compete. After a short conference, we decided on making the awards in accordance with a scale of marks. This scale, and the results of our inspection in the Parkanour district, will be seen in the accompanying tables. Our awards of the Spencer prizes are as follows: First prize, £3 10s., won by Dickson Leslie, a tenant on the Parkanour estate, whose valuation is £6 15s.; second prize, £2 10s., won by George Frizelle, who holds from the Earl of Charlemont a holding valued at £4 10s.; third prize, £1 10s., won by Anne Thornbury, who holds under Lord Charlemont a holding valued at £4 10s. The first of the Burgess prizes is awarded to John Wilson, who holds twenty acres at a rent of £20; second prize, Dickson Leslie, who wins the first of the Spencer prizes; third prize, Anne Murphy, who holds fifteen acres at a rent of £15. To some persons the Spencer prizes, taken individually, have looked small; but to the persons intended to be reached they appear very differently. Dickson Leslie, with a valuation of £6 15s., obtains £6 in two prizes; and had he succeeded in winning the first of the Burgess prizes, the amount of the two prizes would have exceeded his valuation by 5s. To a man in his position the amount thus won in prizes must be a great boon. But the interest created in the district by the prizes far exceeds their pecuniary value. On all the farms we notice with satisfaction indications of improvements made in the hope of winning a Lord Lieutenant's prize. John Wilson has his farm in a creditable state: his home and offices are still more so, and the arrangements for collecting and preserving manure are, for a man in his circumstances, as near perfection as need be desired. He has two heifer-calves which show far more quality than the cows. A garden has been laid out, and a new approach has been commenced, and a respectable gate and set of pillars already erected. Dickson Leslie's farm is cultivated with skill, and his home is a model of neatness and comfort. Possibly the most remarkable of all the competitors is George Frizelle. He labours under a physical infirmity, which unfits him for undergoing much fatigue; yet his little holding is in a high state of fertility, and it is tilled with skill and care, and his house, yard, and offices, which adjoin the public road, attract the attention of every passer by. During the year, and stimulated in a great measure by the ambition to win one of the Lord Lieutenant's prizes, he has enlarged and improved his dwelling, enclosed it from the road by a good wall, and provided two new gates. This man submitted to one of us papers which show that by the exercise of intelligence and skill in the management of his holding he has been enabled to put apart a sum which is regarded as a fortune by persons in his rank of life, and this is exclusive of the capital invested in his land, offices, and dwelling. We take leave to draw attention to the circumstance that the third of the Spencer prizes is won by a female. It has been urged that women influence the agriculture of a country like Ireland to a greater extent than is generally supposed. When the head of the family is taken away by death, the sole care of the farm may fall on the widow, or, as in this case, on the daughter. This circumstance shows that it is desirable to impart to females in rural schools a certain amount of instruction in the elements of agriculture.

No. II.—Ballinvally, Co. Westmeath, 1873.—The Ballinvally School is on the estate of the Right Hon. Col. Tighe, in County Westmeath, who has lent his co-operation in furthering His Excellency's view. He from the outset has offered to advance an equal sum to the value of any prize which may be won by any of his tenants. The school is attended by children from several adjoining estates, but as yet the proprietors of these estates have not contributed to the scheme in any way. Possibly they, like other proprietors, believe that the system is calculated to encourage the subdivision of the land of Ireland into excessively small holdings. His excellency has guarded himself from putting forward his scheme with any intention of favouring small as distinguished from large farms. He takes the small farms as he finds them, and aims at rendering them more productive. As evidence of the improvement effected in the competitors' holdings during the year, we would refer to the fact that while the farm which obtained the first prize last year has not gone back, but on the contrary has improved, the farm which obtained third prize in 1872 now wins for its occupier, Mrs. Anderson, the first prize. Mrs. Anderson has well merited this honour. She has made several improvements, and has put her farm and offices into a very satisfactory state. She does credit to the estate on which she lives. The first prize was obtained last year by Mr. John Potterton, a tenant of Colonel Tighe's. Death has removed him since then, but his widow continues to manage the farm very well, and obtains the second prize. It will be seen from the tabulated result that the farmers who rank second, third, and fourth in order of merit are very close in the sum total of marks. The numbers are as follows: Second, Bridget Potterton, 273 marks; third, James Johnston, 272 marks; fourth, James Kavanagh, 271 marks. The fifth in the order of merit, Mr. Garrett, Kiernan, is only 15 marks below the fourth. Altogether, the competition in this district has been very spirited

No. III.—Loughglynn, Co. Roscommon, 1873.—We have inspected the farms which have been entered this year in competition for the Spencer prizes in this district. The Loughglynn estate contains some 100,000 acres, and is occupied chiefly by small farmers. It is an estate peculiarly well fitted to test the efficacy of any scheme for improving the condition of our small farmers. We have visited altogether the holdings of seventeen persons, some of whom competed for an old established system of garden prizes as well as for the Spencer prizes. The systems of farming pursued on several of their holdings are so bad that it would be quite useless to go into full details regarding them. We give a tabulated result of our inspection of farms, which shows meritorious features, from which it will be seen that two of them score equal marks. It so happens that for want of merit in one section of another prize scheme in connexion with this school, in which one of us took part, that a sum of 12s. 6d. came to be added to the Spencer prize money, making in all £8 2s. 6d. It was decided to distribute this amount into five prizes—viz., £2 10s. to each of the two at the head of the list who are equal; third prize, £1 10s.; fourth prize, £1; fifth prize, 12s. 6d. In accordance with this arrangement we submit the merit list: First and second, John Jordan and Peter Crawley, 453 marks each; third, Charles Sampey, 393 marks; fourth, Thomas Conway, 260 marks; fifth, Martin Moloney, 258 marks. Jordan obtained first prize last year: his farm and garden display great skill and industry. Crawley obtained third prize last year; since then he has improved his holding very much. Last year he had neither artificial grass nor roots—this year he has laid down a field in a most creditable manner with a judicious mixture of clover and rye-grass, and he has a plot of turnips which has been very well cultivated. His potato crop is one of the cleanest and most productive we have seen this year in the entire district. The progress made by this man during the year in the cultivation and management of his holding affords most gratifying evidences that His Excellency has adopted a correct system of exciting a spirit of improvement among the small farmers of this country. Here is a small farmer who in a short space of time has come to put into practice the most essential feature of improved agriculture. He got advice last year, and he acted upon it to the fullest extent. He was not asked to do anything beyond his means. What he has done will turn out so profitable that there is not the slightest fear that he will ever abandon it. Sampey retains the position he held last year. A suggestion was made to him then regarding his offices which is of primary importance, but on which he has not yet acted. We trust he will act on the suggestion before next year. His farm is cultivated with considerable skill, and his garden is quite a model for the class of small farmers to which he belongs, and, indeed, for occupiers of larger holdings. Several of the unsuccessful competitors deserve credit for their gardens and the neatness of their places, among whom we would mention Friel and Healy.

No. IV.—Killasolan, Co. Galway, 1873.—The Killasolan National School is on the estate of Lord Clonbrock. A circle of five miles radius embraces parts of the estates of Lord Clancarty and Mrs. Grattan Bellew, and others who are anxious to promote agricultural progress. It is not a small farm district in the same sense that Loughglynn may be said to be one. It includes, however, a great many small farmers whose agricultural practices are extremely bad. Last year the first prize was awarded to John Gilmore, who holds a farm of 14 statute acres from Lord Clonbrock at £6 a year. As will be seen in the accompanying table, he also ranks highest this year. His holding is a *bond fide* model in many respects. His farm embraces three classes of soil. There is a piece of good land kept in permanent grass, which is the best of all; there is

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one field in tillage, which is not so well suited for grazing; and there is a piece of reclaimed land, now bearing indifferent pasture, which Mr. Gilmore says it would not pay him to break up at the present rate of labour. The whole farm is very productive, and enables Mr. Gilmore to live comfortably, and to save something for his family. Partrick Potter, a tenant of Mrs. Grattan Bellew, obtained second prize last year; this year, owing to ill health, he ranks fifth on the list. The second and third and fourth places are won by tenants on the Clonbrock Estate. It will be seen that several others come out well in the tabulated return. We were glad to find that the scheme has created very considerable interest among the people in the district. Lord Clonbrock is good enough to place £3 at our disposal, which enables us to give a few extra prizes. We have reason to believe that some additional local subscriptions will be forthcoming next year.

No. V.—Garryhill, Co. Carlow, 1873.—The Garryhill Agricultural National School is on the Carlow estate of the Earl of Bessborough, who, as is well known, has devoted much personal attention to the improvement of the condition of his tenantry. He undertook to add to any, or all, of the prizes which may be won by his tenants a sum equal to his Excellency's contribution. This year he proposes to meet the several competitors at Garryhill, to deliver to them an address and to distribute the prizes. Twenty-four holders of land sent in their names in the usual way, intending to compete; of these, two subsequently withdrew, feeling that they had no chance of winning the prizes. We have carefully examined the farms, gardens, houses, and offices of the remaining twenty-two persons, all of whom entered into the competition with great eagerness. The first prize is won by Peter Fox, a tenant of Lord Besborough. Fox's holding is a *bonâ fide* model. The tillage is good, sundry improvements have been made, and there are evidences throughout of skill, care, and thrift. The second prize goes to Michael Hogan, who holds under Mr. P. Newton, D.L., and who is a most deserving man. We would draw attention to a feature in the agriculture of this district which is most creditable to all concerned—we refer to the circumstanc that there is a greater number of persons who scored high than in any other district we have visited. In other words the agricultural practices of the farmers are uniformly better than elsewhere. This gratifying result is due to the increased attention bestowed on the improvement of agriculture by the gentry. The County Carlow Agricultural Society has lent its aid. The Society has divided the county into five districts, and give premiums to small farmers in each. The mode in which the Spencer Prizes have been awarded is different from that adopted by the Society, but both systems tend in the same direction. All the intelligent persons we have met in this district agree in thinking that in order most effectually to reach the smaller occupiers, the limits of each competing district ought to be as small as possible. We append the usual detailed list, which cannot fail to afford matter for reflection. We have had ample evidence that there are in the Garryhill district many small farmers who are prosperous and happy. The Spencer Scheme is well calculated to aid in bringing all up to this level.

No. VI.—Tervoe, Co. Limerick, 1873.—The Tervoe National Agricultural School is on the estate of the Right Hon. Colonel Monsell, M.P. It is six miles from the City of Limerick, and three from the larger Agricultural School at Mungret. A circuit of five miles round the school includes a great many proprietors, most of whom are non-residents. It includes land of various degrees of quality, and farms of very different sizes. There are several large holdings of rich land; but the vast majority of the occupiers near Turvoe and Mungret Schools are small farmers, the greater number of whom manage their land very badly and are extremely poor. It is strange that the agricultural practices of farmers so close to the city of Limerick should be so defective. It is, however, a fact. Several crops of grain have been raised in succession without manure on land not able to bear it. The land was not tilled with proper skill. The live stock is not of the quality it ought to be. In many parts of the district the small farmers' dwellings are as bad as in the remotest districts of the west. The manure heap is generally in front of the entrance-door. The Spencer Scheme is the best, and indeed it may be almost said the only means by which those people can be influenced. They regard agricultural societies, and to a less extent Government model farms, as instruments set up by the gentry for promoting their own interests. A notion of this kind, no matter how unfounded the grounds on which it is based, does incalculable harm. The Spencer Scheme has brought agricultural education before the people in a new light. They see the officers of the Board of Education going among them offering advice and encouraging and rewarding the best of them. We are glad to find that the number of entries has increased since last year. It is our pleasing duty also to report that the local gentry appreciate the scheme.

No. VII.—Grange, Co. Waterford.—The district surrounding the Grange National School is part of a strip of land lying between the Blackwater and the sea. It may be described as a backward district. The holdings are, generally speaking, small. It is, therefore, a district in which a scheme for ameliorating the condition of small farmers may be tested. Last year the prizes were awarded by one of us who reported that the scheme excited considerable interest. We are in a position to state that an extremely keen degree of interest has been manifested in it this year. Twenty-seven persons gave their names to the teacher. Five of them withdrew, believing they would have no chance of obtaining any of the prizes. We have inspected twenty-two holdings which, as the merit list will show, are scattered over the estates of several proprietors. It is worthy of note that Grange is an Irish-speaking district. Of the heads of families we have met, the greater number do not speak English. One of us was able to converse with these people in the Irish language. The agricultural practices of the district vary very considerably. In the neighbourhood of Ardmore, most of the occupiers of land combine fishing with farming. Their land is of a sandy character. It has been well manured for years and made to yield heavy crops. There are few districts in Ireland which yield a larger amount of human sustenance than the tract of sandy ground in the hands of these people. In all other parts of the district the occupiers live exclusively by farming, and their land is for the most part very unproductive. We find that the Rev. P. Wall, P.P., Ardmore, is very much interested in the scheme. He proposes to contribute towards a fund for increasing the number of prizes. We are in hopes that the landlords of the district will also subscribe for this purpose. As an illustration of the influence of the scheme in promoting improved modes of management, we would cite the case of Patrick Mulcahy, who has obtained the second prize. Last year his farm was extremely dirty; this year it is one of the cleanest we have seen. His root crops are very fine. The garden is in a creditable state. We would repeat what was stated by one of us last year—viz., that there is a very large number of small farmers in this district who cannot maintain their ground unless they adopt a system of farming more in accordance with the times. Their system does not materially differ from that followed before the introduction of free trade. It is very evident that the most immediate and effectual way of reaching these people is through the medium of the educational machinery of the country. The prize list is, in one or two respects, very suggestive.

No. VIII.—Cornagilta, Co. Monaghan, 1873.—The Cornagilta National Agricultural School, Co. Monaghan, is attended chiefly by the children of small farmers. The district is populous. There is great need for improvement in the agricultural practices of the farmers. The population embraces the several religious denominations. The radius of five miles from the school includes parts of the estates of several proprietors. The school is on the estate of Miss Rose, of Mullaghmore, Monaghan. The competitors include tenants of Sir George Foster, Bart., the Rev. Lord Plunket, and Mr. George Greer. The Scheme has excited a lively interest among the small farmers of this district. The number of competitors would be very great were it not for the dread of failing that prevails. This feeling influences the number of entries in all districts. Partrick Connolly, a tenant of Miss Rose's, who heads the list this year, won first prize last year. His holding does him credit, and is in many respects a model for neighbouring farmers. The second prize goes to Peter Connolly, who holds 2½ a. 1 r. 7 p. from Sir George Foster, at a yearly rent of £8 17s. 6d. Part of this farm is reclaimed bog, and part reclaimed heathery ground. He has expended upon it much labour. The Poor-law valuation, which is £7 10s., throws light on the former condition of this farm, which is upwards of a mile away from the public road, and approached by a rough bohreen. The farm is most unfavourably circumstanced; yet, the tenant, by the application of labour, skill, and thrift, has managed to rear a family upon it

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most respectably. His dwelling does him great credit. He has built a substantial barn, and contemplates further improvements. All external appearances go to show that this family is well off. The Spencer Scheme has brought this man to the front. His farm will be visited by small farmers for several miles around, who cannot fail to derive profit from his example. Patrick Rainy, who obtains third prize, holds his land from Miss Rose. The farm is well cropped; the garden and dwelling admit of improvement, which we hope to see effected next year. We are glad to be able to say that each of the competitors in this district can show some feature of merit. The agriculture of the district is, however, capable of very great improvement. We feel justified in saying that we see no better way of stimulating a taste for effecting it among the small farmers than by extending the Spencer Scheme of Prizes, which comes home to every man who competes.

(Signed), THOMAS BALDWIN, M. BROGAN, } Judges.

THE SCOTCH HARVEST.—The general belief appears to be that on the whole the harvest will be a favourable one throughout the kingdom. Winter-sown wheat will be, roughly speaking, from ten to fifteen per cent. above the average, but not so much for spring sown. Barley, of the spring-sown cereals, will be by far the best crop; and though in a few districts it is said to be thin, the heads are invariably heavy, and the average yield will be from 7½ to 10 per cent. over ordinary years. Oats in almost every county will be below the average, though the ear has filled better and the straw has shot out more within the last ten days than was ever anticipated. This indeed will be the weak crop of the season. Beans suffered from the drought of the early summer, but recent rains have added strength and vigour to the haulms, and the pods are rapidly filling, so that a full average crop may be gathered. Cutting has commenced in nearly all the early districts, and in the Lowlands ten days will see harvest general. Wages of labourers and reapers it is said will be higher than last year, and as yet there appears to be a scarcity of hands. All early-sown turnips have brairded well, and the bulbs are filling the drills, and presenting a luxuriant appearance, but in late-sown fields the crop will not be so heavy, as the braird was irregular and patchy. Potatoes have never looked better, and only in one instance—namely, Caithness—has even the slightest appearance of disease been traced. Hay has been well secured; and though the first crop has been light, it is generally conceded that the aftermath is splendid.—*The Scotsman.*

HEREFORD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING IN HEREFORD.

The cattle entries numbered 77 Herefords, 15 Shorthorns, and a few other breeds; while nearly all the best animals have been out this year. The number of sheep entries was 71, Shropshires being at the top with 40 pens, Cotswolds second with 19 pens, and the others Ryelands, the Shropshires being especially good. The horse entries reached 96, and so many have never before been exhibited in Hereford. Amongst the exhibitors of implements and manures were the Herefordshire Manure Company; Walker, of the Smithfield Ironworks, Shrewsbury; Kell, of Ross and Gloucester; Alexanders and Loveridge, of the Lion Works, Leominster: Perkins and Bellamy, of Ross; Hollings Brothers, of Swindon; Day, Son, and Hewitt, Dorset-street, Baker-street, London; J. Cadle and Co.; H. and T. Proctor, Cathay, Bristol; Robey and Co., Lincoln; B. C. Tipper, Balsall Heath, Birmingham; J. Morgan, of New Market Place, Shrewsbury; Lister and Co., Victoria Works, Dursley; Llewellin and Son, coopers, Haverfordwest; Ashby, Jeffery, and Luke, Stamford; J. Meredith, and Co., Kington Iron Foundry; Hindley, of Bourton, Dorset; J. Miller and Co., Chemical Works, Tewkesbury. The show on the whole was considered to be better than any held for some few years.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—HEREFORDS — Downes, Maisemore; E. H. Davies, Peyton, Much Wenlock. SHORTHORN CATTLE AND LONGWOOL SHEEP—R. J. Newton, Woodstock; J. H. Butt, Dodhill House, Taunton. SHROPSHIRE AND OTHER SHORTWOOLS AND PIGS— —Cureton, Beam House, Shrewsbury, and G. Bedford, Milton, Pembridge. CART HORSES— —Allen, Hartpury, Gloucester; — Yeomans, Stretton Court. HUNTERS— —Thirlwall, Poyston, Kent; Captain Helme, Master of the North Hereford Hounds. CIDER AND PERRY—H. C. Beddoe and W. H. Apperley.

CATTLE.

HEREFORDS.

Bull, cow, and offspring.—First prize, £10, J. Thomas, St. Hilary, Cowbridge (Sir John and Sunflower); second, £7, Mr. Thomas, Lawton Bury (Long Tom and Red Cap); third, Mr. Taylor, Showle (Mercury and Dainty).

Bull, calved on or after the 1st of July, 1873.—First prize, £10, W. Tudge, Adforton (Regulator); second, £5, W. Tudge (Lord Winton); third, Mrs. Edwards, Wintercott (Commodore).

Bull, calved on or after the 1st of July, 1872.—First prize, £5, H. N. Edwards, Broadward, Leominster (Alfred); second, £3, G. Child, Weston Pembridge (Treasure Trove).

Bull, calved previous to the 1st July, 1872.—First prize, £5, Mrs. Edwards (Winter de Cote); second, £3, P. Turner, the Leen (Provost).

Heifer, calved on or after the 1st July, 1873.—First prize, £5, Mr. Edwards; second, £3; Mr. Carwardine, Leominster.

Heifer, calved on or after 1st July, 1872.—First prize, £5, and second, £3, Mr. Turner.

Heifer in calf or in milk.—First prize, £5, Mr. Fenn, Ludlow.

Breeding cow, in calf or in milk.—Prize, £5, Mr. Thomas, St. Hilary, and special of £25 (Rosaline).

Steer, calved on or after 1st July, 1873.—First prize, £5, and second, £3, Mr. Hill, Orleton.

Steer, calved on or after 1st July, 1872.—First prize, £5, Mr. Taylor, Showle; second, £3, Mr. Hill, Orleton.

Ox or steer, calved previous to 1st July, 1872.—First prize, £5; Mr. Arkwright, Hampton Court; second, £3, Sir J. R. Bailey, M.P.

To the tenant-farmer, being a subscriber, who shall exhibit the best lot of beasts, bred by himself, above one year and under two years and six months old, in proportion to the quantity of land that he occupies as follows: (The tenant-occupier of not exceeding 100 acres, to show two beasts; the tenant-occupier of not exceeding 150 acres, to show three beasts; the tenant-occupier of not exceeding 200 acres, to show four beasts; and in the same proportion for every additional 50 acres, up to 500 acres.—First prize, £3. *No entry.*

Four breeding cows or heifers, not under three years old, that have had a calf within six months, or shall be in calf at the time of showing.—First prize, £10, Mr. Arkwright; second, £5, Rev. A. Clive, Whitfield.

SHORTHORNS.

Cow and her offspring to be bred by the exhibitor, and to be calved on or after 1st July, 1873.—First prize, £10, J. Pulley, Lower Eaton; second, £5, J. Pulley.

Bull, calved on or after the 1st July, 1873.—Prize, £10, Stratton, Duffryn, Newport, (Meteor).

Bull, calved previous to the 1st July, 1873.—Prize, £10, Stratton, (Protector).

Heifer, calved previous to the 1st July, 1873.—Prize, £5, Stratton.

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ANY BREED.

Pair of cows in milk, for dairy purposes.—Prize, £10, O. Viveash, Strensham.

SHEEP.

SHROPSHIRES.

Pen of five breeding ewes that have sucked lambs to 1st June, 1874.—First prize, £5, W. Baker, Moor Barnes, Atherstone; second, £3, T. Jowitt, the Weir. Highly commended: J. Pulley.

Shearling rams.—First prize, silver cup, value £7, J. Pulley; second, £3, J. Pulley. Highly commended: J. Pulley.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £5, J. Pulley; second, £3, J. E. Farmer, Felton, Ludlow.

Pen of five wether lambs.—Prize, £5, H. Turner, Eardisley. Commended: J. E. Farmer.

Pen of five ram lambs.—Prize, £5, W. Baker. Commended: J. E. Farmer.

Pen of five shearling-ewes.—Prize, £5, J. E. Farmer. Reserve: J. Pulley. The class commended.

Pen of five ewe lambs.—Prize, £5, J. Pulley. Highly commended: W. Baker. The class commended.

COTSWOLDS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £5, T. Thomas, St. Hilary; second, £3, J. Wheeler. Reserve: W. J. Davies, Webton.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £5, J. Wheeler; second, £3, W. J. Davies. Reserve and commended: W. J. Davies.

Pen of five wether lambs.—Prize, £5, Yeomans, Stretton Court, Hereford.

Pen of five ram lambs.—Prize, £5. No entry.

Pen of five ewe rams.—Prize, £3, T. Thomas.

COTSWOLDS OR OTHER LONGWOOLS.

Pen of five breeding ewes that have suckled lambs to the 1st June, 1874.—First prize, £5, T. Allen, Thurmaston, Leicester; second, £3, W. J. Davies.

Pen of five shearling breeding ewes.—First prize, £5, W. Yeomans; second, £3, T. Thomas.

RYELANDS, OR OTHER WHITE-FACED CLOSE-WOOLS.

Shearling rams.—First prize, £5, J. B. Downing, Holm Lacey; second, £3, J. B. Downing.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £5; second, £3, J. B. Downing.

Pen of five ewes.—First prize, £5, T. Pinches, Hardwick; second, £3, T. Pinches. Highly commended: T. Pinches.

PIGS.

Boar, exceeding 9 months old, of the black breed.—Prize, £3, J. Wheeler, Long Compton.

Breeding sow, in or with pigs, of the black breed.—Prize, £3, D. Peploe Peploe, M.P.

Boar, exceeding 9 months old, of the large white breed.—Prize, £3, Wheeler.

Breeding sow, in or with pigs, of the large white breed.—Prize, £3, Wheeler.

Boar of the middle breed.—Prize, £3, Rev. Sir G. H. Cornewall, Bart. Highly commended: Wheeler.

HORSES.

Cart stallion.—Prize, £20, Messrs. Yeomans, Pennymore Hay, Wolverhampton (Pride of England). Reserve: J. Hyde, Riffin Mill (King of the Dale).

Cart mare, with foal at foot.—First prize, £10, W. Priddy, Podsmead House, Gloucester; second, £5, W. J. Downing, Clehonger. Reserve: G. Stanbridge, Dinedor.

Three-year-old cart gelding or filly.—Prize, £5, J. B. Downing, Holme Lacey. Reserve: W. Taylor, Thingehill.

Two-year-old cart gelding or filly.—Prize, £5, T. Bailey, Hagley. Reserve: R. W. Bridwater, Porthamel; and J. B. Downing.

Thoroughbred stallion, calculated to produce sound and stout weight-carrying hunters, and that have served in the county of Hereford during the present year, or that shall serve during the year 1875 (fee for covering half-bred mares not to exceed £5), prize £20.—Only one entry, and that withdrawn.

Stallion calculated to produce sound and stout roadsters or carriage horses.—Prize, £15, W. Broad, Lampeter (Young Prickwillow). Reserve: M. Biddulph, M.P. (The Mallard).

Weight-carrying hunter, up to 14 stone.—First prize, £15, T. H. Ashton, Temple, Laugharne, Worcester (The Lancer); second, £5, T. H. Ashton (The Publican).

Hunter up to 12 stone.—First prize, £10, W. S. Armitage the Field (Sweetheart); second, £5, T. H. Ashton (Sedgwick Reserve: A. Edwards (Alice Grey).

Four-year-old hunter.—First prize, T. H. Ashton (Hardware); second, £5, T. H. Ashton (Fusilier). Highly commended: I. Theyer, jun., Walford (Czarewitch).

Three-year-old colt, gelding, or filly, suitable for hunting purposes, bred by a tenant farmer resident in the county.—First prize, £10, W. Hawkins, Weston, Bredwardine. Reserve: G. Morgan, Llandinabo, Ross.

Cob of any age, not exceeding 14 hands 2 inches.—First prize, £5, W. Williams, Broomy Hill (Little Charley).

Nag mare, not less than 15 hands 1 inch, with her foal at foot.—First prize, £10, J. S. Mason, Ledbury (Belladonna); second, £5, W. Morris, Dewsall (Polly Jones).

Pony of any age or sex, not exceeding 14 hands high, suitable for harness purposes.—First prize, £5, W. S. Armitage (Don Carlos); second, £2, S. Smith, Woodmanton (Jack). Reserve: Sir H. Stanhope (Ruby).

CIDER AND PERRY.

Dozen of cider, made by the exhibitor, and from fruit grown on land in the exhibitor's occupation.—First prize, £2 10s., Yeomans, Pyon (from White Norman and Cowarne Red fruit); second, £1, F. W. Herbert, Credenhill (from Foxwhelp).

Dozen of perry, made by the exhibitor, and from fruit grown on land in the exhibitor's occupation.—First prize, £2 10s., Hill, Egleton (from Taynton Squash and Huffcap); second, £1, Hill (from Oldfield).

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Bull of the Hereford breed.—Prize, £25, Mrs. Edwards (Winter de Cote).

Cow or heifer of the Hereford breed.—Prize, £25, Thomas, St. Hilary. (Rosaline).

Ram.—Prize, £10, J. Wheeler.

Best pen or lot of ewes exhibited.—Cup, value £10—Farmer.

At the dinner, Mr. Boughton Knight, the Chairman, said: I don't mean to say that I am simple enough to suppose that the condition of the animals which you exhibit here today is dependent upon the abundance or scarcity of grass. You no doubt tell your friends, the cattle buying agriculturists from distant counties, that the Hereford cattle will grow fat upon a bare soil, but I know very well that not only all the skill and attention you can give but also the most liberal expenditure of money is necessary to bring cattle to the condition in which we have seen them exhibited in our show-yard today, and therefore I think more credit is due to those gentlemen who have contributed to its success in sending their cattle to the show in such high condition in the face of a deficient season, and also I am sorry to say in the face of increased disadvantages in all directions which agriculturists have to bear at the present time. He thought they might take it that the prosperity of the Society depended on the prosperity of the three classes interested in agriculture—viz., the landlord, the tenant-farmer, and the labourer. The interests of the landlord and tenant-farmer were identical; it was certain that those two classes must sink or rise together. He trusted there were none present who voted the landlords to be an almost useless class, considering nobody, but sitting still and receiving their rents. They had duties to perform in various ways and they had tried to discharge them, but perhaps the best of us found that we often did not accomplish the half of what we desired to do. The prospects of the farmers were uncertain at present. Although prices were satisfactory, what were higher rates to be compared with deficiency of produce? They might be fortunate to hold by a staff of labourers who were wise enough to turn a deaf ear to those charmers who were now stumping the country. Moreover, there was an idea abroad that the back of the farmer was strong enough to bear any addition that might be made to the rates. The latest infliction which had been cast upon him had been the management of the turnpike roads through Highway Boards, and the creation of a sanitary authority. These were burdens which eventually would have to be borne by the landlords. The land could have but a certain value—an increase in value no doubt there was in consequence of the increased prosperity and wealth of the country—but the more they took out of the annual value the less was left in the shape of rent. These payments therefore eventually came out of the land practically, though at present they were on the tenant-farmer; and he trusted that in the next session of Parliament they

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would have an Act passed to make woods and mines and such like property liable to pay its share of the rates (A Voice: "It is passed"). He should very incompletely fulfil the task he had set himself when he rose if he omitted to refer to the third class interested in agriculture—viz., the labourers; but he would do so briefly, because it was a subject that had been over much discussed of late. The labourers were no doubt fully entitled to use every legitimate means to improve their condition. But the mistake which they had made was the suffering themselves to be led away by persons whose profession it was to discover for their especial benefit grievances of which the labourers were not before aware. Those persons were unable to estimate what the farmers' profits were, and therefore they were unable to form an opinion as to what wages he was able to give to his labourers. After all the wages paid to the labourer were but a part of the question. There were a hundred and one little kindnesses which a farmer could do for his labourer, and if these kindnesses were withdrawn and a money payment alone, according to a hard and fast line, paid to him, it would be a very grievous thing for the labourer. The time had once been when he thought the labourers were beginning to distrust their advisers, and in the Eastern Counties they had already discovered the truth of the old maxim that supply and demand regulated the wages of labour.

PRESTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—Horses: Major Ballard, W. Tenant, and W. S. Atkinson. Cattle: M. Walker and J. Knowles. Sheep, Pigs, Roots, &c.: S. Walker and J. Irving. Poultry: R. Teebay. Pigeons: W. T. Tegetemeir. Dogs: W. Lort and R. J. L. Price. Implements: A. Tomlinson, W. Boulton, J. C. Stevenson, and S. Barge.

HORSES.

Thoroughbred stallion.—Special prize, cup or £10, R. Hutton, London; second, E. Stanley, Grange.

Roadster stallion.—First prize, J. Gill, Silsdon; second, T. Statter.

Draught stallion.—First and second prizes, T. Statter. Commended: E. Musgrove and J. H. Crowther.

Brood mare for draught purposes, being in foal or having produced a foal in 1874—First prize, T. Statter; second, J. Thom, Chorley. Commended: J. Waterworth; W. Kirkham, Preesal.

Brood mare for harness purposes.—First prize, T. Fox, Singleton; second, E. Fearnside, Wakefield.

Brood mare, for breeding hunters.—Special prize, S. Kirkly, Manchester; second, E. Cartmel, Lytham.

Pair of horses for draught purposes, three years old.—First and second prizes, C. W. Brierley.

Mare or gelding for draught purposes, three years old.—First and second prizes, C. W. Brierley. Commended: W. Kirkham.

Mare or gelding for draught purposes, any age, to be shown in cart and gears.—Silver cup, T. Cartmel, Clifton; second, J. Milner, Myerscough.

Three years old gelding or filly for draught.—First prize, T. Cartmel; second, J. Milner.

Two years old gelding or filly for draught purposes.—First prize, T. Seed, Bashall Town; second, W. Shaw, Thornton. Highly commended: J. Walsh, S. Michales. Commended: Mrs. Hothersall and Sons; Rev. J. Pinnington; T. Cartmel; R. J. Cornthwaite, Myrescough; T. Statter; R. C. Richards; G. Hawley, Sawley; G. Catterall, Preston.

Yearling colt or filly for draught purposes.—First prize, T. Walker, Barnacre; second, T. Statter. Highly commended: W. Gardner, Lea.

Three years old gelding or filly for other purposes, not being thoroughbred.—First prize, T. Rigg, Grange; second, R. Bowling, Scotforth.

Two years old gelding or filly for other purposes.—First prize, W. Taylor, Poulton; second, E. Fearnside.

Yearling colt or filly for other purposes.—First prize, T. Fox; second, P. Blundell, Weeton.

Colt or filly foal, for draught purposes.—First prize, W. F. Sumner, Singleton; second, G. Catterall. Commended: R. Saul.

Colt or filly foal for other purposes,—First prize, S. Kirkby, Manchester; second, T. Fox.

Road or field mare or gelding, four years old.—First prize, T. Powell, Preston; second, T. Grigg.

Cob above 13½ hands high, and not exceeding 15 hands.—Cup or £7 7s., J. Camps, Stonyhurst; second, R. Wright, Salford; third, J. Maudsley, Aughton.

Cob, above 12 and not exceeding 13½ hands.—First prize, L. Pilkington, Liverpool; second, J. Hall, Darwen.

Mare or gelding 15 hands and upwards, and to be shown and driven in harness.—Cup or £7 7s., J. C. Rogerson' Manchester; second, T. Statter; third, T. Heaps, Preston.

Cob, above 13½ and under 15 hands high, to be shown and driven in harness.—First prize, R. Settle, Bolton; second, R. Wright; third, H. Hawkins, Preston.

Pony, not exceeding 13½ hands high, to be shown and driven in harness.—First prize, T. B. Pye, Longton; second, J. Higson, Preston.

Hunter mare or gelding, any age, to leap over hurdles and water.—First prize, R. Hutton; second and third, J. Fearon, Whitehaven.

Fencer, any age, to carry not less than 11 stone over hurdles and water.—First prize, J. Fearon; second, Captain Wing, Fulwood.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull, three years old.—Prize, E. Musgrove, Aughton. Highly commended: W. Handley, Green Head.

Bull, two years old.—First prize, B. St. J. Ackers, Painswick; second, T. Statter. Highly commended: A. W. Shepheard, Burton.

Bull, above one and under two years old.—First prize, R. Thompson, Mythop; second, S. Parker, Farington. Highly commended: B. Bee, Goosnargh.

Bull-calf, under one year old.—First prize, Mrs. Atkinson, Dutton; second, R. Thompson. Highly commended: G. Ashburner.

Cow or heifer, above three years old.—First prize, T. Statter; second, E. Musgrove. Highly commended: E. Ball, Longton.

Heifer, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, J. Thom; second, T. Statter. Highly commended: B. St. John Ackers. Commended: J. R. Patterson, Barrow.

Heifer, not exceeding two years old.—First and second prizes, T. Statter. Highly commended: Mrs. Atkinson; W. Handley, Milnthorpe.

Heifer calf, not exceeding one year old.—First prize, B. St. John Ackers; second, Mrs. Atkinson and Sons. Highly commended: J. Harrison, Hoole.

TENANT FARMERS' CLASS.

Bull, three years old and upwards.—First prize, J. Grimshaw, Penwortham; second, R. Holt, Ribbleton Hall. Highly commended: W. Handley. Commended: J. Taylor, Ormskirk.

Bull, two and under three years old.—First prize, B. Fletcher, Carlton, Yeadon; second, A. W. Shepheard, Burton.

Bull, above one and under two years old.—First prize, R. Thompson, Mythop Lodge; second, S. Parker, Farington. Highly commended: B. B.

Bull calf, under one year old.—First prize, Mrs. Atkinson, Dutton; second, R. Thompson. Highly commended: G Ashburner.

Cow or heifer, above three years old, and in calf or milk.—First prize, G. Ashburner; second, R. Spencer, Blackburn. Highly commended: R. Saul, Woodplumpton. Commended: J. Lund, Ingol.

Heifer, above two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, J. R. Patterson; second, R. Saul. Highly commended: J. Woodhouse, Lancaster.

Heifer, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, Mrs.

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Atkinson and Sons; second, J. R. Patterson. Highly commended: W. Handley.

Heifer calf, not exceeding one year old.—First prize, Mrs. Atkinson and Sons; second, J. Lund.

Three dairy cows, above three years old.—First prize, N. Rothwell, Great Lever; second, R. Saul.

For the best male animal.—Silver Cup, E. Musgrove.

For the best female animal.—Silver Cup, J. Thom.

SHEEP.

Shearling ram, Leicester breed.—First prize, J. W. and T. Parker, Kendal; second, J. Cock, Bolton-le-Sands.

Leicester ram, any other age.—First prize, Messrs. Dovenor, Bedale; second, J. W. and T. Parker.

Long-wool ram.—First and second prizes, J. and R. Earnshaw, Grindleton.

Shearling ram of the Down breed.—First prize, W. Dodgson, Kirkham; second, W. Handley.

Ram of the Down breed, excepting shearling.—First and second prizes, S. Ashton, Timperley.

Ram of any breed, adapted to a mountain district.—First prize, G. Dewhurst, Rawtenstall; second, J. Pickup, Newchurch.

Three shearling gimmers.—First prize, Messrs. Dovenor; second, W. Handley.

Three Leicester ewes, not to exceed four shears.—First prize, Messrs. Dovenor; second, M. Lamb, Otley.

Three shearling ewes, of the Down breed.—Prize, S. Ashton.

Three ewes of the Down breed, not to exceed four shears.—First prize, E. Musgrave: second, S. Ashton.

Three blackfaced Scotch ewes, not to exceed four shears.—First and second prizes, A. W. Long, Kendal.

Three ewes, of any other breed, and adapted to a mountain district.—First and second prizes, T. Brigg, Keighley.

Whitefaced tup lamb.—First prize, Hon. J. B. Ogilvy, Kirkham; second, J. Woodhouse, Scale Hall.

Tup lamb of the Down breed.—First prize, E. Musgrave; second, S. Ashton.

Three whitefaced gimmer lambs of the Leicester breed.—First prize, Hon. J. B. Ogilvy; second, M. Lamb.

Three gimmer lambs of the Down breed.—First prize, S. Ashton; second, W. Dodgson.

Three cross bred (first cross) gimmer lambs.—First prize, M. Lamb; second, P. Grime, Preston.

Three gimmer lambs adapted to a mountain district.—First prize, T. Brigg; second, A. W. Long.

Best ram in the show yard.—Tradesmen's Cup, J. and R. E. Earnshaw.

Best pen of ewes in the show yard.—Prize, S. Ashton.

PIGS.

Boar of large breed.—First prize, J. Chapman, Preston; W. C. Rainford, Preston.

Boar of small breed.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Littleborough; second, J. Parker, Preston.

Boar of Berkshire breed.—First prize, Rev. J. Pennington, Stonyhurst; second, J. Garnett, Bolton.

Breeding sow of large breed, in pig or milk.—First prize, T. Geddes, Ashton; second, J. Carr, Leyland.

Breeding sow of small breed.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, C. Mercer, Preston.

Breeding sow of Berkshire breed.—First prize, D. Ashcroft, Haighton; second, J. Garnett.

ROOTS AND SEEDS.

Vegetables, six varieties.—First prize, J. B. Jones, Fulwood; second, G. Smith, Wheelton.

Swedish turnips.—First prize, J. B. Jones; second, G. Smith.

Turnips (except Swedes).—First and second prizes, G. Smith.

Long red mangolds.—First prize, T. Birkett, Weeton; second, J. Rigby, Farrington.

Mangolds.—First prize, J. B. Jones; second, J. Rigby.

Round potatoes.—First prize, W. Blackhurst, Whittingham; second, J. Rigby.

Kidney potatoes.—First prize, J. Walmsley, Broughton; second, G. Smith.

Carrots.—First and second prizes, G. Smith.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Butter, not less than 5lbs., made up in half-pounds.—First prize, G. Bargh, Warton; second, R. Whittaker. Highly commended: G. Bargh; R. Whittaker; J. Rigby; G. Rollet, Preston; J. Salesbury, Goosnargh; W. Clegg, Goosnargh; L. Uttley Preston; G. Haworth, Darwen; and C. Seaward, Ashton.

Cheese.—First prize, H. Blundell, Whittingham; second, W. Milner, Inskip.

IMPLEMENTS.

Mowing machine.—First prize, H. and G. Kearsley, Ripon; second, Picksley, Sims, and Co., Leigh; special medal, Harrison, McGregor, and Co. Highly commended: W. A. Wood, London; W. A. Fell, Bridge Iron Works, Windermere.

Haymaking machine.—First prize, J. S. Warburton, Preston; second, Carruthers and Bagnall, Lancaster. Highly commended: T. Standing, Preston.

Horserake.—First prize, Picksley, Sims, and Co.; second J. S. Warburton. Highly commended: Haughton and Thompson, Carlisle.

Collection of agricultural implements.—Prize, T. Standing. Highly commended: J. S. Warburton.

Thrashing machine in motion.—First prize, T. Standing; second, Clayton and Shuttleworth.

Chaff-cutter.—Prize, T. Standing. Highly commended: J. Crowley and Co., Sheffield; Harrison, McGregor, and Co.

Turnip pulper.—Prize, Picksley, Sims, and Co. Highly commended: J. S. Warburton; Harrison, McGregor, and Co.

Turnip-cutter. — Prize, Corbett and Peele, Shrewsbury. Highly commended: J. S. Warburton.

Grinding mill and crusher.—Prize, T. Standing. Highly commended: J. S. Warburton.

Winnowing machine.—Prize, Corbett and Peele. Highly commended: J. Richardson, Carlisle.

Oilcake mill.—Prize, Corbett and Peele. Highly commended: J. S. Warburton.

Churn.—Prize, W. Wade, Leeds. Highly commended: The Domestic Washing Machine Co., Accrington.

Washing machine.—Prize, Taylor and Wilson, Accrington.

Wringing and mangling machine.—Thomas and Taylor, Stockport.

Collection of carriages.—Prize, J. Walmsley, Preston. Highly commended: W. Penny, Preston.

Special medals were awarded as follows: Rustic Gardenhouse, H. Inman. Riband Telegraph Company, medal for Dutch barn. Denis and Company, medal for heating apparatus and greenhouse, and for water and steam valves. W. Heap, for collection of horse shoes. J. A. Wade, for interlocking roofing tiles. W. H. Peake, Liverpool, for iron-fencing. Reynolds and Co., woodcutting machinery. Marsden and Co., stone-breaker. Corbett and Peele, horse hoe clover drill. Slack and Brownlow, water filter. Standing, for potato setter. Warburton potato digger. J. F. Cox, Abyssinian pump. J. S. Warburton, apparatus for unloading.

THE NEW LAW ON RATING.—An Act, which has just received the Royal assent, to amend the law as to the valuation of property to the poor and other rates has just been printed. Certain exemptions in the Poor-rate Act of 43rd of Elizabeth are abolished, and lands used as plantation, or a wood, or for growth of saleable underwood, and not subject to any right of common, also rights of fowling, of shooting or taking or killing game or rabbits, when severed from the occupation of the land, and mines of every kind not mentioned in the recited Act, are to be liable to be rated to the poor and other rates. There are provisions as to deductions and the manner in which such property is to be rated. The commencement of the Act, to enable a valuation to be made in a list to be in force after the 6th April next, is to be on the 6th April, 1875. A definition is given of the terms used in the statute, which is not to apply to Scotland or Ireland. It will however, produce a large sum in poor and other rates.

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THE BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT MELROSE.

The cattle exhibited were all Shorthorns with the exception of a few crosses. The display of entire horses was not nearly so grand as might have been expected; but the show of Leicester shearling rams was good. There were three or four stands of implements belonging to Border firms.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—SHORTHORNS: J. Boyd, Simprim Mains, Coldstream; J. Dickinson, Bemersyde Cottage, St. Boswells; C. Smith, Whittingham, Prestonkirk. HORSES: T. Hume, Wormerlaw, Coldstream; D. Aitchison, Maidenhall, St. Boswells; A. Calder, Yetholm Mains, Kelso. HUNTING STOCK: A. Turnbull, Coldstream; W. Ford, Hardengreen, Dalkeith; W. Shore, St. Boswells. PIGS: Same as for Shorthorns. BORDER LEICESTER SHEEP: J. Dinning, Belford; J. Lees, Marvingston, Haddington; A. Bell, Linton, Kelso. CHEVIOT SHEEP: J. Brydon, Kinnelhead, Moffat; W. Aitchison, Brieryhill, Hawick. HALF-BRED AND SHEEP OF ANY BREED: Same as for Cheviots. IMPLEMENTS: —. Munro, Fairnington, Kelso.

SHORTHORNS.

Bulls calved before 1st January, 1872.—First prize and silver medal, W. Lambert, Elrington Hall, Haydon Bridge. Highly commended: N. Milne, Faldonside, Melrose. Commended: J. Tweedie, Deuchrie, Prestonkirk.

Bulls calved before 1st January, 1873, and after 1st January, 1872.—Prize, the Duke of Buccleuch, Carterhaugh, Selkirk.

Bulls calved after 1st January, 1873.—First prize, J. Nisbet, Rumbleton, Greenlaw; second, J. Bell, Fans, Earlston. Commended: A. Thomson, Mainhill, St. Boswells.

Cows not exceeding ten years old.—First prize, J. Bell; second, J. Atkinson, Bywell Hall Farm, Stocksfield-on-Tyne. Highly commended: Lord Polworth, Broomhall Farm, St. Boswells. Commended: W. Lambert and J. Atkinson.

Cows not exceeding ten years old and not eligible in preceding class.—First prize, G. Whitelaw, Yetholm Mill, Kelso; second, A. Brownlee, Haughead, Earlston; third, J. Bell.

Two years old heifers.—Prize, J. Atkinson. Highly commended: W. Lambert. Commended: J. Bell.

One year old heifers.—First prize, J. Bell; second, J. Tweedie. Highly commended: J. Tweedie. Commended: N. Milne.

Pen of five one year old heifers.—First prize, R. Logan, Birkinside, Earlston; second, W. Riddell, Hundalee, Jedburgh.

Pen of five oxen, one year olds, suitable for laying on to turnips.—G. Whitelaw; second, W. Riddell.

HORSES.

Draught stallions.—First and second prizes, P. M'Robbie, Sunnyside, Aberdeen.

Cart mares, with foal at foot, or in foal at the time of exhibition.—First prize, J. Atkinson; second, J. Lawrie, Mitchelston, Stow. Highly commended: J. Atkinson. Commended: A. Smith, Stevenson Mains, Haddington.

Cart mares or geldings above three years old.—First prize, S. Jack, Merrington, Coldstream; second, A. Bain, Legars, Kelso. Highly commended: T. E. Boog, Timpendean, Jedburgh, and T. E. Scott, Buckholm, Galashiels.

Colt and fillies for agricultural purposes, two years old.—First and second prizes, J. Lawrie. Highly commended and commended: J. Scott, Dudgeon, Longnewton-place, St. Boswells.

Pairs of horses for agricultural purposes (mares or geldings).—Prize, J. Thompson, Bailliknowe, Kelso. Highly commended: J. Scott.

Hackneys (geldings or mares).—Prize, C. J. Cunningham, Morebattle Tofts, Kelso. Commended: W. Watson, Easter Softlaw, Kelso.

Hunting stock, four years old, likely to make good hunters.—First prize, G. Riddell, Coreshope, Herriot; second, A. Calder, Yetholm Mains, Kelso.

Three years old likely to make good hunters.—First prize, G. Riddell; second, A. Haddon, Honeyburn, Hawick. Commended: J. Purves, Thorniedykes, Lauder.

Brood mares.—First prize, J. Usher, Stodrig, Kelso; second, A. Logan, jun., Hownam Grange, Morebattle.

Hunting colts and fillies, five years old and upwards.—Prize, J. C. Cunningham.

Made hunters.—Prize, J. C. Cunningham.

Jumpers.—First prize, G. Borthwick, Frogden, Kelso; second, J. T. Primrose, Saughlands, Dalkeith; third, G. Dove, Crossflat, St. Boswells.

EXTRA STOCK.—Highly commended for brown filly one year old, J. Usher; for piebald pony, W. L. Blaikie.

PIGS.

Boars of the large breed.—Prize, N. Milne, Dryhope, Selkirk.

Boars of the small breed.—Prize, Lord Polwarth.

Brood pigs of the large breed.—Prize, D. Aitchison, Maidenhall, St. Boswells.

Brood pigs of the small breed.—Prize, R. Turnbull, Falnash, Hawick.

Litter of pigs of any breed under sixteen weeks old, not less than eight of one litter.—Prize, N. Milne.

SHEEP.

Border Leicester shearling rams.—First and second prizes, with Roxburghe silver medal and bronze medal, J. and T. Clarke, Oldhamstocks Mains, Cockburnspath. Highly commended: Clarke and Torrance, Sisterpath, Dunse.

Rams to shear.—First prize, T. Elliot, Hindhope, Jedburgh; second, J. T. Primrose.

Pen of five gimmers or shearling ewes.—First prize, G. Torrance; second, W. Purves. Commended: —. Nisbet, Lambden, Greenlaw.

Pen of five ewes which have had lambs and nursed them in 1874.—Prize, —. Nisbet. Highly commended: T. Simson, Slainslie, Lauder.

Pen of five gimmers or shearling ewes which have been fed upon turnips and grass only, and undressed.—Prize, J. Henderson, Cornhill, Coldstream. Commended: T. Hume, Wormerlaw, Coldstream.

Pen of five ewes, fed upon grass and turnips only, and undressed.—Prize, J. Henderson. Highly commended: A. Bain.

CHEVIOTS.

Rams not above one shear.—First and second prizes, T. Elliot.

Rams not above five shear.—First and second prizes, T. Elliot.

Pen of five ewes.—Prize, T. Elliot.

Pen of five gimmers.—Prize, T. Elliot.

HALFBREDS.

Rams not above one shear.—Prize, W. L. Blackie, Holydean, St. Boswells.

Rams not above three shear.—Prize, W. L. Blackie.

Pen of five ewes.—Prize, A. Thompson.

Pen of five gimmers.—W. L. Blackie.

ANY BREED.

First and second prizes, Lord Polwarth.

IMPLEMENTS.

Collections of implements.—Prizes to Lillie and Elder, Berwick-on-Tweed; Bickerston and Sons, Tweedmouth; W. Turnbull, St. Boswells; J. Carrie, St. Boswells, and Stuart and Mein, Kelso. Special prizes to Lillie and Elder, for a combined turnip slicer; W. Turnbull, for an improved grubber-harrow; and J. Carrie, for an improved vice for reaper knives.

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SCOTTISH CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.

At the half-yearly meeting, held in Perth, Mr. Bethune, of Blebo, in the chair,

Mr. D. CURROR, the secretary, laid on the table a statement of the financial transactions of the Chamber, which showed that at present, if the arrears of subscriptions were got in, the balance in hand would be £1,436 17s. 1d.

Mr. DUN (Baldinnes) submitted the following motion, which had been adjusted by the directors and himself: To add to Rule XX.—"But when it appears to the directors to be expedient they shall have power to collect the opinions of the members of the Chamber upon such questions as may in their opinion have been sufficiently ventilated by previous discussion, and for that purpose to adjust and issue voting papers for each member of the Chamber by post." In doing so he said that he did not think it necessary to say much with a view to induce the meeting to support the motion. The matter had been under the attention of the Chamber for a number of years, and it had come to be known that from the small number of members usually taking part in divisions, the Chamber was thought by those not belonging to it to be a very small body. Were the motion submitted adopted, however, the Chamber would be placed in a much more advantageous position with regard to the public, and particularly in the sight of members of Parliament. Lord Elcho, in the House of Commons last year, had taken opportunity to make a remark not at all complimentary, but which he (Mr. Dun) did not know exactly how to characterise, with reference to the Chamber, so that it was evident that something required to be done in order to afford members of the Chamber additional facilities for expressing their opinions.

Mr. ANDERSON (Fowlis) proposed that the motion should be adopted, remarking that at present members of Parliament, in speaking of the Chamber, were apt not by any means to magnify their body, while, on the other hand, politicians who had an end to serve might, on the occasion of a vote being given by a small number of the members, take hold of the opinion of such a section of the Chamber and represent it as being very influential.

Mr. DINGWALL (Ramornie) seconded the motion, which on being put to the meeting was unanimously adopted.

There was laid on the table a report on the action taken by the Chamber in connection with the Land Tenancy Laws. The principal part of this report was occupied with a long statement of the opinions of the committee appointed to examine and report upon the form of leases issued by Sir Patrick Murray, of Ochtertyre, in which certain provisions as to unexhausted improvements are made. The chief of these are:

The tenant, at the natural expiry or earlier termination of the lease, shall be entitled to compensation from the landlord for unexhausted extraneous manure brought to the farm, purchased and paid for by the tenant, according to the undernoted scales, the actual purchase of such manure being proved by duly-authenticated vouchers, and its application by the solemn declaration of the tenant, corroborated by such further evidence as the arbiters may see fit to require; and during the last three years of a lease, the tenant shall be bound to produce, for the inspection of the landlord or his factor, at each term of Whitsunday and Martinmas, if required, the vendor's account for all manures and feeding-stuffs supplied to the tenant during the previous six months, and he shall also point out the ground to which the manure has been applied, as a condition of receiving compensation for the same.

ALLOWANCE FOR LIME.—Lime applied to arable land shall be held to last for ten years; applied to permanent pasture on grazing farms for twelve years.

Proportion of the Original Value held to be exhausted in each Year, allowance to be made accordingly.

ON ARABLE LAND.

	Fifty-fifths.		Fifty-fifths.
In 1st year	10	In 6th year	5
„ 2nd „	9	„ 7th „	4
„ 3rd „	8	„ 8th „	3
„ 4th „	7	„ 9th „	2
„ 5th „	6	„ 10th „	1

ON PERMANENT PASTURE.

	Seventy-eighths.		Seventy-eighths.
In 1st year	12	In 7th year ...	6
„ 2nd „	11	„ 8th „ ...	5
„ 3rd „	10	„ 9th „ ...	4
„ 4th „	9	„ 10th „ ...	3
„ 5th „	8	„ 11th „ ...	2
„ 6th „	7	„ 12th „ ...	1

ALLOWANCE FOR MANURES.—Horse, cow, and town manure, guano, bones, and coprolites shall be held to last for four years.

RATE OF EXHAUSTION.

	Tenths.		Tenths.
In 1st year	4	In 3rd year	2
„ 2nd „	3	„ 4th „	1

ALLOWANCE FOR OIL-CAKE FEEDING.—For oil-cake, or any similar substance of equal manurial value, purchased by the tenant, and used in feeding sheep or cattle on the farm, one-sixth part of the entire cost of all the material used during the last three years of the lease will be allowed, except grain in any shape, for which no allowance will be made. These rates of compensation for unexhausted manures are not to include the cost of the carriages and laying on performed by the tenant, for which no allowance will be made.

COMPENSATION FOR CARRIAGES DRIVEN BY THE TENANT, ON LEAVING BEFORE THE NATURAL TERMINATION OF THE LEASE.—In the event of the tenant ceasing to occupy the farm before the natural termination of the lease, he shall have right to compensation from the landlord for the value of any carriages of materials for the permanent improvement of the farm performed by the tenant, under the provisions of the lease, or with the written consent of the landlord. The amount of compensation to be in proportion to the number of years of the lease unexpired at the date of the tenant's removal from the farm; but under no circumstances shall the amount for value of carriages, at the time of the performances thereof, be estimated by the arbiters at more than 14 per cent. on the amount paid by the landlord for these permanent improvements at the time of their execution.

BUILDINGS OR FENCES ERECTED BY TENANT AT HIS OWN COST.—If the tenant shall, at his own cost, erect any buildings or fences on the farm, the landlord shall be entitled, if so disposed, to take such erections at valuation of arbiters, or to decline taking them, and in the latter case the tenant shall be obliged to make them over to the incoming tenant, or to remove them, on condition that he restores the ground, or the other buildings to which they are attached, to their original condition.

LANDLORD'S HYPOTHEC.—The landlord renounces all preferable rights as against other creditors of the tenant conferred upon him by the law of hypothec.

Mr. GOODLET writes: I hope the directors will not commit themselves to any fixed rule or scheme of compensation for improvement, such as that adopted by Sir Patrick Murray, or any improved scheme that may be devised. I believe no rule can be laid down that will do justice in all cases, and I think it would be a great mistake in us to commit ourselves to St. Patrick's, or any other scheme of the kind. We cannot, I believe, do better than adhere to the resolution the Chamber has already come to, in which the principle on which compensation ought to be allowed is clearly defined, the compensation in every case being to be determined by arbitration.

Mr. WILLIAM SMITH, West Drums, Brechin, writes: I am of opinion that we ought to stand fast to the general principle of being paid for "whatever is proved to add to the letting value of the subject." I think if this were made the groundwork of this Tenant-Right agitation, it would much simplify the whole affair, and would carry justice and equity along with it.

Mr. GEORGE HOPE, of Borlands, writes: I have made several careful experiments in growing crops during a rotation of four years, with Peruvian guano, Ichaboe guano, bones, fresh and decomposed, and other manures, testing them with farmyard manure, and I found Peruvian and Ichaboe guano equally lasting with farmyard manure, and that a hundredweight of guano was about equal in manurial value to three

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tons of farmyard manure. The crops, after the fresh bone dust or meal, were inferior to the others during the first two years, but rather superior to them in the last two years of the rotation. The weight of the bones applied was a half more than of guano. Doubtless, on different qualities of soil, different results might be obtained, but this is not a matter we require to settle, as it would be absurd to propose inserting in an Act of Parliament the value of manures and the period they are supposed to last. Our duty is plainly to demand that all improvements effected by tenants, which are "suitable to the farm, and add to its letting value," should be paid for by the landlord or incoming tenant, as valued by arbiters. The immense superiority of crops grown on land in really high condition is universally admitted, but then this condition can only be obtained by a large expense, during a long course of years, while, under the present tenancy laws, there is a strong probability of the tenant being called on to pay additional rent for his own outlay.

Mr. SCOT-SKIRVING: I think Sir P. Murray ought to be thanked by the Chamber for his disinterested attempt to meet the expressed wishes of the Chamber. Mr. Goodlet, taking his observations as a whole, seems to think Sir P. Murray has not gone far enough. I venture to think, on the contrary, he has gone much too far. I think twenty-one years would be a better duration for a lease than nineteen, and that it might be held as giving a larger and indeed sufficient compensation to the tenant for manurial benefits, except such as are brought to the farm during the last rotation. These I would have sustained by proper vouchers, and the unexhausted value proved by arbitration. Both the sliding scale of Sir P. Murray and the annuity of Mr. Goodlet I would reject as too complex.

JOHN CLAY (Kerchesters, Kelso): The agriculturists of Scotland are much indebted to our President and Mr. Goodlet for the manner in which these gentlemen have brought up this most important question. Security of capital and payment of tenants' improvements is a question of vital importance, not only to the tenantry, but to the landlord and to the nation, as it is the best mode of securing the fertility of the soil, and the productive powers of the land being kept up for this fast-growing age. Sir Patrick Murray is far in advance of most landlords. In my opinion, however, some of his compensation clauses, meant to be equitable, will be found unworkable in practice. What we, as a Chamber, have urged is, to have the principles of compensation admitted as just between landlord and tenant, and beneficial to the nation; and Sir Patrick deserves our thanks for the progress he has made in that direction. Soils and climates differ so much that it would be difficult, and I think unwise, to attempt laying down a scale for the whole country. But there are in every district many practical men, whose experience in their trade makes them expert in fixing, in any year of a rotation, what values of draining, liming, cakes and manures of all kinds remain in the land unexhausted; and valuations may, with perfect safety, be left with them—with this direction, that they will allow only for "what has proved to have added letting value to the farm."

It was the opinion of the following gentlemen, given in evidence in the Echline case, recently decided, that a fully manured green crop, grown and removed, would exhaust manures applied to it as under:

George Thomson, Pursuer.—One-third of common farmyard manure would be exhausted; ½ of guano exhausted; ⅔ of potato manure exhausted.

Professor Wilson.—I have seen Sir Patrick Murray's model conditions, and I see no reason to object to them.

Wm. Smith, West Drums.—Estimated the exhaustion at about ½ of substantial manure, and ⅔ of the artificial.

John Clay, Kerchesters, Kelso.—One-half farmyard manure exhausted in the crop. The amount of guano depends on quality. If high-class ammoniacal there would not be much left. I would put it below ¼, perhaps ⅓. Of bones, ½ would be left; potato manure about ½ left.

James Stenhouse, South Gyle, Corstorphine.—One-third of farmyard manure exhausted in crop; ½ of guano, but it depends on kind of guano; ⅔ potato manure.

James Brash, Hallyards, Kirkliston.—About ¼ farmyard manure exhausted; guano and bones a little more. My calculation ½ of whole exhausted.

Charles Rintoul, Easter Craigie and Kingston.—Farmyard manure, ¼ exhausted; guano, ¾ exhausted, and the same in the case of artificial manures, except bones, which are more lasting.

The PRESIDENT, Mr. M'Neel Caird, sums up in these terms: It appears to me, as the general results of the discussion, that differences of climate, soil, condition, and treatment, and the varying qualities of manures, and of the quantities applied, make such differences in the rates of exhaustion of fertilisers, that no fixed rules of proportion can with safety be adopted. But these differences are quite cognisable by experienced men in each particular case. Qualified valuers or arbitrators, checking the vouched expenditure by their practical knowledge, and by their personal observation of the results on the particular farm, with the aid of such inquiry as they can easily make (especially on the spot), will be able to arrive at conclusions fair to the outgoing tenant, without injustice to his successor. And this leads me to remark, that in practice these compensations will in general not be paid by the landlord, but wil be ascertained and settled between the outgoing and the incoming tenant. The landlord can always, and will usually, make stipulations to that effect in letting his farm to a new tenant, unless he sees that he can get a better rent by paying the compensation himself. The measure of compensation ought never to exceed the letting value added to the farm by the tenant's improvements as at the date of his removal, taking into account all deteriorations which can be brought against him. The unstinted expenditure in manures, which a just system of compensation will encourage the tenant to make, and to continue till the close of his occupation, will be a new security to the landlord (of which he cannot be deprived) for payment of the rent, and fulfilment of the tenant's obligations. It is of high public policy that a state of the law should be amended, which, by causing insecurity, hinders the full use of capital to increase the productiveness of the soil. To amend that state of the law in a wise spirit with due consideration of all the interests involved, will result in a vast enlargement of growth, especially of food, and, by consequence, will add immensely to the annual income and wealth of the country, to the fund for the employment of labour to the prosperity of manufactures and commerce, to the comfort and contentment of the people, and thus to the security of property, and the general welfare of the nation.

Mr. DUNN moved that a vote of thanks should be accorded to Sir Patrick Murray for the action which he had taken, there being, he remarked, a feeling general throughout the county that Sir Patrick deserved all the credit that could possibly be given him. This motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson and unanimously agreed to.

The SECRETARY explained that the Marquis of Huntly's Agricultural Tenants Improvement Bill had not been before the directors, as they had had no opportunity of meeting since it had been introduced into Parliament. He had no doubt, however, that it had come under the notice of all the members of the Chamber through being published in the newspapers. The bill had not succeeded in getting through Parliament this year, but he believed that it was to form the basis of a measure to be introduced next session if the proposals contained in it met with any encouragement.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that he agreed with what had been said by the noble Marquis in moving the second reading of his bill in the House of Lords. "This bill," his Lordship had said, "may not attain that object (the affording of security for capital invested or improvements made), but at all events I may claim that it is an attempt to settle in a practical way a question which on all sides is acknowledged to be surrounded by great difficulties and complications." He (the Chairman) thought that at any rate the meeting should express thanks to the Marquis of Huntly for his endeavour to bring about a solution of the question dealt with, although he for one was not prepared to express very strongly his opinions as to the merits or demerits of the bill.

Mr. BALLINGALL (Dunborg) said that his Lordship's bill was certainly a step in the right direction—an attempted solution of a question which the Chamber of Agriculture had a great interest in, and he therefore moved, in accordance with the Chairman's suggestion, that they should instruct the Secretary to convey the thanks of the meeting to the Marquis of Huntly, without committing themselves to the practical details of the bill.

Mr. NICOLL (Littleton, Kirriemuir) seconded the motion.

Mr. SMITH (Balzeordie) was of opinion that the noble Marquis had introduced his bill into the House of Lords this session in order that tenant-farmers throughout Scotland might express their opinion on it before Parliament met again

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next year. In these circumstances it seemed a mistake simply to move a vote of thanks to his lordship. There was one part of the bill which he (Mr. Smith) thought the Chamber might express an opinion on at once—namely, that which took the management of the land out of the hands of the owners and put it into the hands of the Enclosure Commissioners. He thought that any proposal of that kind was a great mistake, and the Chamber should therefore, in his opinion, come to a resolution to that effect as soon as possible.

The CHAIRMAN said he did not suppose that the directors would take any notice of the bill before the next meeting of Parliament.

Mr. SMITH said he was inclined to move that so far as taking the land out of the hands of the owners was concerned, the bill had not the support of the meeting. The Prime Minister had said that Government was giving attention to the question, and in all likelihood there would be a Government bill introduced next year. He was of opinion that there was a great probability of a moderate measure being carried, if farmers did not insist upon the condition to which he objected—namely, the taking of the land out of the hands of landlords and putting it into the hands of the Enclosure Commissioners, which was surely as great an interference with freedom of contract as anything could well be.

Mr. GARDNER (Chapelbank) expressed his willingness to second Mr. Smith's motion, provided there was a clause added stipulating that after the law was made no individual should have a right to make a private contract which would interfere with that law.

Mr. DINGWALL pointed out that it would be inadvisable, taking into consideration the smallness of the meeting, to enter at all into the discussion of the details, and Mr. Smith having consented to withdraw his motion on the understanding that the matter would be brought before the Chamber at the November meeting, the following motion, proposed by Mr. Ballingall, was unanimously agreed to: "Without committing the Chamber to details, the Secretary is instructed to convey the thanks of the meeting to the Marquis of Huntly for the consideration which his Lordship has given to the Land Tenancy Laws, and the attempt that has been made to solve admitted abuses in these laws."

The SECRETARY said he had received from Sir Robert Anstruther, M.P. for Fifeshire, a draft of a bill for the abolition of hypothec, which the hon. gentleman proposed to introduce next session. The draft was as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as "The Hypothec Abolition (Scotland) Act, 1874," and the same shall extend to Scotland only, and shall apply to all lands and heritages, including dwelling-houses, shops, and other subjects, whether rural or urban.

2. The following words and expressions, when used in this Act, have the meanings herein respectively assigned to them: "Lands" or "premises" mean any lands, houses, or other heritable subjects rented or let on lease; "landlord" means the grantor of a lease of any lands or premises for any term of not less than one year; and "tenant" means any occupier under any such lease; "goods" shall comprehend all that was subject to the landlord's right of hypothec prior to the passing of "The Hypothec Law Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1867," and in addition thereto, in both rural and urban subjects, all household furniture and other personal estate and effects of the like kind on the premises, actually belonging to any tenant.

3. From and after the passing of this Act, and subject to the provisions thereof, the Law of Hypothec in Scotland shall be, and the same is hereby abolished: provided, nevertheless, that it shall be lawful for any tenant to grant in favour of his landlord, or to any other lawful creditor, a right of hypothecation over his goods, in security and for payment of rent, or of any debt or sums of money due or to become due by such tenant: provided, further, that a definite amount shall be specified in the deed or writing conferring such right of hypothecation as the consideration or true cause of granting such right, beyond which amount the right itself, together with the expenses of recovering or enforcing the same, shall not extend.

4. Rights of hypothecation may be included in any lease, or may be granted by any deed or other writing, executed according to the law of Scotland, and the same may be in like manner assigned and discharged; provided that every such right or discharge thereof, in order to be valid, shall be recorded within one week of the time of granting the same in the register to be kept for that purpose provided by this Act.

5. Every right of hypothecation, on being recorded, shall confer on the grantee, his executors and assignees, with respect to the goods thereby hypothecated and to the extent of the sum thereby secured, the same rights, powers, and remedies as under the existing Law of Hypothec at present belong to any landlord

The remaining clause provided for a register of hypothecations being kept by sheriff clerks.

The reading of this bill was the occasion of some merriment being evinced by several members of the Chamber, and on discussion being invited, Mr. Dun asked, amid some laughter, whether anyone would propose a vote of thanks to Sir Robert, Mr. Storrar remarking that the hon. gentleman would be better occupied in looking after the Church.

The bill was remitted to the directors without further conversation, and on the motion of the Chairman the meeting agreed to take means to urge the introduction of Mr. Vans Agnew's Hypethec Abolition Bill next session.

This concluded the business before the meeting.

THE STATE OF THE MONEY MARKET.—The rise in the Bank rate has been successful in its object—it has succeeded in retaining here the gold which was imported. And in consequence the aggregate coin and bullion in the Bank and the reserve in the Banking Department have both risen considerably. Since the account was made up a considerable sum of bullion has also been sent into the Bank, and any more which arrives will probably have a similar destination. But it must not be inferred from this that money is likely soon to go down. In the first place the state of the Bank is much weaker than it was this time last year.

The coin and bullion last year were ...	£23,950,000
Now are	21,858,000
Less this year	2,092,000
The reserve in the Banking Department last year was	12,713,000
Now is	9,902,000
Less this year	2,811,000

It is true that this year there is no such probable demand as was to be expected last year from Germany for the coinage. The demand for France is essentially a demand caused by cheapness of money here. The Bank of France want to augment their store of coin and bullion, but they want to augment it with as little perturbation in Paris and in the Money Market as possible. It will not answer their purpose to create any kind of confusion, for that might postpone the resumption of cash payments, which they wish to accelerate. In this respect the present prospect is undoubtedly clearer than it was last year. But, on the other hand, we must remember that the banking reserve was found to be insufficient last year. The American panic suddenly came and found the Bank entirely unprepared; the most serious excitement we have seen since 1866 was the consequence, for the reserve in the Bank ceased to be such as to give confidence to the public. After such an experience it would be a very grave error for the Bank not now to act with sufficient caution. The amount they hold as a provision not only against expected, but against unexpected events, is much smaller this year than last, and last year at an unexpected crisis it proved wholly insufficient. Although, therefore, it is probable that for the next week or two the accounts of the Bank of England will show an increase of strength, we must believe that no downward movement is likely to be made, for the funds in hand are plainly not more than enough to meet the usual autumn outgoings, and to provide a proper security against possible though unforeseen contingencies.—*The Economist.*

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THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE DISEASES OF STOCK.

At the general meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, as held on Bedford racecourse, somebody who "claimed to have a voice in the management," said "the Council was at variance with the majority of farmers throughout the country on the subject of the laws relating to the diseases of animals. The resolution which the Council drew up respecting foot-and-mouth disease he considered to be impracticable." And then he went on with all due gravity to declare how "the Central Chamber of Agriculture was a purely representative assembly," and to offer it as an example to the Royal Agricultural Society of England! It is only fair to say that the meeting was too well bred to laugh in the speaker's face, although every one in any way conversant with the public life of Agriculture knew that of all its associations none was so hopelessly landlord-ridden as this self-same Central Chamber. The point, however, of the attack centred on the charge that the Royal Council of England does not agree with the farmers of England as to the treatment of foot-and-mouth disease. And that is a bold word, too; for what is it that the farmers of England do precisely agree to in this way? There are many who would deal resolutely with the matter, and stamp it out; and there are as many more who would carefully leave it alone, as not worth troubling about; while a third, and particularly busy party, would regard foot-and-mouth as something very venal when found about home, and proportionately terrible when imported from abroad. Authorities, either central or local, are certainly occasionally "at variance" as to how any outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease should be encountered.

Over pleuro-pneumonia there should be no such difficulty, generally acknowledged as the disease is to be of a far more serious character. Nothing, indeed, can speak stronger in this way than the Report of the Commons Committee, and yet even pleuro is often regarded more as a matter of inconvenience than anything else. Thus, at Keith the other day the cattle show of the Banffshire Farmers' Club was stopped at the last moment, much to the annoyance alike of the exhibitors and directors. There were 215 entries, which would have gone to make up the best show of Shorthorns and black polls ever seen in the county; as the story of the prohibition is thus told by Mr. Geddes Brown, the secretary of the Club and manager of the meeting: "The farm of Claypots last February or last spring was declared to be affected. On 26th May last, the same farm was declared to be free. I appeal to you all as farmers, or interested in agricultural matters, if it will not stand to common sense and common reason that the neighbours round Claypots would have looked upon that place as nothing but a plague-stricken spot. Do you think that they would allow their cattle for a moment to remain among those at Claypots? No: it bears absurdity on the face of it. I do believe—and I am perfectly satisfied of the truth of what I say—that there has not been a single beast sent off the farm of Claypots from 26th May to the present date. Last year we showed the county of Banff, and the North of Scotland generally, that we were perfectly able to guard ourselves, and not only to guard ourselves, but to guard the county interests also. I do think, with all deference to the Local Authority, that they might very safely have trusted us with the same power this year, instead of interdicting us as they had done." Now, it really does seem on the face of this statement that it would have been far more judicious not to have determined to hold the show on or handy to what was at best but tainted ground. It, indeed, sounds almost incredible that the owners of the best stock in the district should have been so ready to run the risk which it appears they were quite willing to do: "Much disappointment was caused to farmers who had stock in preparation for the valuable premiums offered." Claypots may have a clean bill of health since May last, but under any circumstances it would have been far better to have chosen a show ground in some other locality.

The gravamen of the complaint, however, against the Banffshire Local Authority would look to be that so little notice was given, or that the prohibition was deferred until all the preparations had been made for the exhibition, a delay not reasonably to be accounted if the place had been declared affected in February and free in May. Clearly the Local Authority should have sooner arrived at its determination, and so have saved the Club considerable labour, expense, and annoyance. But according to *The Banffshire Journal*, a *new* case of pleuro-pneumonia was reported, and under such circumstances it is difficult to see how any other course could have been taken. With the knowledge of this fact, the Farmers' Club itself would hardly have dared to admit the cattle in defiance of every law of the land and of common safety; and yet at the dinner it will be noticed there were continual complaints, although, as Mr. Brown Geddes honestly admitted, "the interdict may have saved many a herd from total destruction." Naturally enough, when an able, energetic man has done his best to make a good meeting and his friends have responded to his call in such a way as to ensure a success, it is a hard blow indeed to be knocked down just as he is about to enter the ring; but if a new case was discovered, then we cannot but think that the tone of the discussion was somewhat inconsiderate. Only last year the Club had to take a precisely similar step on its own account to that which the Local Authority was now compelled to repeat; as the only question is whether this interference should not be carried further and the markets also be stopped. At a meeting, however, in Aberdeen, on Wednesday, a suggestion from the Banffshire Local Authority to prohibit the cattle markets in the northern division of Aberdeenshire was not adopted, although numerous fresh outbreaks are reported. But as some people invariably end by tracing every source of disease to foreign importations, others, and we include ourselves amongst these, see more danger from the trade with Ireland. Thus, at Aberdeen the other day, Mr. Barclay maintained that it was chiefly through the importation of Irish cattle and not by the holding of markets that the disease was spread-and it was resolved to ask the local authorities of Banffshire and Elginshire to co-operate with Aberdeenshire in sending a deputation to the Duke of Richmond, President of the Privy Council, to urge upon him certain amendments on the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, more especially with reference to the extension of time for the removal of cattle, after the last attack of disease on a farm, from thirty to sixty days. A committee, including Mr. J. W. Barclay, M.P., and Mr. W. M'Combie, M. P., was appointed to carry out the resolution; and it only remains to be seen how far these proceedings may tally with the views of that model institution the Central Chamber of Agriculture, which so far has not made any very forcible demonstration as to our regular supply of disease from Ireland.

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THE CENTRAL BANFFSHIRE FARMERS' CLUB.

THE PROHIBITION OF THE CATTLE SHOW.

The third summer meeting in connection with this Club was held at Keith. Last year the Club, in deference to a fear of cattle disease, voluntarily refrained from including cattle in the exhibition, although large numbers of entries had been announced. This season preparations were made for a full show, and very much interest was manifested throughout the county in the prospective gathering. Mr. James Geddes Brown, the Secretary of the Club, spared neither thought nor labour in maturing plans for the safety and comfort of the stock, and for the advantage of visitors. The show is held on the Market Stance, and to prevent any possibility of danger of disease lingering on the soil, the upper half of the ground was fenced off a month ago. Considerable expense and very much trouble were incurred in thus closing the ground, and in erecting stalls for the cattle entered. Circumstances arose which prevented the cattle from being shown. It was known that pleuro-pneumonia had existed on the farm of Claypots, in Keith parish, but it was stated at the Club dinner that no animal had come off that farm since it was declared to be free from disease in May last. A new case of pleuro-pneumonia at Claypots was reported to the Local Authority, and the Local Authority passed an order prohibiting the holding of the exhibition of cattle. The resolution met in the central part of the county with strong feelings of disapproval, and although efforts were made to have the order countermanded, the result was that the show did not take place. Much disappointment was thereby caused to those farmers who had stock in preparation for the numerous and valuable premiums offered. There had been 215 entries of cattle, which would have included one of the largest entries of Shorthorn and polled cattle ever seen in the county.

At the dinner, Mr. R. W. Duff, M.P., said: Every day I live, and every day I mix more with men who are employed in agriculture, the more convinced I am that whatever the Legislature may do for you—I have long been of opinion that for most of the grievances which you complain of, such as want of proper application to the soil and want of proper farm buildings, whatever may follow afterwards, the first thing to do is as far as possible to relax those absurd laws of entail which tie up the landlord's capital. These are no new sentiments for me, and I will not prolong them upon the subject. Other things may be necessary; I do not say that will be sufficient; but the longer I live, the more satisfied I am that that is one of the first things that ought to be done to redress those grievances which are felt by the agricultural constituencies.

Mr. Tayler (Glenbarry) gave the Central Banffshire Farmers' Club: I must begin my observations by expressing the regret which I know all of us feel at the misfortune which has befallen this club this year. It has only had three meetings; that is, it is only three years since the time of its institution, and two of its meetings have been unfortunate by successive outbreaks of disease in the county. Last year, the committee of the society came itself to the conclusion that the show of cattle must be stopped on that ground. This year the show of cattle has been imperatively forbidden at the last moment by the Local Authority of the county, and whatever we may think of the strength of the reasons which brought them to that conclusion, we had of course no alternative but to submit. I may mention hear that my friend Sir George Macpherson Grant, who, from what he said to me at Inverness, I confidently expected to have seen here, has, I am sorry to say, been prevented from attending. He and I have been specially unfortunate in respect to the shows of this club, for not only have our animals been entered and suffered in connection with the other intending exhibitors by the prohibition of showing cattle, but he and I were prevented from exhibiting at the first and only complete show the Club had had, the year before last, by the fact of our cattle having contracted foot-and-mouth disease at another show. However we may regret what has taken place, you will be glad to hear that it has not interfered with the progress of the Club.

Mr. J. Geddes Brown, said: In rising to return thanks for the Central Banffshire Farmers' Club, I do so with mingled feelings—feelings of disappointment in our show to-day; and yet with feelings of gladness at the success of our partial show this day. Probably, some of you may wish me to make a few remarks with reference to the untoward circumstances which have befallen us so lately and so suddenly. Of course, I refer to the interdiction of the cattle for the show by the Banffshire Local Authority. I do not wish to make any uncourteous remarks—such would be entirely out of place—but I think I may very safely say that really more courtesy might have been shown to me as Secretary to this Society in giving me a little more timeous notice of what was actually to take place, or intended to take place, at Banff last Friday. I speak, gentlemen, for the Club in speaking for myself. Kindly bear that in mind. With reference to the existence of pleuro-pneumonia, or of restrictions relating to a case of pleuro-pneumonia, permit me briefly to state to you all the actual facts of the recent outbreaks. You will recollect that the farm of Claypots last February or last spring was declared to be affected. On 26th May last, the same farm was declared to be free. I appeal to you all as farmers, or interested in agricultural matters, if it will not stand to common sense and common reason that the neighbours round Claypots would have looked upon that place as nothing but a plague-stricken spot. Do you think that they would allow their cattle for a moment to remain among those at Claypots. No: it bears absurdity in the face of it. I do believe—and I am perfectly satisfied of the truth of what I say—that there has not been a single beast sent off the farm of Claypots from 26th May to the present date. Last year we showed the county of Banff, and the North of Scotland generally, that we were perfectly able to guard ourselves, and not only to guard ourselves, but to guard the county interests also. I do think, with all deference to the Local Authority, that they might very safely have trusted us with the same power this year, instead of interdicting us as they had done. You will kindly forgive me, gentlemen, for speaking thus, but bear in mind the preparation we had made for this show, and the extent of preparations for the number of entries that we had of all kinds of stock. When I saw that those preparations were so thoroughly knocked on the head, I can assure you I felt a direct personal blow, as well as a blow to the Club. However, probably the interdict served a certain and very good purpose; for all we know it may have served many a herd from total destruction. I do not like to say more upon the subject, though probably my feelings would carry me farther than my sense in my cooler moments would warrant me in saying. But allow me to say, that I hope this partial failure of our show this year will not act as a detriment to us, but on the contrary will bind us more closely together—and show the wisdom of adherence to that good old Scotch proverb, 'A stout heart to a stey brae."

Mr. Leslie (Corskellie) said: Whether the Local Authority were justified in issuing such an order, I am not in the meantime prepared to say, but I have no doubt they have been actuated by the same motives as we would have been ourselves, namely, preventing as much as possible the spread of disease among our stock. If such was their intention on the present occasion, and I have no reason to think otherwise, then they ought to have gone a step further, and hit the nail on the head by stopping the markets. When cattle are congregated together from all parts of the country, it will be a more fruitful source of disease than the few choice animals that would have been brought here to-day. I hope, however, with Mr. Brown, that such proceedings as this will not have a damaging effect upon this Club.

Mr. Hendry (Maryhill) said: The Local Authority in their great wisdom saw fit to step in between us and our cattle. I have read of a Justice Shallow, who before giving a decision always asked his crerk what the decision was to be, and invariably acted upon the advice. I am not aware if this is the way that the Banffshire Local Authority have acted—or if they have allowed their clerk, who happens to be the Secretary of a rival society to this, to dictate to them.

Mr. R. W. Duff, M.P., said: The toast I have been asked to propose is to the Agricultural Interest. The other day, at an agricultural meeting in Kincardineshire, there was a subject mooted which I think is of considerable interest to you all here. It was a subject which had been taken up by a neighbour of mine in that county, and it was with regard to the traffic of fat cattle to London. It is a very common thing we all know to see very fine cattle in the byres about Christmas time. But it very often happens that these cattle, having been taken a great deal of care of, are taken out of their comfortable houses and put into a cold exposed truck, and arrive

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in London a good deal affected in condition. Such has been the experience hitherto. My neighbour, Mr. Baird, of Ury, had a model, which appeared to me to be a useful thing. It would only cost the railway companies a few pounds to put it into operation, and as I am sitting beside two gentlemen connected with the railway interest, I beg to bring it under their notice. I think it is very important for you who send up good beasts, such as exist in the upper districts of Banffshire, that they should be taken proper care of. The model to which I refer simply provides for a few hurdles being put across the trucks, so that each beast is enclosed, and stands in its own compartment. I will send to the Secretary, if he will permit me, the model, and my friend on the right, Mr. Longmore, has undertaken to take some notice of the subject. The other practical subject which occurred to me was mentioned some time ago in the House of Commons. I dare say many of you may know that there is an annual vote in the House of Commons for Queen's plates in Scotland. Now these Queen's plates, as far as I know, although I do not know much about the sporting world, do not do a great deal of good. It has been suggested that the money given for that should be handed over to the Highland and Agricultural Society, in order that they may be able to provide grants to local societies. Now, this is a matter of interest which occurs to me as a practical suggestion. It was suggested to me by my friend Mr. Hamilton, of Dalziel. I supported him, and if it meet with your approbation, I will support it again. I think it is a good suggestion, and one worthy to be adopted. It is of course only step by step in these small things that we can do any good, and promote the agricultural interest. I am happy to state, so far as I know, that the agricultural interest of Scotland was never—well I will not say never so prosperous, but is very prosperous. As I came along in the train, I was reading reports detailing the prospects of the harvest, and although it admitted that, on the coast of Banffshire, there was a deficiency, yet, in the upper districts there was every promise of a good harvest. I beg to couple with this toast the name of Mr. George.

Mr. George (Haughs) said: I quite believe myself that the interests of the landlord and tenant are identical. I have never myself entertained any democratic feelings in the least, but at the same time, with all deference to the worthy member, Mr. Duff, there are much wider questions connected with the interests of agriculture which might be alluded to. Out of deference to the meeting, I should at this late hour have great delicacy in alluding to these. There has been a measure introduced lately into the House of Lords by the Marquis of Huntly. I humbly believe that measure would be equally advantageous to the landlord and to the tenant. Certainly it bears marks of crudeness in its details, not every one of which I would be inclined to homologate, but at the same time I think it contains the germ of a very important measure on agriculture; and I hope at some future day that these views may be so elaborated that they may be made a practical measure, which I say would be equally advantageous to the proprietors as to the tenants.

BOROUGHBRIDGE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FARM LABOUR.

At the last quarterly meeting, Mr. Jacob Smith in the chair, Mr. R. Brogden read the following paper:

In introducing a paper for this day's discussion, I have chosen a subject which is of the greatest importence to all practical farmers of the present day; in fact, the labour question is one that of necessity occupies a great amount of public interest in all trades. In the past as well as the present time the large employers of labour have had disputes with their men; strikes, lock-outs, &c., have been the result, and what has been in many cases the consequence of the strikes? Which ever way the dispute has ended, it has been attended by a great loss of money, and, in many cases, ruin to the employer; poverty, want, and misery to the employed. It is not my intention to enter upon the strikes and disputes in the different trades in the kingdom, as my present idea is to see how the present aspect of the agricultural labour market will affect the good understanding that now exists in our part of the kingdom and the farming interest generally. First, let me say, I am very sorry, and I am sure all well-thinking farmers are, at the unhappy dispute that is now taking place in the Eastern Counties, and that the tone of that dispute has assumed the character that it has. So far as I understand the matter, the labourers, with some amount of justice on their side, simply asked for an advance of wage, and the farmers there generally would have agreed to it, but when the Labourers' Unions were formed, and when agitators from Leamington and elsewhere sent word down to Union men that they must have a certain wage or "knock off" work, and try to bring all the power of union to bear upon an agricultural employer of labour, I think the farmers there had a right (though no doubt they deplored the necessity), when they proceeded to the extreme measure of a lock-out. I think there is no analogy between a trades' union and an agricultural labourers' union, and I cannot see how farming operations can be carried on successfully where an agricultural labourers' union is in force. Farming operations differ essentially from any business that can be carried on under cover. A man may shut up his shop or his warehouse, and so close his doors against his employés, but that rule cannot apply to an arable land farmer. Every week brings its particular work with it, and to miss the opportunity would be serious to the produce. In the face of the turnip hoeing season or harvest for instance, if a union was in force, and orders came down from the "head centre" that it was to be done at a certain price, the farmer would be bound to have it done, or be simply ruined, and have all his year's labour on his hands, and wasted at the eleventh hour. The only remedy I see for this state of things, in case agricultural labourers' unions become general, is a six months' agreement, drawn up in proper form, by different Chambers of Agriculture; price simply a matter of arrangement between masters and men; in fact A has to sell what B has to buy. A certain amount of wages ought to be left in the hands of employers, and all disputes to be settled by magistrates, as in the case of household servants. I think there can be little doubt in the minds of my brother farmers in this part of England that the labourers in the Eastern Counties were badly paid, and that the principle of paying in kind is also equally bad, though I believe a good many of us in this part of the world do pay a little in kind, but more in kindness, as well as paying a top price for our labour in money. By so doing I think we promote that good understanding between the farmer and his labourers that prevails in this district, and I shall be sorry to see the day when that understanding is broken. I am convinced it never will be so here, unless the labourer deserts his true friends for the false teaching of the paid agitator. Situated as we are here, near the great manufacturing districts where many of our young men go (and whence many of them are now returning), I think it speaks well for this district that we can keep sufficient labourers on our farms, and compete with the prices earned by labourers in our towns. We don't keep them because, as some say, they were born on the spot, not from any particular love to their calling, but because they now earn as much money, all things taken into consideration as an unskilled labourer can in a town. I think the labourer in this neighbourhood is well and adequately paid, and is, as a rule, contented. Anyhow, I find that the most discontented men are those that are of the least worth, and have no principle beyond seeking Saturday nights. The principle of take work, or letting the work of a farm, is, I think, deservedly popular, both with masters and

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men, and answers well in three ways: First, the work is more quickly done; secondly, it is generally done at the time it ought to be; and thirdly, the labourers make more money and the farmer as well, as it saves time. There is one thing shows to me that farming work is becoming popular, by the great number of men who have been working in towns who are now seeking work in the country. Several have applied to me within the last month. I suppose one reason is that trade has been rather dull in the West Riding, and that consequently we are having an influx into the agricultural districts; but I have also an idea that they like the agricultural work in summer, yet they are not so fond of it as to take 3s. here when they could get more in towns. As I said before, a good steady man, considering the difference in cost between living in town and country, does as well here as he can in a town. Should I be far wrong in fixing the average earnings of a good agricultural servant at 20s. per week in this part of Yorkshire, including turnip hoeing and harvest? Much has been written in the papers some time ago, that the agricultural labourer is wedded to the soil where he was born. I take it that he has a pretty good idea about the value of his labour, and if he knows that he can better himself in another parish or in another county, he would very soon go; if he is dissatisfied with the remuneration he receives at any particular farm, there are other farms elsewhere where labour is wanted. Let every man, I say, do the best he can for himself, but when a man has worked a long time on any particular farm, he suits his master, and, if you like, his master suits him, and there has grown up between the two an amount of respect for each other. I say, then, would it be well to interfere with that relation, to bring a third party in, and make a new rule that he must not work on the old place without a stated remuneration, irrespective of what is his particular wish? There was a time when old servants about particular farms used to class the horses, sheep, crops, &c., as "ours," and compared "ours" with their neighbours, and were as much offended if anyone said or did anything against their masters as if they had done it to themselves. But the days of strikes and lock-outs have altered these things altogether. Class against class seems to me the motto of trades unions. Long may they keep away from us. I believe that only on good and well-managed farms can be had a decent rate of interest, say eight per cent., and that only once a-year, as the farmer has no means of turning his capital over oftener, and it is only by looking very smartly after his work and using sound judgment that that result can be obtained. I know that in a great many cases even that cannot be obtained, and then it is only three per cent. more than can be made of his capital in good security, and surely a man's whole time applied to farming operations, risks in stock, &c., is worth three per cent. on his capital. Labour has risen considerably, but has the farmer's produce kept pace with it? My idea is that the cost of working arable land runs about 40s. per acre in labour, exclusive of horse keep, but that varies according to the district in which the farm is situated. I think the class of work that an agricultural labourer has to do will compare very favourably with his brother labourer in our manufacturing and large towns. Machinery has very considerably lightened his manual labour, and is being daily improved, as the fact is before our eyes that we must have the best and newest implements, every implement that will save hand labour. Steam must and will in a great measure supersede horse labour, or profitable farming be a thing of the past. I am aware that it is a very common remark from townsmen when in the country to say, "what nice times you have" in farming, but they don't see the disagreeable part of it. As all practical men know, the farmer has to contend with the elements, insect life, grub, wireworm, &c., in his crops, and in his cattle lung disease, foot-and-mouth disease, and cattle plague, before he lands his profit into a safe haven; but when, in addition to all, he is to be in fear of strikes, that much-enduring man, the British farmer, will be like the camel in the old fable—the last straw will be too much for him. In conclusion I would just bring before this meeting the subject of labourers' cottages. The desirability of having good dwellings on or near every farm, and also of every cottage not having less than three bedrooms, and a good garden, will be admitted. I believe that by so doing you will elevate the moral tone of the labourer, give him a certain pride in his cottage and garden, and in every sense of the word make a better man of him.

Mr. Green agreed with Mr. Brogden generally in his remarks with regard to the labour question. Labourers, he was sure, were as well off, or perhaps better, than labourers in towns. The farm labourer, with 18s. per week, with a comfortable cottage and small garden attached, with perquisites of milk and potatoes, and so on, which he received from the farm-house, was in a better position than the labourer in town who had no such advantages, and only his wage of 24s. per week. Then there were extra allowances at turnip hoeing, hay time, and harvest. He himself employed a good deal of labour in brick-making, but his men were not better off than farm labourers generally in that neighbourhood. They had more wages in summer than farm labourers, but then there was broken time on account of the weather, and in winter they might be out of work for weeks together. He had heard of no discontent, and as long as the present good feeling prevailed between masters and labourers, they would get on pleasantly without any fear of strikes or lock-outs.

Mr. Bennett approved of Mr. Brogden's address, and rejoiced that in that district they had not even had the outer wave of the strikes and lock-outs which had agitated the south and other districts. The strikes amongst the pitmen and miners had caused an immense amount of suffering and misery and pecuniary loss, and he hoped that as regarded the agricultural strikes the vast extent of misery would be prevented. As to piece-work it was often a difficult matter for farmers to let their work in this way, for the generality of labourers preferred working by day rather than by task or piece-work. Farmers would have to pay their men entirely in money and not in kind, the latter being a very bad system, and the sooner it was abandoned the better.

Mr. Lofthouse, with regard to payments in kind, took the same view as Mr. Bennett. Labourers forgot the value of their perquisites, looking merely at their wages, and therefore it would be far preferable to pay them the legitimate value of their labour, and nothing else. The rent of cottages could be deducted from the wage, and the milk and other things from the farm paid for by the labourers.

Mr. Green considered that the only way to attach labourers to any locality was to give them good cottages and gardens. By these means they succeeded in chaining them to the soil.

Mr. Crow said that he was most certainly in favour of money payment instead of in kind, the latter being generally overvalued by the masters and undervalued by the men. He found much difficulty in inducing labourers to live in cottages near to the farm, as they preferred to live in towns or villages. He only charged 1s. per week for a good cottage and garden, and yet he had at the present time two cottages empty. They were good dwellings, with three rooms upstairs and two downstairs, and he kept them in good repair, and as he could not secure tenants it proved that the men did not value them. He was not surprised that there had been no strikes in that neighbourhood, as such had been the increase in the pay of the farm labourer in that locality that he was on a par with the unskilled labourer in the towns. The farm labourers had evidently not considered the consequences of their act in striking. There was a great difference between labour in towns and in the country. The farmer had bad weather to contend with, and had to go on with his work as best he could. He had sympathy with the underpaid men in the Southern Counties. In conclusion he referred to the importance of good grass cultivation, England being a splendid grass-growing country, and having a monopoly as it were in this respect, by which we should increase our supply of beef. By great importations of corn, and the extended use of agricultural machinery, less farm labour would be required than at the present time.

Mr. M'Caskie thought that in a national and also in a domestic point of view it would be an unsatisfactory state of things if unions prevented the good feeling which ought to subsist between farmers and their labourers.

Mr. Ford said that the question of cottage accommodation was one of the myths in connection with labour. He knew rows of cottages which were built with proper sleeping accommodation, three or four bedrooms, and yet they were never made use of. He had seen these cottages, one room being filled with potatoes, another stored with apples, and so on, and all the family sleeping in one room. How far improved education would tend to the welfare of the labourer was the puzzle, the nut to crack. The question was, how far superior education would be consistent with the position of the labourer. What he complained of was that the paid professional

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spokesman drew pictures of the misery and wretchedness of the agricultural labourer of the present day, the truth of which he most respectfully denied. The English agricultural labourer was living in peace, if not in contentment, with the necessaries about him rendering life desirable. Where the man was sober and the wife thrifty the home would exhibit some signs of comfort not unworthy of the age in which we lived. He was sure that no farmer present would be in favour of the wretched wages which were paid in the South of England, and it was no wonder that at Newmarket and in Cambridgeshire the labourers were trying to emancipate themselves from wages of such low amount. He next spoke of the advantages of piece-work, stating that one of his labourers earned £56 18s. in the year, within a small fraction of 22s. per week. If this system were generally adopted both farmers and men would be benefited.

The CHAIRMAN was pleased with Mr. Brogden's paper, which contained much useful information. Some six or eight months ago the aspect of the labour question was of a serious character in that district, for trade was so good in the manufacturing districts that it seemed likely to absorb the greater part of the work of the agricultural labourer. That crisis, however, had passed, and at present they had no fear as to the supply of labour.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Brogden for his address.

STEAM CULTIVATION IN NORFOLK.

At the rent audit of Mr. H. E. Lombe the following paper was read by Mr. T. ROSE, of Melton Magna.

Sir,—When I undertook, at your request, to prepare a paper on steam cultivation, I did not think of the criticisms I might subject myself to, but I hope it may not be considered presumption on my part, as I do not do so with a feeling or wish to dictate, or to try to lay down a law of my own to so many men of far greater experience than myself; but as you had more than once asked me to relate my experience in regard to steam cultivation, and I did not feel competent then to do so, because I had not tried it sufficiently long to arrive at any fair conclusion as to its benefits, I have now assented. Besides we, the tenants of the Lombe estate, are here together with our future landlord at the head of us, and I say that on such an occasion we should open our minds to each other. I believe if farmers were more ready to interchange ideas, it would be more beneficial to them as a community, and to this country at large. We have not hitherto combined as other classes of trades and professions have done. Farmers, as a rule, do not enter altogether into a new scheme or system; each awaits the result of his neighbour's venture. This certainly has been the case in my immediate neighbourhood. In my opinion, agriculture is passing through a crisis in its history. Farmers as a body cannot do much without the countenance of their landlords, and perhaps we Norfolk agriculturists have been in rather a drowsy condition since the days of Coke, of Holkham. He was a most enlightene d and generous man, and one who took great pride and interest in agricultural matters; and through him and his exertions there is little doubt that Norfolk farmers gained their celebrity, and for some years afterwards they strove to maintain their reputation as first-class agriculturists. The present noble lord has inherited his father's love of agricultural pursuits, and has generously offered a handsome sum of £200 for the best essay on the improve ments effected in farming in the Eastern counties during the last twenty years. This may give a fresh impetus in awakening our minds, and stirring us up to make exertions to keep up with the times, and place ourselve again in the foremost ranks. I have no doubt his lordship thought we were but too content with our laurels of the past, in fact too much inclined "to rest and be thankful," and therefore he offers this munificent sum in order to give us a chance of comparing notes with our neighbours, and to open the eyes of us stay-at-home farmers to the fact that others are progressing fast, and if we do not keep a sharp outlook they will send us to the bottom of the class, and properly place themselves at the top. Handsome as is the amount Lord Leicester offers, and which we must all acknowledge, and heartily thank him for, I must say I think the Norfolk Agricultural Society and the various societies of the selected counties ought to have shown their appreciation of his gift by supplementing it with a grant of a further sum, rather than to have done what practically amounts to the opposite, and by claiming the copyright of the essay to prevent its being worth any man's while to gather the necessary facts. For in order that a man may write on a subject, he must have knowledge of that subject, and I do not see that in this case it can be gained in any other way than by visiting the different counties, and, gentlemen, travelling expenses are heavy—"so I have heard." I, for one, most anxiously look forward to the appearance of the award and the essays. I fear there will not be many candidates in the field, as it must necessarily be a very expensive affair to prosecute the inquiry fairly. I have no doubt that the modes of cultivating land will be one of the foremost subjects treated on in such essays. Here the advance has been most marked. You will all agree that the double-furrow plough has already done something towards economising farm labour by saving the work of horses as well as men, and that which has already been accomplished in this way is but a prelude to the further improvements culminating in the substitution of the great power of steam in place of the less effective horse-power and manual labour. The cultivation of land by steam power is approved, allowed, and practised by the leading agriculturists of our day; therefore, I think those who have had no practical experience ought to watch carefully its results, and pause awhile before they unhesitatingly condemn it. I have by me letters containing the opinion of various friends to whom I have written on this subject, one from Mr. J. K. Fowler, who, you will remember, was a judge at our recent show at Norwich, which I will read. Another, from a friend of mine now present, and whose opinion you al esteem, viz., Mr. Wigg. After speaking highly of it, he says he has no doubt, although the hiring system is very expensive, it will pay in the end. His barley looks remarkably well, and in his case without men this year it has been invaluable to him. Mr. John Hastings writes me to the same effect. Gentlemen, I dare say you remember my saying last year at this time I feared we should have to encounter great difficulties in regard to manual labour. I now say again I can see difficulties looming in the future: our labourers will most likely ask us for more money. It is but human nature for every one to do the best he can for himself. What other power have we to fly to but steam? It is not many years since our crops were thrashed by the old wood flail; that system is now entirely exploded. Such is being the case with the wood plough. After the flail came the horse-power thrashing machine. That has now made way for the steam-engine. Many of us here present doubtless have heard our fathers condemn the use of steam-power for thrashing as being both dangerous and expensive; but who among us here would like to go back to the old system, and hang half-a-hozen horses on to a horse-power thrashing machine to thrash fifty or sixty coombs of corn per day, when we can now thrash by steam as much as 100 or 120 coombs? Why, in these days it is not practicable; and so in a few years will the steam plough occupy the place of the horse. Since I began to use the steam plough I have had many difficulties to contend with. As in most trial cases, many people have doubtless been anxiously watching results, and without knowing all details or taking into consideration that which so materially affects all farming operations—viz., good or bad seasons—have been ready to condemn if there has been failure; but ought we to live for ourselves alone? May not a man, even if unsuccessful himself, be considered to have effected some good in his generation if he has paved the way for others to profit by his experience? Before giving you my experience, which at present is somewhat limited, I wish to offer you my opinions on steam cultivation, confining myself for the most part to light, mixed soil and sharp land. I thoroughly believe, and have no hesitation in saying that this kind of land can be and is cultivated deeply by steam power as advantageously as heavy land. In the first place, to bring all its producing powers into operation, the hard pan that lies beneath the working of the common plough must be broken. This cer-

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tainly is the great object of breaking up the land to a greater depth. We thus allow the water to pass freely through the surface and filter itself, leaving its valuable properties behind in the surface soil; otherwise it is unable to find its way downwards, but remains long enough to become stagnant, poisoning the soil, and of course injuring the seed or plant to a serious extent. To illustrate this, I have no doubt many here present have heard old labouring men talk of dry rot and wet rot, or something of that sort, and declare the latter to be the most injurious to the young turnip plant. Why, gentlemen, any amount of rain that we get in England will not hurt our young turnip plants, provided it can pass quickly away so as to leave the ammonia it contains for the youngster. Also there are many weeks in the summer we neither expect nor get enough moisture from the clouds for our barley and roots; but if this pan be broken there is moisture beneath, and the rootlets of the plant will cause it to ascend as freely as it descended, and so give nourishment to our annuals and help them on to maturity. It is not clear to my mind which is the most beneficial season to smash up land, autumn or spring. Of course our corn stubbles and the land intended for a root crop is the right land to begin on, because by the time it is wanted for the wheat crop it becomes in a sufficiently consolidated state. Many people prefer doing it in the autumn. It may be right on heavy soils, especially if the farmer has tackle of his own so that he could run the cultivator through again in the spring, which would enable him to obtain the enviable fine seed-bed. But at the same time, if he is depending and working on the hiring system, the chances are he cannot then get the tackle to do it with; consequently the land has become in a too consolidated state; he is unable then to get a fine seed-bed, and the land can not produce so fine a crop as it otherwise would have done. I am inclined to believe that on our mixed soil and sharp land the early spring is the best time of year to cultivate for a good root crop, provided it can be done early enough to ventilate the soil, and to allow injurious gases which may be contained in the land to escape, which, if remaining, would be injurious to vegetation. As far as my experience goes, if one has not a set of tackle of his own, it is better to plough the land with horses after harvest, and that not too soon, but let what weeds there are to grow at that time of the year get well up before ploughing, then take the first opportunity in the spring and smash up the land. You have then completed and generally obtained a good and fine seed bed, with plenty of soil for the roots of the plant to work in. The chief object in smashing the land up in the autumn is, that it may have the benefit of the frosts to pulverise it, and to obtain the seed bed; but on mixed or light land this course of proceeding or system is not necessary, and if a wet winter follow, the land becomes bound, and hardened again, which we like to avoid for roots; the weeds also, such as twitch, sension, and natural grass flourish on the top, and give an untidy appearance to autumn cultivation. One cannot help this sort of thing, because it is impossible to put horses on the land to destroy weeds, and even, if possible, it would be injudicious. This was unfortunately the case in the autumn of 1872, considered to be one of the most disastrous seasons we had to contend against, both as regards horse and steam cultivation, since that great benefactor, "Smith, of Woolston," put his ideas into operation seventeen years ago, a man who has conferred lasting benefit, not only to the agriculturists of this country, but I may say to the whole community, for he has spent a great part of his life, energy, and skill, in utilising this wonderful power for the culture of the soil. There are many reasons why steam cultivation is not at present more extensively practised. One is the supposed costliness of the method, which I admit has been increased by the late great rise in the price of coal and labour; but as my friend Mr. Fowler says, "we must not be deterred from our great work by the addition of a few pence per day to our labourers' wages, nor by a few shillings per day to the price of our coal." By and by I will tell you what it has cost me per acre (as nearly as I can calculate). You can then judge for yourselves whether or no it is more expensive than horse culture. At the same time you must take into consideration that you will be able to work your farms with a less number of horses. In the tedious process of farming, with our small profits and slow returns, we do not, comparatively speaking spend £1,000 to-day and get £1,500 by the speculation to-morrow. No, we must be patient and bide our time. So also with steam cultivation. If I leave farm at Michaelmas, I am not so foolish as to expect to get all the £ s. d. I have spent in the ploughing by steam during the last few years, but it will eventually pay. In such a case my successor would reap the benefit of my exertions. Therefore I think if tenant-farmers undertake this kind of work, a lease would in many cases be desirable, for he ought not to be too much restricted as to cropping, provided of course that he farms well, and is not too greedy and unreasonable. I have been in the habit of using Fowler's double-engine tackle, simply because I could hire no other. The work is very effectually done by this system, but I consider it in general too cumbersome for the small ill-shaped fields of East Norfolk. There are many good makers of roundabout tackle, among whom I would mention, Messrs. Howard, of Bedford; Barford and Perkins, of Peterborough; Fowler, and Fisken, of Leeds, any of whose sets are suitable for our farms in this part of the world, and can be worked by a ten or even an eight-horse portable engine. They will, if placed in the corner of one field, either plough, cultivate, or harrow those adjoining. I dare say many people, like myself, have a portable engine of their own, and I feel sure if I had purchased a set when I commenced steam culture, I should have been a good sum of money into pocket. Taking into consideration the present price of horses, I am bound to think any person now about to take a farm would do well to buy one. The work could then be done more effectually, and I do not hesitate to say larger crops would be grown. But great care should be taken not to bring the dead soil to the top. In the spring of 1872 I dug up 42 acres of turnip land 15 inches deep for barley, at a cost of 20s. per acre for men, engines, and tackle, and 6s. per acre for coal. Part of the land was taithed by sheep, the rest had a dressing of Laws' barley manure, at a cost of 25s. 6d. per acre. Off this land I thrashed nine coombs of barley per acre, against six coombs per acre four years previously, and now the wheat on it this dry season looks as promising as I have ever seen it. That spring I smashed up 28 acres of wheat stubble at the same cost per acre; this land, with a dressing of Laws' turnip manure, at a cost of 35s. per acre, produced as good a crop of roots as I ever expect to grow. I also cultivated 30 acres, 16 inches deep, which cost 12s. per acre for tackle, &c., and 4s. an acre for coals. On nine acres of this land I am growing white peas this year, and though I have been across England in two or three directions since the beginning of May, I must say it is one of the best fields of peas I have seen. My clover crop is not by any means a good one this year, for which I can give good reason—viz., having thrown some fences down, the course is altered in some of the fields, and those having clover this season were cropped with clover two years ago. Consequently it was clovertsick and died off in the early spring. Also in the year 1872, having done away with a fence, and wanting to bring a field into proper course with its neighbours, which was wheat, I dug up a wheat stubble 15 inches deep, and gave it a dressing of Laws' barley manure, at a cost of 34s. per acre. This land returned me about ten coombs per acre of barley. There is now barley after turnips in that field, and it is by far the best I have. In the autumn of 1872, I cultivated all my wheat stubbles after harvest at a cost of 12s. per acre for engine and tackle, and about 7s. per acre for coals, with the exception of one field, which was dug the same depth. The very wet season, however, bound the land together again. The weeds flourished most luxuriantly on the top, and gave the land such an untidy appearance, that it quite (for the time) disgusted me with autumn steam tillage; so I hired the tackle again in the spring, and did it a second time. This land was carefully watched by people far and near, so I was told, and I hear some one said I was mad, and should never get a crop. However, to my satisfaction, and perhaps much to their surprise (one field of 30 acres in particular, 12 acres of which had grown a corn crop two years in succession), with a dressing of Finch's turnip manure, produced the finest crop of swedes that it had ever grown. The field which was dug in the autumn did not require cultivating in the spring, but produced a good crop of white turnips. In the autumn of the same year (1872) I was rather behind with my work, so I thought I would try an experiment, therefore I ploughed 30 acres of old land 9 inches deep for wheat, which cost me 20s. per acre, and at least 10s. per acre for coals. The additional expense was caused partly by stoppages during wet weather. It was at this time I was practically impressed with the fact that the single engine or round-about system was the cheapest, as there is, of course, only one fire to feed, which is no small object

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when coals are dear, as they were at that time. With the double-engine system only one engine can work at a time, but steam must be kept up equally in the other in order that it may be in readiness to pull the plough back. Many people came to me while this work was being done, and told me I should get no wheat. Naturally enough I inquired why? The invariable reply was, "You should not plough deep for wheat." On again asking why, I could get them to give me no reason sufficiently satisfactory to stop me from proceeding with my work. One person alone encouraged me, and he was a shrewd Manchester merchant. Before I give you the result, it is only fair to tell you how this land was treated. There were two fields—one of nine acres, a clover ley mown for hay, which was afterwards fed with sheep eating cake, and then had a dressing of about fourteen loads of farm-yard manure per acre. This field produced 9½ coombs of wheat per acre. The other 21-acre field was also a good clover ley on which I put twelve loads of manure per acre in February, 1873. I took off it a good crop of hay, and as soon as the clover sprung up again about 200 shearlings, which were each eating half a lb. of bruised cake per day, laid on it at night. At Michaelmas I put on about eleven loads of farmyard manure per acre, and ploughed it nine inches deep. The result was a fine-looking piece of wheat, yielding ten coombs per acre, and as clean a stubble as could well be. This spring I smashed up this twenty-one acres to the depth of fifteen inches, it cost me £1 6s. 6d. per acre, including coals; on one part is mangold, looking thrifty and well, with sixteen loads of farmyard manure, and 3 cwt. of Hallet's manure per acre underneath them. There are also five acres of Tartar oats, with nothing under them, but I top-dressed them in April with 6 st. of salt and 4 st. of nitrate of soda per acre. I ought to say I had two reasons for planting the oats: one was, of course, for my own benefit and use, the other an experiment for this paper. All I can say of them at present is that they are looking well, but, to use a vulgar simile, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. The rest of my fallows were ploughed by horses in November, and smashed up by steam in the spring; they received a dressing of 4 cwt. of Hallet's manure per acre, and the seed put in about the 13th of May. There they are mostly chopped out, singled, and some hoed a second time. They speak not in words, but in appearance for themselves and steam cultivation. I will conclude by giving you the estimated quantity of work that can be done on mix soil land per day, also coals used:

1st. Digging ten inches deep the engines will consume three-quarters of a ton of coal each per day, and will do about eight acres.

2nd. Digging twelve inches deep, seven acres per day, consuming one ton of coal each.

3rd. Digging sixteen inches deep, five acres per day, consuming one ton of coal each.

Cultivating about fifteen or sixteen inches deep, three-quarters of a ton of coal each engine, doing from sixteen to eighteen acres per day.

All my calculations are made exclusive of one man and two horses for carting coals and water. Now one or two words for myself. I have endeavoured to give you my opinions and experience as plainly as possible. If I have failed to do so, you must attribute it to my inability, and I must ask on to excuse me. I can truly say I have not aimed a blow at any one, but at the same time I felt bound to deal openly and honestly with the subject. I have also condensed the subject as much as I possibly could. After all I do not know that the actual paper itself does much good, or is of much benefit, even if written by the most experienced of writers. But I consider that the discussion which naturally follows ventilates the subject (if I may use such expression) and draws the attention of persons who may not have given it much consideration before. You all remember the sensible wish expressed by our most esteemed and worthy Chairman, at our last audit—viz., that these meetings should become more profitable. Such a wish, emanating from such a quarter, can but receive our respectful attention as far as it lies in our power to oblige him. I agree with him, that we, the tenants on this large and important estate, ought not to come here merely to enjoy the hospitality shown to us, and make merry over our wine and cigars, but also to interchange ideas, make known our opinions and experience for the benefit of each other. I trust Mr. Lombe will call on another of his tenants to read a paper on some important subject in practical farming. Gentlemen, I have done my best, and I thank you heartily for the indulgence with which you have listened to my crude remarks. I have endeavoured only to set down plain facts. And if the paper has sounded somewhat egotistical, you must bear in mind that it was my own experience I was asked to relate.

A SEWAGE FAMINE.

Colonel Jones has given a very encouraging return of all which he has so far been able to do on the Hafod or Wrexham sewage Farm. Nevertheless, the gallant gentleman has not been in a position to do the system justice; for, strange as it may sound, there is just at present, in certain districts where its employment prevails, a kind of sewage famine. The more common complaint once was that, whether you required it or not, when once you had agreed to take the sewage down it still came on you, roaring and pouring, just as the waters do at Lodore. Colonel Jones' complaint is all the other way, as in a pamphlet which he has recently published, and from which we give an extract in another place, he says: "I am thoroughly convinced that so far from obtaining the amount of nitrogen and phosphates due to the population—9,000—offered by advertisement, I cannot have received more than one-third of that amount; and soon after my arrival I discovered that the Corporation of Wrexham daily and nightly cart away from the town and sell, periodically by auction, a large quantity of refuse which should properly come down its sewers to my land." The very natural consequence is that the Local Board may get into hot water, or in other words have to answer an indictment as to its sanitary regulations.

Recently, we were invited to join a party which paid a visit to Mr. Hope's farm at Britton's, upon which the sewage of Romford is expended, the more especial object of the visit being to show the working of a sewage farm to a few French gentlemen who are engaged on a similar means of cultivation in the vicinity of Paris. But as with Colonel Jones at Wrexham so it is with Mr. Hope at Romford; and as an illustration of how sewage may be best expended upon the land, the example was certainly not so happy nor so telling as that which we remember was offered at Britton's just four years since. At that period and after less than a year's occupation of a poor unlikely place Mr. Hope was making experiments over a variety of crops, all of which promised to succeed. There were great growths of peas, selling, with the straw left, at £15 per acre, while none of the neighbouring farmers had in that season been able to grow any peas; there were carrots making £41 per acre, or £20 an acre profit; cabbage of all kinds flourishing exceedingly, some sorts reaching to a marvellous size; beetroot estimated at £80 an acre, patches of Indian corn, and so forth. In fact, the Paris deputation should have come over to Britton's in 1870 instead of in 1874. Of course, we still heard, rather than saw, much of the continual cuttings of rye-grass; there was a healthy plant of red mangel—good only in patches—which has yet to grow up to its weight, and some really fine level bits of spring wheat, straight in the straw and full in the ear. But this, more particularly after our previous visit, was scarcely that realization of a system which we had expected

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to see, and Mr. Hope himself readily admitted as much. How was it the mangel only prospered here and there? Simply because it was only here and there that it had been properly fed with sewage; the local authorities of Romford have broken faith with Mr. Hope, just as the Wrexham people have with Colonel Jones, and as the sewage which it is entitled to does not flow on to Britton's farm another system of cultivation has necessarily been adopted, more in accordance with the common principles of cultivation, where men grow large breadths of wheats and roots. Indeed, what with Mr. Hope's difficulties and protests, backed by the lamentations of Messrs. Chadwick and Rawlinson over the ignorance of the people, the several speeches at the luncheon were met with a chorus rather of wails than cheers; and Paris offered more as an example to Briton's than Britton's to Paris.

And there was also at the luncheon in that queer old tithe barn, where a Cherry Shorthorn bull supported the chairman, a gentleman learned in the law, who, as he duly announced, has himself for a client. Mr. Preston, a solicitor at Brentwood, is an apt pupil of Mr. Hope, and has so entered on agreement to take all the sewage of that town, for use on the farm which he holds. But, like Colonel Jones and Mr. Hope, Mr. Preston finds that he cannot get all the sewage, although, as he said, he had "taken care to have a legal remedy," and as a lawyer should get his law at wholesale prices, it is possible that the sewage of Brentwood may carry a perfume into the new Courts, if these are only ready in time for the reception of Mr. Preston's agreement. The sewage of Romford is said to be only half as "good" as that of London, but it bears a most abominable odour, as it could be run breast high in the three miles drive from the town to the farm; and the still quick eye of Mr. Mechi was able to discover a brandy flask in the side-pocket of a visitor, who "had been here before to-day."

Mr. Hope gave a history of the long war which he waged with Parliament, and his vain struggles against the Fabian policy of Commons' Committees; and Mr. Rawlinson announced that owing to the discharge of the sewage into the Thames the Metropolitan Board of Works would probably be indicted for committing a nuisance. Beyond this, neither Mr. Rawlinson nor his patron, as it seems, Mr. Chadwick had anything very encouraging to say; but they took their cue from the tone of the meeting, and directed their abuse rather at Corporations and civic authorities than against their favourite target, the sloth and ignorance of the farmer. The present aspect of the sewage question is certainly not altogether an inviting one, unless it be to a man who has a fancy for getting out of cold water into hot; or in other words, for fighting a public body, and, as Mr. Preston says, "taking himself for a client."

TWO YEARS AT A SEWAGE FARM.

Having for many years availed myself of every opportunity of visiting and inquiring into the different sewage farms in England, chance threw in my way an advertisement offering a farm of 84 acres with the town sewage of 9,000 population to be had by tender for a term of years from February 2, 1872; and upon inspection of the farm in question it seemed to present a fair opportunity for one of the practical trials which will, I trust, eventually convince the public that sewage farming can be made a success financially as well as in a sanitary point of view. I accordingly entered upon possession of the farm of Hafod-y-wern in February, 1872, and suffered from a perfect deluge of rain for the first year, no encouraging contingency to be faced by one who would have had the power of wetering his crops while his neighbour's fields were parched with drought, but could not lay aside the watering pot when the natural fall of water was at least double the amount any farmer could have wished to receive from the heavens. The second year just closed has not been so dry as a sewage farmer might have desired, but still it has not been so constantly wet as its predecessor, and I am thankful to say that a profit has been gained (as will appear from the annexed accounts) which will more than recoup the loss upon the first year, in which, besides the wet weather, the farm lay under the additional disadvantages of being understocked and having to grow fifty-four acres of meadow hay more or less of which in such a season must inevitably have been damaged. I may perhaps be charged by some persons with coming forward precipitately with my two year's practical experience, but I am so impressed with a conviction that much human misery, disease, and death in and near our large towns may be prevented by sewage farming on a gigantic scale when a sufficient number of practical men can be induced to take up the subject in earnest, that I feel it a duty by every means in my power to endeavour to excite an interest in the matter, and if possible induce others to educate themselves in the management of the sewage of small towns like Wrexham, as a preparatory step towards dealing with the larger ones, whose wants may be more pressing, but demand a body of experience which is not yet forthcoming to provide against mistakes on a large scale which throw discredit upon sewage farming by unremunerative works, and thus retard the general advance of the cause of truth in regard to sewage treatment. Moreover I think that more confidence will be felt in statements of accounts published from the first from year to year, than if they were withheld for simultaneous production at a future period, and I desire to act upon the following expression of opinion by Mr. H. J. Morgan, the careful manager of the Lodge Farm, Barking, in his published account of its cultivation from August 31, 1871, to December 31, 1872, viz.: "I would here again express my regret that none of those interested in sewage farms have thought fit to publish their experience in a detailed and business-like form. At present this farm belonging to the Metropolis Sewage Company is the only instance in which results obtained by the application of sewage have been consistently reported during the last six years. Our successes and our failures have been alike recorded under the conviction that anything less than the *whole* truth in the matter would be worse than useless in the interests of the Company and of the general public." The town of Wrexham, celebrated, like Burton and Romford, for its beer, is bisected by a brook fordable at every point in dry weather, but bearing a large volume of water after rainfall on the neighbouring mountains, and is thus well situated for drainage to the main sewer, which follows the course of the brook to some tanks at the nearest part of Hafod-y-wern Farm to the town, from which it is only separated by two small fields. Six acres of the farm lie on a bank above the tanks, inaccessible to the liquid sewage, but conveniently situated for a trial of the sludge which is scooped out by hand from time to time, and left to dry on the banks of the tanks, and thus deducting these six acres with two more (for roads, garden, &c., included in the nominal eighty-four) a balance of seventy-six acres appeared available for sewage irrigation if the land was levelled and prepared for the purpose. The farm had been taken by the Local Board two years before I was acquainted with it, and although some steps had been taken to level part of the land, it had suffered sadly from neglect and mismanagement during those two years, which caused considerable loss to the ratepayers, and made the Board anxious to get rid of their charge. I found two-thirds of the land in permanent pasture, which had been treated as water-meadows with excessively large carriers supplied with brick and wood penstocks for retaining considerable volumes of water; and the simple plan followed by the Local Board had been to fill these carriers with sewage, and allow it to ferment in a manner calculated to cause an intolerable nuisance to persons frequenting a public footpath which traverses the whole extent of the farm. When the sewage was not on these meadows, the exhalations from the thick coating of black sludge deposited in the wide and deep carriers must have been even more offensive in hot weather than when they were full of liquid sewage, and their appearance was at all times truly disgusting. I was assured on all hands that the land was saturated with sewage, and that a larger extent was required for irrigation, that the grass produced had been rank and unfit for cattle, and that the Local Board had made a large annual loss by their farming. The bad quality of some hay in stack and abundance of docks and nettles, &c., in the meadows gave colour

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to these reports, but I could account for all by theories of my own, and after mature consideration agreed upon certain conditions to relieve the Board of the unexpired term of their lease, *i.e.*, eighteen years from February, 1872. It was impossible at the time to get any trustworthy analysis or to gauge the average flow of sewage, and wanting the experience which now leads me to treat all the reports of excess of sewage as delusions, they certainly made me anxious, and led me to stipulate for more land if the sewage should be strengthened above a certain percentage on its existing number of house connections; but certain fixed outlets for overflow from the sewer gave me the assurance that I could never be burdened beyond a certain point in respect of volume of sewage, and with a population advertised as 9,000 I never dreamt of failing to receive enough nitrogen for my seventy-six acres, or of being deluged with brook and rain-water in dilution of the sewage pure and simple which I had bargained for; so I believed the hearsay evidence to a certain extent, and determined at once to provide myself with a safety valve in the shape of two acres of filter beds on the Methyr Tydvil plan. Mr. Bailey Denton most kindly furnished me with full particulars at Merthyr, and by the beginning of May I was able to turn the whole sewage and water coming from Wrexham upon two acres prepared as filter beds, using them in alternate periods of twelve hours each for eight consecutive days and nights without injury to a crop of cabbages planted on ridges, and with avery clear stream of effluent water running from the deep drains. But since that time I have found the "safety valve" altogether unnecessary, because the actual flow of sewage is so very inferior in strength to what I had been led to expect, and because by the growth of Italian rye-grass and experience of the requirements of my land I have long felt independent of the protection of a safety valve such as I had proposed to myself in constructing my filter beds. If, as at first supposed, I had too much sewage and too little land, the filter beds would have been invaluable, as the principle of intermittent filtration is undoubtedly sound. Without going further into details, I may here say that I am thoroughly convinced that so far from obtaining the amount of nitrogen, phosphates, &c., due to the population (9,000) offered by advertisement, I cannot have received more than one-third of that amount; and soon after my arrival I discovered that the Corporation of Wrexham daily and nightly cart away from the town and sell, periodically, by auction a large quantity of town refuse, which should properly come down its sewers to my land. This abstraction of valuable matter is not all I have to complain of however, and in order to explain my position, I would adduce the following letter addressed to the Town Clerk in June, 1872, the only reply to which was a verbal one to the effect that the Council could not at present face the expense necessary to remove the evil complained of in my letter:

Hafod-y-wern Farm, Wrexham, June 4, 1872.

Sir,—I regret extremely that I am compelled to make a report for the information of the Sanitary Committee of the Local Board on a subject which may involve trouble and ultimate expense to the ratepayers of this borough, but silence after my experience of the late rainy season might be held as consent to defective sewerage arrangements over which I have no control, and my management of the Hafod-y-wern Farm might be censured on account of pollution of the town brook by sewage which has never reached the tanks on the outfall lands for which I am responsible if I did not put the following statement upon record. The Farm Committee may remember my inquiry in February last regarding the outlets from the sewer to the brook (one at the Weir and another in the tank enclosure) and that I was informed that sewage seldom overflowed by those channels. The late wet season may have been peculiar, but I can only say that experience has shown me that such overflow is of frequent occurrence and sufficient in amount to cause very considerable nuisance to persons living near the brook or making use of its water. To take the case to-day as the result of some heavy rain last night, I found on visiting the tanks at 8 a.m. that both overflows were running in a strong stream of most offensive sewage while the brook itself was not much fuller than usual, and as the tank into which the sewer flows was emptied on Saturday last and the sewage was passing through it at not less than the rate of 20,000 gallons an hour, it is manifest that no obstruction under my control was the cause of the pollution I noticed entering the brook. At noon, at 4 and at 6 p.m. the overflow in the tank enclosure was still running and had hardly ceased at 7 p.m., eleven hours after I first observed it, und the course of sewage to the land was all the while flowing at about the above rate—viz., 20,000 gallons an hour. I understand that arrrangements are now being made to add the sewage of High Town to the main sewer, and this is an additional reason for my pressing the subject upon the Board, because the overflow I complain of may thereby be made more frequent or perhaps even constant. It is not my province to suggest a remedy, but the "separate system" by which the storm water from roofs and streets could be conducted *directly* to the natural watercourses instead of indirectly after pollution in the sewer is so obviously the right one that I may perhaps be allowed to allude to it.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) ALFRED S. JONES.

To the Town Clerk, Wrexham.

On October 3, 1872, I again addressed the Town Clerk on the subject of overflows in still stronger terms as in the following extract from my letter.

Extract from a letter dated Hafod-y-wern Farm, October 3, 1872, from Lieut.-Colonel Jones, addressed to the Town Clerk, Wrexham: "Referring now to my letter of June 4, 1872, to your address which reported for the information of the Sanitary Committee of the Local Board the result of my experience regarding overflows from the sewer, which differed most materially from the state of the case as represented to me by the Farm Committee when I first had the honour of an interview with that body before taking the farm, I have to state that further experience only tends to confirm the statements of that letter, and that the operation of the Public Health Act, 1872, will probably cause the rural sanitary authority to move against the Local Board for removal of the nuisance I then pointed out." This second appeal brought no better results than the first, but during the early part of the year 1873 the borough surveyor, a gentleman of great ability and intelligence, informed me that he had discovered certain leaks in a twelve-inch connection passing along the bed of the brook from a brewery to the main sewer by which brook water gained admittance to the latter whenever the level of the stream was as high as the connection, and on inspection it proved that many of the collars or flanges of the earthenware 12-inch pipe which formed the connection in question had been broken apparently by stones rolling down the brook in floods or thrown by mischievous boys, and the openings thus afforded to brook water fully accounted for the frequent action of the overflows noticed in the above letters. The rainfall of the previous year had accounted to my mind for a great deal of the evil, but as there were intervals of dry weather during which the overflow did not cease, I had attributed some of it to percolation of subsoil water into the sewers, and was consequently glad to find that the intake of water in dry weather could be so easily stopped by the Town Council or brewer repairing the connection; but although a neighbouring landed proprietor, who had reason to complain of the foul state of the brook due to the overflow, has addressed the Town Clerk on the subject as I have repeatedly done myself, nothing, beyond talk in the Council chamber reported in the newspapers, appears to have been done to remedy that portion of the evil, which could be provided for so easily, and which affects the purity of the brook in a much greater degree than the storm water because the overflow due to the latter cause is swept away and to some extent concealed by a larger body of water in the book itself. In order to make the matter as plain as possible let us take three periods as follows, viz.: 1st. During a dry season the whole contents of the sewers are delivered upon the land of this farm, and the brook leaves the farm as little defiled as it entered it. 2nd. In a less dry season when the brook level is high enough to reach the leaks communicating with the main sewer, and yet contains but a small volume of water, then part of it enters the sewer, and meeting the ordinary flow of sewage in the town, forms a body of foul water greater than the capacity of the sewer month, and thus overflows near the tanks, causing the remaining course of the brook through my farm and below it to flow in a very foul condition. 3rd. In a wet season the rush of water from streets and roofs of houses over the acreage covered by the town joins the sewage by street gullies, and, with the brook water admitted through the leaks above referred to, results in a greater overflow, but in this last case the body of water flowing down the brook from neighbouring mountains hides, and to a certain extent neutralises

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the sewage mixed with it in its rapid course. One great lesson to be derived from my two years' practical study of the sewage question, which has, I trust, been fairly stated in the above remarks, appears to me to be one of general interest to all towns, and I take it as pointing unmistakably to the necessity of adopting in all cases what is called the "separate system," recommended some years ago by Mr. Menzies, Deputy-Ranger of Windsor Forest, &c., adopted at the Camp at Aldershot and promised by the War Department to be carried out as regards the new Depôt Centre Barracks about to be erected at Wrexham, which will set an example to be copied, I trust, ere long by the municipal authorities for the whole town. The "separate system" consists in simply providing a clear course for all rain-water from roofs, streets, &c., by direct lines above or below ground to the natural watercourses, instead of leading it by streets gullies into the sewers, and burdening the latter with the double duty of carrying away both sewage and rainfall. —From Colonel JONES' pamphlet, *Will a Sewage Farm Pay?*

SALE OF MR. MEADOWS' SHORTHORNS,

AT THORNVILLE, WEXFORD, ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 14.

BY MR. THORNTON.

For some time past Mr. Meadows' health has been so indifferent that he resolved to dispose of the bulk of his herd during the week of the Royal Agricultural Society's meeting at Wexford. The herd is kept on his demesne at Thornville, about five miles from the town. Reserving three cows, bountiful milkers, and the calves of this year, the remaining portion of the herd, consisting of nineteen cows and heifers and one bull, were brought to a little paddock hard by the show-yard, and there disposed of by Mr. Thornton on Friday afternoon, the 14th inst. The hour fixed was that arranged for the bank jumping, so that the local attendance was small. The cattle were thin, and, being removed from their own homes, looked even more empty. About eight of the lots were exhibited on the show-ground; permission not being granted for their removal they were sold unseen. Tom Quin, the well-known Irish herd who brought out so successfully Mr. Meadows' Bolivar and Charlie to compete at English shows, seemed very much at sea when the objects of his care were disposed of away from the ring. The beautiful white calf Fanny 35th was put up at 20 guineas, and sold at that price without further bids. Prices were asked for some of the others, but none being made, they were passed as unsold. Lot 21, Mr. Gumbleton's prize heifer, Princess of Wales, went to Canada, at 54 gs.; and Mr. Chrisp bought Ruth 25th (which was also exhibited) for 67 gs.

The great object of competition was lot 1, Bracelet 2nd, a fine old cow of large scale, and a good milker, descended from the Killerby tribe of that name; she had bred Ben Brace, shown last year and this also, and successfully too at the Royal and Yorkshire show; and her last calf, St. Ronan, was exhibited at Wexford. After sharp competition between Mr. Downing and Mr. Cruickshank, the latter secured her at 290 gs.; she will be mated with the celebrated bull, Knight of Knowlmere, who has also been recently purchased by Mr. Cruickshank. Lot 6 and 7, of Mr. Torr's G tribes, were the other desirable lots; they were a little flat, and then Golden Pin being in use at the time of sale after service in April, told against the prices. Mr. Downing bought both at 80 gs. and 62 gs. The descendants of the Mason No. 2 tribe were there and undesired; they made accordingly but low figures. Some of the shorter pedigrees were animals of substance. Mr. Doyne, Mr. Cosby, and Mr. Humphrey Smith made several purchases of them. The sale throughout was dull, Mr. Meadows being unable to be present, but the average of over £50 told up well for the 22 head sold.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Bracelet 2nd, roan, calved January 14, 1864; by Vanguard (21009), out of Bridal by Buckingham (11219).—Mr. Cruickshank, Aberdeen, 290 gs.

Ruth 20th (Mr. Cooke's), roan, calved February 24, 1866; by Knight of the Empire (22061), out of Ruth 14th by Lord Aberdeen (20141).—Mr. R. G. Cosby, 42 gs.

Virginia, red, calved January 28, 1867; by First Fiddle (19749), out of Vanity by Paddy Hopewell (16677).—Mr. H. Smith, 40 gs.

British Queen, roan, calved April 26, 1867; by Duke of Marlborough (23768), out of Ruby Queen by Grey Gauntlet (19908).—Mr. S. Armstrong, 31 gs.

Fanny 15th (Mr. Cooke's), red and a little white, calved June 29, 1867; by Duke of York (23804), out of Fanny 10th by Dr. McIlale (15887).—Mr. Cruickshank, 26 gs.

Golden Locket, roan, calved September 6, 1867; by Grey Gauntlet (19908), out of Golden Rose by Blood Royal (14169).—Mr. J. Downing, 80 gs.

Golden Pin, roan, calved August 14, 1868; by Duke of Marlborough (23768), out of Golden Rose by Blood Royal (14169).—Mr. J. Downing, 62 gs.

Island Queen, red and white, calved February 5, 1869; by Duke of Marlborough (23768), out of Ruby Queen by Grey Gauntlet (19908).—Mr. S. Armstrong, 34 gs.

Fanny 28th, roan, calved April 25, 1869; by Prince of the Realm (22627), out of Fanny 16th by Fugleman (14580).—Mr. H. Smith, 20 gs.

Ruth 25th, roan, calved January 24, 1870; by St. Ringan (27417), out of Ruth 20th (lot 2) by Knight of the Empire (22061).—Mr. L. C. Chrisp, 67 gs.

Victorine, roan, calved February 23, 1870; by Prince of the Realm (22627), out of Vanity by Paddy Hopewell (16677). Mr. R. G. Cosby, 38 gs.

Fanny 33rd, red and white, calved January 23, 1871; by Prince of the Realm (22627), out of Fanny 14th by Fugleman (14580).—Mr. H. Smith, 31 gs.

Chenedolle, red, calved January 24, 1871; by Prince of the Realm (22627), out of Canzonette (dam of lots 20 and 24) by First Fiddle (19749).—Mr. C. M. Dozne, 30 gs.

Medora, roan, calved April 11, 1871; by Peer of the Realm (27057), out of Graceful by Duke of Moscow (14447).—Mr. R. J. Stanton, Canada, 52 gs.

Princess Charlotte, roan, calved May 12, 1871; by Prince Mason (29645), out of Camisole by Fugleman (14580).—Mr. C. M. Dozne, 20 gs.

Queen of the Meadow (Mr. S. Armstrong's), roan, calved January 21, 1872; by Prince Buckingham (29603), out of Ruby Queen by Grey Gauntlet (19908).—Mr. H. Robert, 29 gs.

Fairy Queen (Mr. S. Armstrong's), red, calved March 12, 1872; by Prince Buckingham (29603), out of British Queen (lot 4) by Duke of Marlborough (23768).—Mr. H. Robert, 30 gs.

Honey Bee (Mr. S. Armstrong's), roan, calved March 21, 1872; by Peacock (29536), out of Honeysuckle by Marine (24529).—Mr. T. Rudd, 18 gs.

Musidora, roan, calved March 25, 1872; by Prince Mason (29645), out of Graceful by Duke of Moscow (14447).—Mr. J. Downing, 20 gs.

Chardonoret, red and white, calved April 23, 1872; by Prince Mason (29645), out of Canzonette by First Fiddle (19749).—Mr. J. Cooke, 22 gs.

Princess of Wales (Mr. Gumbleton's), rich roan, calved February 8, 1873; by Red Cross (32247), out of Truelove by Ducrow (19591).—Mr. S. Pickering, Canada, 54 gs.

Fanny 35th, white, calved May 21, 1873; by Prince Mason (29645), out of Fanny 14th by Fugleman (14580).—Mr. J. Ward, 20 gs.

SUMMARY.

Total sale.....	£1,108	16	0
22 head averaged.....	50	8	0

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SHEEP SALES AND LETTINGS.

MR. BUSHBY'S SOUTHDOWNS.—The annual sale and letting took place at West Preston Manor, near Angmering Station. The sale comprised 18 rams for sale and hire; 10 ram lambs and 115 ewe and wether lambs, and 100 breeding ewes for sale. Sixty wether lambs sold from 30s. to 48s. each; the ewe lambs averaged 31s.; breeding ewes ranged from 38s. to 64s. Rams let and sold from five guineas to 16½ guineas, and ram lambs sold from five guineas to 9½ gs.

MR. BENNETT'S HAMPSHIRES. — Messrs. Ewer and Winstanley sold and let by auction, at the Market House-yard, Salisbury, 70 ram lambs and 10 rams, the property of Mr. W. Bennett, of Chilmark. The first four lots were let for a month from any date, and the prices realised were as follow: Mr. Brown, Uffcott, 10 guineas; Mr. White, 10½ gs.; Mr. White, 19 gs.; Mr. Coombes, 10 guineas. The next seven lots were let for a month from the 6th of September, at the following prices: Mr. John Read, 39 guineas; Mr. Charles Waters, 26 guineas; Mr. John Read, 10 guineas; Mr. Parsons (Waddon), 10 guineas; Mr. J. Carpenter, 10½ guineas; Mr. A. Budd, 26 guineas; Mr. Klusman, Cranbury Park, Winchester, 10 guineas—the average being £18 2s. 11d. per head.

MR. HANDY'S COTSWOLDS.—This was the first sale, Mr. Villar, of Cheltenham, being the auctioneer. There was a large attendance, and about 50 animals were sold at an average of £7 12s.

MR. LANE'S COTSWOLDS AT BROADFIELD.—Mr. Acock, of the firm of Acock and Hanks, was the auctioneer. Two 3-shear sheep and three shearlings were let, the highest price being given by Mr. Brown, of Marham, Norfolk, 40 gs. 47 were sold, the highest figure being 66 gs., which was given by Mr. Coleman, of New Zealand. The average of the lot was £20 0s. 4d., and the net proceeds of the sale amounted to £1,135 1s.

MR. R. GARNE'S COTSWOLDS, AT ALDSWORTH.—Mr. Acock officiated as auctioneer, and let 2 shearlings, the highest priced one to Mr. G. Hewer, Leygore, for 46 gs.; 51 passed the hammer, at the high average of £22 1s. 9d. Mr. Brown, of Marham Hall, Norfolk, gave the highest figure, 78 gs. The total amount realised was £1,170 15s.

THE TROY RAMS.—48 animals were offered for competition; but owing to the long continuance of drought and entire failure of the root crops in the Midland Counties, they did not realise extraordinary figures. For several of the animals a sharp competition ensued, resulting in the average of £10 1s. 6d.

OXFORD RAM SALES.—The first of these annual gatherings was inaugurated in Smith's Close, when there was an extraordinarily full attendance of flockmasters, breeders, and dealers. The following are the particulars of the sales.—By Messrs. Paxton and Castle: The first lot consisted of 24 shearling Cotswolds, the property of the Executors of the late Mr. R. Lord, of Stanton Harcourt; the highest price realised was 11½ gs., the average being £7 1s. 6d. 11 Cotswold ram lambs, bred by and the property of Mr. H. Gillett, of Southleigh; the highest price realised was £6, and the lot averaged £4 5s. 8 Cotswold shearling rams, bred by Mr. C. Gillett, of Lower Haddon; average £5 15s. 6d. Cotswold shearling rams, bred by Mr. S. Smith, of Somerton; average £9 9s. The Cotswold shearling rams drafted from the flock of Mr. John Worley, of Brize-Norton; the average was £7, and the highest price was 9 gs. 15 Oxfordshire Down ram lambs, bred by Mr. C. Badcock, of Radley. The highest price reached for these was £7 10s.; average £4 7s. —By Messrs. Acock and Hanks: 15 Cotswold ram lambs, the property of Mrs. Smith, of Shilton, near Burford, averaged £4 16s. 6d.—By Messrs. Franklin and Gale: 25 Cotswold ram lambs, the property of Mr. Thomas Akers, of Burton Abbots, realised from 3½ to 7½ gs.

MR. HUGH AYLMER'S LONGWOOLS AT WEST DEREHAM.—Mr. Simpson offered the 100 ram lambs. These realised a total sum of £575 5s., and averaged £5 15s. each. The highest price given for a ram lamb was £10, the lowest £4 10s. The 80 shearlings realised £927 4s., an average of £11 11s. 9d. The highest price given for a shearling was £42, the lowest £7 17s. 6d. The 10 two-shear sheep made £92 18s. 6d., an average of £9 6s. each. The highest price given for one of these sheep was £15 15s., the lowest £7 7s. The total proceeds of the letting were £1,597 7s. 6d.

MR. WALKER'S COTSWOLDS.—There was a large attendance, including the leading tup breeders of the neighbourhood, and the sheep were considered to be the best offered this season. Mr. Acock, of the firm of Acock and Hanks, offered the first sheep, which was knocked down at £24 3s. Sheep after sheep was brought forward and speedily disposed of, till No. 20 was brought into the ring, when it was plain there was something more than usual in that number. The biddings quickly rose from £20 to 70 guineas, when there was a halt for a few seconds. From this sum the biddings rose to 75 guineas, and then to 100 guineas. Finally this sheep was knocked down at 102 guineas, to go to Canada. The other twenty were quickly disposed of. The forty, which averaged £31 4s. 9d. each, were all disposed of in about an hour.

MR. RIGG'S HAMPSHIRE DOWNS.—One hundred and twenty ewes were sold at Wrotham-hill Park. One pen made £4 per head, and several lots went into Lancashire. They averaged 58s. For the rams there was but a poor trade. A few were let at 8gs.; one of the shearlings went at 10gs. Those disposed of averaged £6 10s. 9d. A number of store cattle were sold at moderate prices.

THE WOOLDING HAMPSHIRES.—At this sale, by Messrs. Waters, Son, and Rawlence, the prices ranged at 12½ gs. and 10½ gs., two at 10 gs., 9½ gs., and 9 gs., several at 8½ gs., 8 gs., 7½ gs., 7 gs., and 6 gs., down to (for young lambs) 4½ gs. and 4 gs., and two at 3 gs., the average of the whole being 6 gs.

THE BULBRIDGE HAMPSHIRE EWES.—Messrs. J. and E. Rawlence have held their second and last sale at Bulbridge, when they offered the whole of their flocks of Hampshire Down ewes, consisting of about 1,090 ewes and ewe lambs. The auctioneers were Messrs. Ewer and Winstanley. The sheep were in lots of ten each (except where otherwise expressed), and the sale commenced with the two-tooth ewes, when the following purchases were made: Mr. Simmonds (agent to Mr. Walter, Bearwood), £55; Mr. Dibben, Bishopstone, £72 10s., and £77 10s.; Mr Newton, Dogdean (five), £57 15s.; Mr. Charles Waters, £62 10s.; Mr. Smith, of Stapleford (five), £70 17s. 6d.; Mr. A. Morrison, Fonthill, £50, and five, £43 10s.; Mr. Pain, of Frilsham, Berks, £52 10s. and £42. The following were among the purchasers of the four-tooth ewes: Mr. Pain, £57 10s.; Mrs. Brice, Wolfhall, £70; Mr. Newton (five), £49 17s. 6d.; Mr. Holdsworth (steward of the Earl of Pembroke), £47; Mr. Taylor, £45 and £55; Mr. Simmonds, two lots at £40 each; Mr. Twitchen, from Basingstoke (five), £30; Mr. Lambert, of Abingdon, £40; Mr. Moore, of Littlecott, £44; and Mr. Homer, Athelhampton, £49. Amongst the purchasers of the six-tooth ewes were—Mr. Pain, £57 10s.; Mr. Morrison, £57 10s.; Mr. R. Brine, of Gussage (five), £31 5s.; Mr. Taylor, £45; Mr. Homer, £42; Mr. Simmonds, £43; Mr. Buxton, of Ware, £40; Mr. Godwin, of East Stour, £10. The following were the purchasers of the full-mouthed ewes: Mr. Homer, £31 10s. and £35; Mr. Coles, Warminster, £41; Mr. Simmonds, £36 and £33; Mr. Brine, Gussage, £32 10s., and five at £21 5s. Mr. Webb, of Newbury, £31, £31 10s., and £32 10s. Among the purchasers of the Chilver lambs were Mr. Morrison, a lot at £170; Mr. Taylor, £80; Mr. Buxton, £33 10s. Mr. Holdsworth, £34. The 1,095 ewes and ewe lambs realised £4,800. The averages were: Two-tooth, £5 8s. 10d. each; four-tooth, £4 11s. 5d.; six-tooth, £4 15s. 11d.; full-mouthed, £3 6s. 10d.; Chilver lambs, £3 19s. 6d.; the total average per head being £4 8s. 6d.

MR. PARKER'S HAMPSHIRES. — Messrs. Downs and Awbery have disposed of the Lasham Flock, late the property of Mr. J. Parker, deceased. Twenty-three ram lambs were first disposed of, and produced £414 4s. 6d., an average of over £18, Lot 3 being secured by Messrs. R. and J. Russell, of Horton, Kerby, Kent, at 50 gs. Lot 6 made 40 gs. Mr. A. Twitchen, North Oakley, purchased Lot 9 at 22 gs., Mr. F. Budd Lot 12 at 40 gs., Mr. Pearce Brown Lot 15 at 26 guineas, Messrs. Russell Lot 30 at 36 gs. The average price of the whole flock was £4 7s. 6d. per head.

MR. LUNN'S RAMS.—Messrs. Waters, Son, and Lawrence at Andover Station, conducted the sale of rams belonging to Mr. Lunn, of Woolding Farm, Whitchurch, Hants. The prices ranged at 12½gs., 10½gs., two at 10gs., 9½ gs., 9 gs., several at 8½gs., and 8gs., 7½gs., 7gs., 6gs., down to (for

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young lambs) 4½gs. and 4gs. and two at 3gs., the average of the whole being 6gs.

MR. CHARLES WATERS' HAMPSHIRES.—The sale of 76 ram lambs, took place at the Market House, Salisbury, being conducted by Messrs. Waters, Son, and Rawlence. The prices obtained were for letting 23 guineas, 10½ guineas, 7 guineas, and 6 guineas; and for lambs sold 14½ guineas, 12 guineas, 11½ guineas, 10½ guineas, 9½ guineas, 9 guineas, 8½ guineas, 8 guineas, 7 guineas, down to 5 guineas, the average being £8 each. Eighteen of the younger lambs were passed without a bid. Mr. Coles, of Middleton Farm, Warminster, hired No. 3 for one month from 1st September for 23 guineas. 10 ram lambs, the property of Mr. G. Read, of Charford; the highest brought 9½ guineas. The average was £5 10s.

MR. NEWTON'S HAMPSHIRES. — At Dogdean, Messrs. Waters, Son, and Rawlence offered about 100 ram lambs and 10 rams, the property of Mr. William Newton. The sale commenced with the letting of 12 ram lambs, No. 4 being let to Mr. Dibben at 25 gs.; No. 8, to Mr. E. Pinckney (Berwick), at 23 gs.; No. 5, to Mr. William Floyer (Ridge), at 14 gs., who also hired No. 7, at 9 gs.; and No. 3, to Mr. Carpenter, at 11 gs. The selling lambs produced considerable competition, the average of the first 40 being £11 11s. 3d. The principal purchasers were Mr. E. Pinckney, who secured No. 26 at 20 gs., No. 36 at 13 gs., and No. 33 at 15 gs.; Mr. Smith (Stapleford), No. 15 at 15 gs., and No. 17 at 15½ gs.; Mr. C. Friend (Gussage), No. 13 at 18 gs.; Mr. F. G. Dalgety, No. 20 at 16 gs.; Mr. H. Friend, No. 39 at 15 gs., No. 40 at 14½ gs., No. 49 at 9½ gs., and No. 52 at 9 gs.; Mr. R. Friend, No. 22 at 13½ gs., No. 12 at 9 gs., &c.; Mr. Hayter (Woodgates), No. 33 at 13 gs., No. 50 at 11 gs., and No. 72 at 9½ gs.; Mr. Fleetwood (Coombe), No. 27 at 13 gs.; Mr. Pinniger (Rockbourne), No. 25 at 11½ gs., No. 53, at 11 gs., Nos. 30, 32, and 34, at 10½ gs. each, No. 45 at 9½ gs., and Nos. 46 and 48 at 9 gs. each; Mr. Warner (Liss, Petersfield), No. 38 at 11 gs., No. 10 at 10½ gs., No. 14 at 9 gs., and No. 56 at gs. The average of the whole was £99 7s. 10d.

MR. PREECE'S SHROPSHIRE SALES AT SHREWSBURY. — The numerous purchasers had some 150 flocks to select from. As might have been expected, Lord Chesham obtained the highest prices, and the highest average ever yet reached for Shropshire rams. A shearling ram, sire, grandson of Duke of Manchester, let for 95 gs.; and another let for 25 gs. A two-shear ram, sire, son of Mansell's No. 8, sold for 115 gs.; a shearling sold for 105 gs., one at 70 gs., and one at 65 gs. The 21 brought in a total of 728 gs., giving an average of nearly 35 gs. per head. Mr. Crane, of Shrawardine, let a two-shear ram, Caligula, for 46 gs., and Mr. J. Evans, Uffington, let a shearling ram, by Grand Duke, sire of dam Hardlines, for 85 gs. Mr. T. Horley, The Fosse, Leamington; Mr. G. Allen, Knightley Hall; and Mr. W. Marson, Butterhill, also sold several rams at satisfactory prices. The following were among the prices obtained for ewes: Mr. Crane's lot from 60s. to 80s.; Mr. John Evans, 50s. to 200s. each; Lord Chesham's, 60s. to 80s.; Mr. J. W. Minton, 65s. to 95s.; Rev. C. P. Peters, 70s.; Mr. R. Edwards, 130s. Mr. G. Horton, 65s. to 85s.; Mr. Bowen Jones, 60s. to 130s.; Mr. R. Jones, 50s. to 105s.; Captain Wingfield, 60s. to 72s. 6d.; Messrs. J. and G. Crane, 60s.; Mr. W. Andrews, 60s.; Mr. H. Lee, 65s.; Mr. Peter Everal, 60s.; Mr. Frank, 55s. to 105s.; Mr. A. Mansell, 50s. to 60s.; Mr. W. G. Preece, 55s. to 65s.; Mr. W. Holder, 48s. to 60s.; Mr. G. T. Forester, 45s. to 60s. Besides the above there was a large supply of well-bred ewes sent by numerous well-known breeders.

MESSRS. LYTHALL AND CLARK'S SHROPSHIRES IN BINGLEY HALL.—The trade ruled slow, many animals passed through the ring unsold, and other breeders had to submit to a fall from last year of about 30 to 50 per cent. The thirty rams exhibited by Mr. Joseph Pulley, of Lower Eaton, Hereford, attracted most attention; and one, the commended sheep at Bedford, was bought by Mr. Crawfurd for 34 gs. Mr. William Baker, of Staffordshire, secured the next sheep, a shearling, at 36 gs. Others made 30, 31, and 35 gs. each, the average of the thirty sheep, all shearlings, being a trifle under 15 gs., which, however, is little more than half the sum realised by the same breeder last year. Mr. Thos. Nock, of Shiffnal, showed ten shearlings and one two-shear; two of the former were let, and the nine sold averaged £13, the highest price being made of No. 3, who was bought for Mrs. Henry Smith, of Sutton Maddock, for 28 gs. Mr. H. S. Sheldon, of Brailes House, Shepston-on-Stour, showed nine sheep, which realised a trifle under 11 gs. Mr. E. Lythall, of Radford-hall, Leamington, showed thirteen yearlings; the highest figure was 25 gs., and the average £11 4s. 6d. Lord Sudely's rams made about £8, and Lord Wenlock's, from Yorkshire, £7 5s., about half the price realised last year. There are about 500 ewes in the catalogue, not all present; purchasers were found for most if not all, but the drop was even greater than in the rams. Mr. Pulley's shearling ewes commanded the best average, making 68s. a head. Ten lots of Show shearlings, belonging to Mr. Rock and Mr. Sheldon, made an average of 7½ gs. per head, prices of the remainder ranging from 42s. to 80s. a-head.

MR. COXON'S SHROPSHIRES.—Mr. W. G. Preece conducted the annual sale and letting at Freeford, of Mr. Coxon's selection of Shropshire sheep, which this year consisted of 36 rams and 100 ewes, the whole of which very successfully realised remarkably good prices, taking into consideration the want of keep, shortness of capital, and the dulness of trade. The ram Confidence was first put into the ring and offered to let. This sheep won third prize at Hull R.A.S.E. last year as a shearling. Twelve of his ewe lambs were run into the ring with him. After a very spirited competition between the most celebrated breeders of Shropshires, he was knocked down to Mr. Cartwright, Burton-on-Trent, at the extraordinary sum of 200 guineas for the season. If Confidence had been offered for sale there is no knowing what price he would have made, and 500 guineas we heard had been offered last spring for him, but refused. Champion, winner of the first prize at Manchester, was let to Mr. C. W. Hamilton, Ireland, at 115 gs.; Capitalist (a two-shear) sold to Mr. R. H. Masfen, at 57 gs.; Consolation (a two-shear), 55 gs., to Mr. W. H. Clare; 3, a shearling, 63 gs., to Mr. C. Stubbs. The Hon. Lord Falmouth purchased Safeguard, 16, at 53 gs., and No. 4 at 23 gs. Mr. German purchased two rams at 42 gs. and 31 gs. each. Lot 5, 32 gs., Mr. Farmer, of Cheadle; lots 17 and 18 went to Mr. Pilgrim at 21 and 23 gs. Lord Bateman, Mr. Winterton, Mr. C. R. Keeling, Mr. T. J. Mansell, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Booth, Mr. Kinghorn, for the Rev. W. Inge, and other well-known breeders obtained specimens from this renowned flock at from 12 to 40 gs. each. The average is about 31 guineas. The ewes were sold for the season at prices ranging from 8 to 60 gs., amongst the buyers being Messrs. Holland, Firmstone, Cartwright, Woodall, Baggalay, Fowler, Meakin, Salt, Bury, and Ball.

MR. R. H. MASFEN'S SHROPSHIRES.—This sale took place at Pendeford, Mr. Preece officiating. Only two rams were let, Roman for 53 gs., and The General for 8 gs. Of the fifty-five which were sold, The Admiral brought the highest figure, namely, 81 gs. The next best prices were 45 gs. for Wildboy, 45 gs. for Captain, 30 gs. for Lord Rockingham, and 25 gs. for Nobleman. Several others brought 20 gs. each. 130 ewes were brought forward in lots of five, and some rather spirited competition ensued. The best pen made 165s. each ewe; others 85s., 80s., and 70s. each.

MRS. H. SMITH'S SHROPSHIRES.—Mrs. H. Smith, of Sutton Maddock, held her annual sale of Shropshire rams and ewes, when Messrs. Lythall and Clarke brought forty rams and seventy-five ewes to the hammer. The rams realised the good average of 13 gs. each, the prices ranging from 36 gs. downwards, and the ewes fetching from 10½ to 4 gs. each, and realising an average of 4½ gs. each.

CIRENCESTER RAM FAIR.—Mr. Barton sent 23 rams, which made the average of £16 3s. The highest prices ranged from 24 gs. to 49 gs. Last year Mr. Barton made an average of £10 6s. for 31 sheep. 18 rams from the flock of Mr. E. Fowler, of Aston Farm, went at an average of £8 18s.; being £6 17s. less than last year, when the number was 30. 7 sheep of Mr. Thomas Clarke's, of Frampton Mansell, made an average of £7 each; last year's average was £9 9s. Mr. J. Villar sold the following: 27 Cotswold rams from the flock of Mr. Thomas Porter, Baunton, at an average of £7 10s. 9d., the highest price being 15 gs. Mr. Porter's average last year was £10 15s. 6d. for 30 sheep. Mr. Villar next sold 13 Cotswolds from Mr. H. Cole, Ashbrook, at an average of £8 15s. 6d., the highest lot realising 16 gs. Last year's average was £12 2s. 3½d. for 29

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sheep. Mr. Villar then offered 25 Oxfordshire Down rams from the flock of Mr. Charles Hobbs, of Moysey Hampton, at an average of £11 16s.; one of the lots realised 21 gs. Messrs. Acock and Hanks sold 36 Cotswold rams, the property of Mr. C. Barton, Fifield, realising an average of £11 12s. 9d., one being bought by Mr. Jacobs, of Bury Barns, Burford, for 30 gs. Mr. C. Pinnell, of Westwell, and Mr. Garne, of Filkins, also bought rams at 22 gs. and 20 gs. respectively. Messrs. Acock and Hanks next offered 8 rams from the flock of Mr. Russell Swanwick, of Cirencester, at an average of £10 11s., the highest price being 15 gs. 18 rams, bred by Mr. J. Gillett, of Tangley, realised an average of £10 14s. 8d., the highest price being given by Mr. Clarke, of Frampton Mansell, 27 gs. 20 rams from Mr. J. Pedley, of Bibury, averaged £9 2s. 8d. (a few shillings higher than last year), two of the number bringing 18 gs. and 17 gs. 12 rams, bred by Mr. Joseph Walker, of Compton Abdale, averaged £9 1s. 12 rams from the flock of Mr. Jacobs, Bury Barns, Burford, realised an average of £9 9s. 17 rams from Messrs. T. and S. Gillett's flock, of Kilkenny, brought an average of £7 15s., against an average last year of £6 19s. 6d. 10 rams bred by Mr. G. Hewer, of Northleach, averaged £7 1s., little more than half last year's average. There were also offered for sale 20 Oxfordshire Down rams, bred by Mr. Samuel Davis, of Sevenhampton. The 19 sold realised an average of a little over £12 12s., the highest price obtained being 20 gs. This was a slight increase on the average of last year. 40 shearling Cotswold rams, bred by and the property of Mr. Henry Howell, offered at Coates, realised an average of £11 3s. 4d., the highest price obtained being 40 gs. Last year's average was £12 12s. Mr. Newton's Hampshire Downs were sold at Ilsley fair by Messrs. Franklin and Gale, of Wallingford; there were 73 ram lambs and 1 two-toothed sheep. The highet, priced lamb was knocked down to A. Morrison, Esq., Fonthill Wilts, for 28 gs., Mr. John Kirby, of Moreton, securing another at 27 gs., and the prices of the others ranging from 4½ gs. to 16 gs. 72 out of the 74 others being sold at an average of £8 a piece.

THE MARHAM COTSWOLD LETTING.—The annual letting of Mr. Thomas Brown's celebrated Norfolk Cotswold rams took place at the Marham Hall Farm, Downham Market, under the direction of Salter and Simpson. The 100 rams lambs averaged £6 3s. each; the 80 shearling rams averaged £11 17s. 6d. each; and the 10 two-shear rams averaged £7 7s. each, the total proceeds of the letting being £1,650 13s. 2d. Amongst the hirers were Messrs. Robert Garne, Aldsworth, Gloucestershire; T. H. Coleman, New Zealand; and Thomas Allen, Markshall.

MR. J. GIBLIN'S COTSWOLD AND OXFORD DOWNS.—This sale took place at Little Bardfield. The following is the general result: Cotswolds, 35 shearlings, averaged £8 9s. 8d.; 2 two-shears, £5 each. Oxford Downs—Eight shearlings averaged £6 10s. 7d.; 2 two-shears, £5 each.

MR. HALL'S LEICESTER RAMS.—The Scorborough rams were let by auction, at Scarborough, near Beverley. There was a very large attendance of the leading farmers of the neighbourhood, and also many from other counties and from Ireland. The number of sheep offered was ninety, of which fifty-five were shearlings. The average price of the shearlings was £7 15s., and the aged sheep £7 12s. 6d. The total average was £7 13s. 6d. per head. The highest price given for a shearling was £17 10s., and for an aged sheep £15 15s.

MR. H. FOOKES'S SOUTHDOWNS.—Mr. T. Enson, of Dorchester, submitted 80 Southdown rams and 150 ewes from the flock of Mr. H. Fookes, of Whitechurch. The sale and letting took place in the fair-field, Blandford, and commenced with the two-tooth rams, of which there were fifty offered, in lots of ten, alternately for sale and letting. The highest of the first 10 was let for 16 guineas to Mr. John Scutt, of Winforth, near Dorchester; lots 13 and 17 were bought by Mr. Hutchings, of Chard, at 15 guineas each. The third ten, from 21 to 30, were a very fine lot of sheep. Lot 21 was let at 21 guineas; 22 was let to Lord Walsingham at 55 guineas; lots 23 and 24 were let for 13 and 10 guineas, and 30 for 20 guineas. The six-tooth rams were sold at 11 guineas and 6 guineas. Colonel Kingscote, of Kingscote, Gloucester, purchased lot 56 at 17½ guineas; and 57, which formed the first prize at Dorchester show last year, was sold to Mr. John Ford, of Rushton, at 18½ guineas. The average of those sold and let at the sale was about 11 guineas per head. Down ewes realized from 47s. to 50s.

MESSRS. MANSELL'S SHROPSHIRES.—This sale took place at Ercall Park, near Wellington. About 40 rams and 120 breeding ewes were sold by auction, by Mr. Preece The average for the rams was about 21 guineas each, and the ewes ranged from 60s. to 93s. each.

MR. G. WALLIS' OXFORDSHIRE DOWN RAMS.—Messrs. Paxton and Castle sold at Old Shifford, Faringdon, 50 shearling rams and 50 ewes, at an average of £14 2s. 8d. This was the first auction sale of sheep held at Shifford.

MR. TREADWELL'S OXFORDSHIRE DOWNS.—At Mr. Treadwell's seventeenth annual sale, about 50 Oxfordshire shearling rams, together with a few older sheep, were submitted to competition by Mr. J. A. Mumford, at the Model Farm, Upper Winchendon. There was a numerous attendance of purchasers. In 1871 the average was something over £13 13s., in 1872 it reached upwards of £18, and in 1873 it exceeded £23; this year, however, owing no doubt to the dry season, the average was only £17 1s. 3d. The total proceeds of the sale amounted to £921 3s. The following were the chief sales: Mr. Street, £22 1s.; Mr. Mather, £21; Mr. W. Scovell, £21; Mr. R. Foster, £21; Mr. N. Stilgoe, £31; Mr. P. Bulford, £31 10s.; Mr. Taylor, £22 1s.; Mr. Tanner, £31 10s.; Mr. Cooper, £21; Mr. Roberts, £21; Mr. Wright, £21; Mr. King, £22 1s. The Winchendon estate, which includes Mr. Treadwell's farm, has just been sold by the Duke of Marlborough to Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, the son of Baron Rothschild of Austria, whose death was recently announced.

MRS. BEACH'S SHROPSHIRES. — This annual sale took place at the Hattons, Brewood, Penkridge. The catalogue comprised 31 entries of shearling rams, four older rams and twelve pens of five each, ewes and theaves. The sale, conducted by Mr. J. B. Lythall, commenced with the shearling rams; the first lot submitted being the reserved at Bedford, which fell to Mr. Preece for 50 guineas. Several subsequent lots bordered on that sum, fetching 48 (to let), 40 and 50 gs., until at the eighth lot, which, with the succeeding was also on hire for the season, let for the season at 135 gs. to Mr. Crawford. After this the hammer fell to what may be termed ordinary prices ranging from 25 to as low as 8 gs. for shearlings, while the highest prices made for the older rams was 26gs., the shearling rams averaging £25 3s. 6d. each, including three or four let for the season. For the theaves and young stock ewes there was a deal of competition, but the prices were not comparable with former years, the highest figure in the ewes class being 12 gs. each for a pen of five show theaves. The other lots of theaves made from 70s. to 80s each, and the young stock ewes from 67s. 6d. to 100s. each.

OXFORDS AND COTSWOLDS AT OXFORD FAIR.—Messrs. Paxton and Castle sold by auction some Oxfordshire Down stock ewes, from the flock of Mr. J. Jakeman, Chesterton Fields, the average being 41s. 6d.; 30 ewes of this class, the property of Mr. H. Howse, Weston-on-the-Green, averaged 50s.; 78 ewes of the same age and breed drafted from the flock of Mr. J. Rowles, Weston-on-the-Green, obtained the average of 47s. 6d., including the largest figured pen in the fair, which reached 58s. per head. About 500 sheep were penned, consigned by the Earl of Jersey (Middleton Park), Messrs. W. Rowles (Weston-on-the-Green), Cave (Merton), Waine (Blackthorn), G. T. Drake (Bignell House), and other flockmasters in the district. The ram business was excessively slow, but 6 Oxfordshire Downs from the flock of Sir Henry W. Dashwood, Bart., Kirtlington Park, averaged £7 14s. The prices ranged between 5½ gs. to 12 gs., the purchaser of the highest-priced animal at the latter sum was Mr. Brett, Walton, Stoney Stratford. A few shearlings selected from the flock of Mr. F. Gillett, Upton Downs Farm, Burford, changed ownership at from 5½ gs., averaging £7 5s. Some shearlings of the same class, the property of Mr. Howe. Weston-on-the-Green, fetched from 4½ gs. to 5½ gs. each, 8 Cotswold shearlings made from 5½ gs. to 8 gs., averaging £6 10s.

MR. DIBBEN'S HAMPSHIRES. — Messrs. Ewer and Winstanley offered at the Market House Yard, Salisbury, about 100 ram lambs and rams, the property of Mr. E. Dibben, of Bishopstone. The letting of ten ram lambs for a month or for the season was proceeded with, and the following prices were realised; 8½ gs., 9 gs., 28 gs., Mr. Taylor; 8 gs., 8 gs., 9½ gs., 9 gs., 9 gs., 21 gs., Mr. W. Bennett; 8 gs. The

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following prices were realised for the lambs offered for sale: 7 gs. (three lots), 10 gs., Mr. King; 20 gs., Mr. Pinckney; 17 gs., Mr. Pearce Brown, Burderop; 6½ gs., 5½ gs., 13½ gs., Mr. Ferris; 26 gs., Mr. Pearce Brown; 7 gs., 5½ gs., 6 gs., 7 gs., 23½ gs., Mr. Pearce Brown; 10½ gs., Mr. Ferris; 5½ gs., 6 gs., 6½ gs., 14½ gs., Mr. Buxton, Essex; 13 gs., Mr. Pearce Brown; 13 gs., Mr. Pearce Brown; 9½ gs., Mr. Ferris; 9½ gs., Mr. King; 17½ gs., Mr. Parry; 8½ gs., Mr. Pinckney; and 6 gs., Mr. Branston.

SOUTHDOWNS.—Messrs. Wyatt and Son held their second annual sale of Southdown rams at Chichester. The catalogue contained 58 lots, drawn from the flocks of Mr. G. W. Homer (Dorchester), Mr. A. T. Newman (Westdean), the Earl of Portsmouth, Mr. H. Upton (Aldwick), Mr. C. Combes (Birdham), and Mr. F. Padwick (Thorney). Fifteen of Mr. Homer's sheep sold at prices ranging from £3 to £5 15s.; the average price being £4 5s. Mr. J. Boys, of Compton, was the principal purchaser. Mr. A. T. Newman's two two-tooths were let for the season at 11½ gs. (to Mr. F. Bushby), and at 10½ gs. (to Mr. H. E. Sadler). Of those sold Mr. Habin gave 12 gs. for a two-tooth, and the others fetched 10½ gs., 10 gs., 8 gs., 6 gs., and 4 gs. each respectively. The Earl of Portsmouth's, which included five two-tooths bred by Lord Walsingham, sold at from £4 to £6 15s., the last price being given by Mr. Fifield, who was buying for Mr. Goater, of Findon. Mr. H. Upton sent nine for sale, the highest price realised being £5 (Mr. Fifield). Five of Mr. Combes' sold at from £2 10s. to £3 7s. 6d. Mr. Padwick only had two in the catalogue—a couple of two-tooths from the late Mr. John Pinnix's breed; and Mr. C. Combes took both, the price being 6 gs. each.

LAMMAS LAMB SALE AT ST. BOSWELLS.—The annual great sale of lambs, inaugurated several years ago by the Messrs. Swan, took place again at St. Boswells. There was a large attendance of farmers and dealers, not only from the northern counties of Scotland, but from various counties of England, and several from Ireland. The sales were an improvement on the recent markets—no doubt occasioned by the recent showers and the excellent turnip prospect in the Border counties. Lambs were selling at prices rather higher than those obtained at St. Boswells Fair, but, in comparison with last year, first-class lambs would be from 6s. to 8s. lower, and second class lambs, which sold unequally, were sold at reduction of from 7s. to 10s. a-head. The number disposed of was nearly 30,000.

THE MARKSHALL RAMS.—The annual letting of Mr. Allen's longwools took place at Marshall Farm, when the result of the letting was as follows: There were forty lambs let at an average of £4 10s. 6d., forty-five shearlings averaged £8 7s. 6d., and five two-shear sheep averaged £5 5s. The highest price paid for a lamb was £12 10s., for a shearling £22 10s.

MR. DAVIES' SHROPSHIRES.—Mr. E. Sunderland sold in the Hereford market some Shropshire rams, belonging to Mr. Davies, of Burlton Court, at prices ranging from 5 gs. to 10 gs.

SUFFOLK LAMB SALES.—Mr. Robert Bond held his third Sutton lamb sale at Woodbridge. The number of lambs was considerably in advance of that of either of the preceding sales, about 5,500 being brought to the hammer. Amongst those who favoured Mr. Bond with instructions were—Mr. J. S. Clarke's Executors, Eyke; Messrs. C. Walker, Melton; W. Toller, Gedgrave; W. W. Flat, Wantisden; J. Smith, Hasketon; S. Wolton, Butley; G. Eastaugh, Sudbourne; D. Nunn, Eyke; J. Toller, Blaxhall; W. H. Borrett, Tunstall; Mrs. Borrett, Framlingham; Messrs. R. Cooper, Iken Hall; D. Burrows, Dallinghoo; A. Bendall, Sutton; A. Smith, Eyke; R. Welton, Marlesford; T. Roberts, Alderton; H. M. Gobbitt, Capel St. Andrew; E. T. Duckett, Sutton Haugh; A. Talman, Saxstead; C. K. Cordy, Trimley; J. B. Cordy, Felixstowe; R. Walker, Letheringham; W. Toller, Gedgrave; M. Murrell, Earl Soham; G. Chaplin, Sudbourne; H. Clarke, Iken; T. Waller, Sutton Hall; M. Jary, Underwood Hall; Westby, Newmarket; J. Cracknell, Wickham Market; R. C. Ablitt, Grundisburg; C. Capon, Framlingham; Walker, Chillisford. There was a good attendance of buyers, including several gentlemen from a distance. One invested no less than £1,500 in stock. Trade for all descriptions was considered to be satisfactory. The highest price for black-faced ewe lambs was realised for 60 by Mr. J. M. Green's tups, bred by and the property of Mr. C. K. Cordy; they brought 46s. each. 100 black-faced shearling ewes, consigned by Mr. J. Smith, Hasketon, realised 68s. 6d. apiece; 140 half-bred shearling ewes, from Mr. Walker, Letheringham, and bred by Mr. R. Welton, fetched 53s.; 200 black-faced ewe lambs, from Mr. J. S. Clarke's Executors, averaged 27s. 6d. each, and 320 wether lambs averaged 26s.; 200 black-faced shearling ewes, from Mr. Caleb Walker, averaged nearly 60s. each. 160 half-bred lambs, from Mr. W. Toller, averaged 24s. 6d.; and half-bred shearling ewes, from Mr. J. Toller, made from 56s. 6d. to 61s.; 180 half-bred two-shear ewes, from Mr. D. Burrows, fetched from 44s. to 52s. and averaged 47s.; 100 black-faced ewe lambs, from Mr. Roberts, made from 29s. to 36s.; 140 half-bred lambs, from Mr. J. B. Cordy, averged 24s. 6d.; and 200 from Mr. Murrell, realised from 22s. 6d. to 30s. 6d. each. The bulk of the half-bred lambs were knocked down at from 20s. to 30s. a-head.

MR. GERMAN'S ANNUAL SALE OF SHROPSHIRE SHEEP took place at Measham Fields. The business commenced with the shearling rams. The first fell to the bid of Mr. May, Elford Park, for £31 10s.; the second to Mr. Berry, for the same sum; the third to Mr. Price, for £19 19s.; No. 5, to Mr. F. Gretton, Burton-on-Trent, £37 16s.; 6, to Mr. Coxon, £17 17s.; 7, to Mr. Cartwright, £38 17s.; 9, to Mr. T. Tompson, Manor Farm, £25 4s.; 13, to Mr. Tompson, Wilson, £24 3s.; 17, to Mr. J. Mousely, £21; 19, Mr. G. F. Brown, Desford, £17 17s.; 21, to Mr. C. Mousley, £15 15s.; 24 (to let), Mr. Cartwright, £40 19s.; 25 (to let), Mr. Coxon, £15 15s.; 26, Mr. J. Ratcliff, £17 17s.; 27, Hon. F. Strutt, £15 15s.; 28, Mr. Faux, £16 16s.; 29, Mr. Madan, Elford, £16 16s.; 31, Mr. Clare, £16 16s; 34, Mr. Lofft, Bury St. Edmunds, £16 16s.; who also bought No. 10 at £12 12s., and 33 at £11 11s.; 38 (to let), Mr. F. Byrd, £26 5s.; 49, reserved No. R.A.S.E., Bedford, 1874, to Mr. Davenport, on commission, £21; 51, Mr. K. Bourne, £35 4s.: 52, Mr. Smith, £16 16s.; 50, Mrs. Walker, £15 15s.; others ranged from £6 6s. to £15 15s. The rams averaged £17 4s. 2d. each. The ewes and theaves ranged from £3 2s. 6d. to £5 7s. 6d. each, and brought an average of £3 12s. 6d. The total amount of the sale, £1,339 11s.

MR. MOORE'S HAMPSHIRES.—The second portion, consisting of 30 young ram lambs, 20 two-teeth and five four-teeth rams, together with 700 ewes and ewe lambs, of the Improved Hampshire breed, was sold by auction by Messrs. Waters, Son, and Rawlence, at Littlecott. The young ram lambs brought 9½, 8½, 7½, 7, and 6½, down to 3 gs., averaging £5 12s. 6d. each, and the two-teeth and four-teeth rams 11, 10, 9, 8½, 8, 7½, 7 gs., &c., down to 3 gs., averaging for two-teeth £6 9s. 6d., and for four-teeth £7 9s. 1d. each; for six-teeth ewes, highest 70s., lowest 50s., average 53s. 8d.; for four-teeth ewes, highest 72s., lowest 53s., average 61s.; for two-teeth ewes, highest 83s., lowest 50s., average 63s. 7d. Chilver lambs, highest 31s., lowest 30s.

MR. WALMSLEY'S RAM SHOW AT RUDSTON.—The sheep were in good condition, and several fetched high prices. No. 3 was knocked down to Mr. Cranswick, Caythorpe, for £38; 30, to Mr. R. Crowe, Speeton, for £35; 10, to Mr. Bowser, Reighton, for £25, and 20, for £17; 11, to Sir Tatton Sykes, £22; 14, Mr. Simpson, Pilmore House, £24, and 2, £21 10s.; Mr. G. L. Fox, Bramham Park, 16, for £15. The total amount of the letting was £528.

SALE OF RAMS AT BRACKLEY. — Messrs. Russel and Son offered a number of Oxfordshire Down rams, the property of Mr. J. Chapman, of Westbury, and bred by Mr. King, of Winslow. The sheep were of high pedigree, being descended from the Winchendon flock. The following were purchasers, at prices annexed: Mr. Denchfield, Lillingstone, 9 gs.; Mr. A. Weston, Brackley, 5½ gs.; Mr. Hawkins, 11½ gs.; Mr. Luckett, 8½ gs.; Mr. Greaves, 8 gs.; Mr. Clarke, 9 gs.; Mr. Hawtin, 7 gs.; Mr. Luckett, 6 gs.; Mr. Salmon, 7½ gs.; Mr. George, 6 gs.; Mr. Strange, 7 gs. The average of those sold was £8 2s. 3d. per head. Two Oxfordshire shearling rams, the property of Mr. King, Bicester, were also sold: Mr. J. Bliss, 7 gs.; Mr. J. Cave, 6 gs.

SALE OF SHROPSHIRE EWES AND RAMS.—The Bridgnorth fair was held, and was very largely attended by local agriculturists and sheep breeders. Messrs. T. and F. Nock held their annual sale of Shropshire sheep in their Smithfield. The sheep included a collection of ewes and rams from flocks of breeders in the neighbourhood, viz., Mrs. Wadlow, of Haughton, near Morville; Mr. W. O. Foster, of

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Apley Park, near Shiffnal; Mr. T. Instone, of Collaughton, near Wenlock; Mr. W. Yates, of Grindle, near Shiffnal; Mr. Massie, of Bradley, Corvedale; Mr. H. J. Wilde, The Hay, near Erdington; Mr. A. Gordon, The Hills, Chetton; Messrs. E. Webb and Son, Kinver Hill, near Stourbridge, and several other gentlemen. There was a good competition for the choice ewes, in which class there was a large number. Mrs. Wadlow's ewes sold at from 56s. to 70s.; Mr. Instone's, 56s. to 70s.; Mr. Massie's, 50s. to 60s.; fat wethers fetched from 50s. to 68s. 6d.; fat cows, £15 to £22; cows and calves, £16 to £19 10s.; sows and pigs, £5 to £9. The sale of rams was spirited. Mrs. Wadlow's, 6 gs. to 15 gs.; Mr. Instone's, 10 gs. to 18 gs.; Mr. Yates's, 7 gs. to 16 gs. About 60 rams, 1,000 sheep, and 150 pigs were disposed of, and the sale averaged good prices.

SALE OF HEREFORDS.—At the Herefordshire Agricultural Society's show, Messrs. Edwards and Weaver offered for sale several lots of pedigree Hereford cattle. Among the lots Mr. Wm. Taylor's Tredegar was bought in at 110 gs. The following lots were sold: Livingstone, to Mr. F. Haines, of Mansell, for 36 gs.; Augustus, Mr. George, of Felton, 30 gs.; Bachelor 2nd, Mr. Chas. Davis, of Cramlin, 25 gs.; Sir Oliver 4th, Mr. Thomas Wall, 30½ gs.; The Baronet, Mr. C. T. Hunt, Hereford, 30 gs. Messrs. Pye and Sunderland also had several consignments, but with the exception of one lot they were all bought in; this was Baron, which fetched 37½ gs.

REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE

DURING THE PAST MONTH.

The eventful weeks of harvest have now been reached and nearly passed with a very variable aspect. The first fortnight of August brought a great deal of rain and uncertainty with it, for much corn was in the fields and waiting to be housed, and some in their hurry were too hasty in this work, as shown in the samples newly thrashed, but the weather then gave signs of improvement, which have since been realised beyond expectation, and brought about a complete change. Prices at first varied with the weather, and tended upwards for old wheat. But on the successful gathering of the new, and its appearance in quantity in the London market, Talavera, which at first was worth 62s., closed, as well as all other sorts, at a decline of 10s., with only a slow sale at the reduction. As to foreign old, there was less depression in prices, for the previous large supplies had brought it much below old English samples, though to sell it freely was difficult at a reduction of 4s. to 5s. per qr.; in fact, a sort of panic was produced, partly by the markets in France, which having for a time risen several shillings above our own, so suddenly and seriously gave way that the best white in Paris fell to 49s. to 50s., and the best flour to 38s. 6d. per sack, while foreign cargoes bought for Havre were reshipped to this country as not wanted. Yet, after all, we believe that neither France nor England can report much, if any, beyond an average crop; but it was a change from the fear of famine rates to those of plenty that brought prices down so seriously. Some of the provincial markets had, indeed, overpassed Paris rates, and on the appearance of new samples of fine quality from the South, and fine weather for the completion of the Northern harvest, the trade perfectly lost heart, and there was a helter-skelter *sauve qui peut*. But bread will be wanted there as well as here; and the last crop, if as good as some believe it to be, is not backed by accumulated stores as in times past, when there was far less excitement and depression. It is true foreign importers begin safely at low prices, and growers can have nothing to fear when there is little room for reduction; and upon this principle we hope they will take courage, and not be unduly depressed, especially as feeding-stuffs keep so relatively dear, that we have heard of Rivett wheat being used for cattle as giving most nourishment for its weight. The following rates were recently quoted at the places named: White Mayenne wheat at Paris 49s., red 45s. to 46s.; Polish at Marseilles 46s. 4d., Ghirka 49s.; new white at Bordeaux 50s.; fine wheat at Courtrai 51s.; old at Louvain 63s., new 53s.; old at Brussels 57s., new 51s.; old wheat at Hambro' 52s.; wheat at Berlin 48s., at Mayenne 50s.; best old white at Dantzig 57s., new 52s. to 56s.; wheat at Cologne 48s. In Southern Russia prices were declining fast, and were yet unsettled. At San Francisco rates had fallen to 50s. per 500lbs., cost, freight, and insurance; at New York spring red to 37s. 3d. per 480lbs. free on board.

The first Monday being a Bank holiday, we note the market of 31st July instead, which was not included in last month's review. There was but little business passing on that day. The trade opened with a small supply of English wheat, but there was plenty of foreign, and that principally from the United States. Very few fresh samples appeared on the Essex and Kentish stands. Though the weather was unsettled the demand was very slack, and to have forced sales would certainly have lowered the values of home growth. There was less depression in the foreign trade, and some considerable sales were made, at something below the previous Monday's quotations. In cargoes afloat there was very great quietness, but values were little changed. The country wheat trade, being generally very poorly supplied, from the exhaustion of stocks, was little altered, though business was slow and the tendency downwards, excepting where there was bad weather; though at Thirsk there was noted a decline of 2s. to 3s. per qr. Two-pence per cental more was demanded at Liverpool on Tuesday, which stopped business, but a slight rise was confirmed on Friday. At Edinburgh and Leith wheat advanced 1s. per qr., and there was a firmness at Glasgow. Foreign at Dublin was firmly held. Of Irish scarcely anything was shown.

On the second Monday the supply of English wheat was very scanty, but with an abundance of foreign, all from America except about one-fifth. The show of fresh samples on the Essex and Kentish stands was moderate, and nearly all new. The prices asked for red were up to 56s., and those for Talavera 62s.; but to sell it would have been necessary to take about 2s. less, though rain was often falling. The foreign trade was limited, but the values of red for a fortnight back were maintained, though white samples rather gave way. Floating cargoes sold better at 1s. more money. The rain fallen hitherto has not affected the gatherings, excepting in the way of hindrance. The country trade this week was languid and drooping. In spite of very small supplies, some places were 1s. per quarter lower, and others 1s. to 2s., as Sheffield and Rotherham. Liverpool was 1d. dearer per cental on Tuesday, and 1d. more on Friday. Glasgow improved 1s. per quarter, but at Edinburgh there was no alteration. Old maintained its value at Dublin,

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and the only new sample exhibited brought 26s. per barrel.

On the third Monday there was an increased English supply, but the foreign arrivals were somewhat less. But few English samples were exhibited this morning, and these were nearly all new. The weather, however, having taken up fine, it was difficult to sell at fully 1s. decline; foreign also manifested a downward tendency, and was an exceedingly slow sale, though nominally quoted as on the previous Monday. Floating cargoes, though held at former rates, were not so ready a sale. The country trade this week tended downwards, and was 1s. to 2s. lower. Wakefield and Exeter were 3s. to 4s. lower, and Liverpool 5d. per cental. Glasgow was dull, Leith and Edinburgh 1s. down, and Dublin 6d. per barrel.

The fourth Monday in London opened with a further increase of the English supply of wheat, and plenty still from foreign ports, about half being from America, with liberal supplies from Australia, India, and the Baltic, and a return cargo from Havre. There was a good show of new English wheat this morning, and, with the finest possible weather for a week past, sales could only be made at a decline of 6s. per qr. both on red and white samples, and that slowly. A reduction in foreign was also noted of 2s. to 3s. per qr., with very little done.

The arrivals into London for four weeks were 10,076 qrs. English wheat, 182,140 qrs. foreign, against 9,462 qrs. English, 246,624 qrs. foreign, for the same period last year. The London exports were 1,368 qrs. Wheat, 1,520 cwts. flour. The London averages commenced at 60s. 3d. and closed at 57s. 9d. The imports into the kingdom for four weeks, ending 15th August, were 3,828,039 cwts. wheat, 127,516 cwts. flour, against 3,829,380 cwts. wheat, 320,080 cwts. flour in 1873. The general averages opened at 60s. 5d. and closed at 58s.

The flour trade has been dull and drooping in consequence of the unsettled aspect of the wheat trade. On the 10th town millers lowered their rates from 54s. to 50s., and on the 24th it was further reduced to 47s., country sorts having fallen from 41s. to 39s., and foreign barrels given way 1s. to 1s. 6d. Extra State had fallen at New York to 21s. 5d. per brl., and flour at Paris had declined to 38s. 6d. per sack.

The London imports for four weeks were 41,809 sacks country sorts, 5,284 sacks 28,079 brls. foreign, against 49,285 sacks country, 21,543 sacks 48,430 brls. foreign in 1873.

There having been large arrivals of maize till the fourth Monday, this grain till then was depressed, at reduced rates—say 32s. 6d. for mixed flat American, and 37s. for round sorts. But rates having fallen below those of the places of growth, the decline seems to have reached its lowest, barley and pulse being relatively dearer. The imports in four weeks were 123,034 qrs., against 61,366 qrs. for the same period in 1873.

The malting season not having commenced, and very little new English barley having yet appeared, business has almost been limited to the sale of grinding qualities, which, from the small foreign supplies, have pretty well kept up their values—say, 32s. to 36s. per qr. New French parcels have been selling at 45s. per qr. and thereabout; but on the last market they were 1s. to 2s. per qr. cheaper, and a small parcel of new English only brought 45s. per qr. The arrivals for four weeks were 359 qrs. British 9,178 qrs. foreign, against 204 qrs. British, 767 qrs. Irish, 26,924 qrs. foreign for 1873.

The malt trade has been very quiet through the month. Some quantity of old yet remaining on hand, holders were more anxious to sell, and prices were looking down, though they have been nominally without change.

The oat trade, with heavy supplies, chiefly from Russia, every week, has fluctuated with the demand, and at the close of the month was about 6d. per qr. lower, Low 35lbs. Russian were worth about 23s. 6d., fresh 38lbs. 25s. 6d., and 40lbs. 28s. per quarter; but, as the bulk of the Russian supplies was now received, there was a possibility of the markets becoming dearer, our own crops being very short, and the stock in granary being comparatively very light. The London imports in four weeks were 677 qrs. English, 910 qrs. Scotch, and 239,928 qrs. foreign, against 1,098 qrs. English, 98 qrs. Irish, and 290,954 qrs. foreign in 1873.

Of English beans the supplies have been unusually small; and though they have been more than made up by foreign, the prices of this grain have been well maintained all through the month, from the constant demand. The new winter sorts that have hitherto come to hand have been remarkably dry and sound, and some small have brought as much as 46s., weighing 66lbs. per bushel. Alexandrian were scarcely worth over 43s., Smyrna and Algerian 44s. Very few as yet seem to be arriving in Egypt, but the fine weather with which the harvest has closed may bring plenty from France and Italy. The arrivals in four weeks were 1,031 qrs. English and 12,575 qrs. foreign, against 1,027 qrs. English and 7,839 qrs. foreign in 1873.

The supplies of English peas have been entirely of new sorts, principally hog feed, of good dry quality; but the yield is considered short. Duns have brought 43s. to 44s., while old white foreign have only been worth 45s. to 46s., so were relatively cheaper. This having brought them into demand for feeding, the prices have been hardening, but since the wheat trade has so gone down, we may find rivett sorts used as a cheaper and more fattening food. The London supplies for four weeks were 1,285 qrs. English, 9,491 qrs. foreign, against 1,027 qrs. English, 7,839 qrs. foreign, in 1873.

Of linseed the receipts have been more liberal, especially from India, but stocks generally being limited, holders have found no necessity to give way in price; all feeding stuffs lately having been relatively dear from the drought. The four weeks' imports into London, were 52,037 qrs., against 37,067 qrs. in 1873.

The seed trade has been generally firm. No heavy seed crop is expected from the clover plant, though we have generally considered a hot August highly favourable, and more may yet be produced than expected; but stocks of over remaining have been too small for speculative purposes, and accounts from France are favourable as to the probable yield. The crop of winter tares has been scanty, and but few have yet been brought to market, and for these high prices were asked, say 10s. 6d. per bush., but, we believe, less would be taken.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES.

	WHEAT.			BARLEY.			OATS.		
Years.	Qrs.	s.	d.	Qrs.	s.	d.	Qrs.	s.	d.
1870	48,690½	54	10	199¾	32	11	2,027½	28	0
1871	33,780½	57	10	115½	35	9	1,204½	37	6
1872	30,432½	59	10	69½	30	3	1,136	23	7
1873	25,288½	60	3	261½	37	2	1,195½	28	8
1874	17,079½	58	0	149½	45	0	1,492	30	6

AVERAGES

For the Six Weeks ending	Wheat. s.	Wheat. d.	Barley. s.	Barley. d.	Oats. s.	Oats. d.
July 11, 1874	60	9	41	7	29	11
July 18, 1874	60	10	39	6	31	2
July 25, 1874	60	5	40	1	29	8
Aug. 1, 1874	59	8	46	1	30	9
Aug. 8, 1874	58	6	39	1	30	8
Aug. 15, 1874	58	0	45	0	30	6
Aggregate of the above	59	8	41	11	30	5
The same period in 1873	59	10	36	4	28	7

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THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE.

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Engraved by E. Hacker

Winter de Cotes.

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THE BRITISH

FARMER'S MAGAZINE.

NEW SERIES.

VOL. LXVII. 1874. NO. CXLX.

PLATE I.

WINTER-DE-COTE,

A Royal Hereford Bull.

Winter-de-Cote (4253), bred by the late Mr. Thomas Edwards, at Wintercote, Leominster, and now the property of his widow, a red with a white face, was calved on August 10th, 1870, and is by Leominster 3rd (3211), out of Pinky 3rd, by Young Grove (2888), her dam Pinky, by Rambler (1046)—Pink 2nd, by Wellington (1113)—Pink, by Stretford (1749).

Leominster 3rd, also bred by the late Mr. Edwards, a red with white face, calved April 22nd, 1868, was by Tomboy (3546), out of Primrose, by Adforton (1839), her dam Gloucester, by Sir Newton (1731)—Red Rose, by Wellington (1113)—Rose, by Stretford (1749). Leominster 3rd was another Royal bull, having taken a first prize as a yearling at the Manchester meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, as well as other premiums later on.

Pink 3rd, also bred by Mr. Edwards, a red with a white face, was calved on November 1st, 1866, and dropped her first calf, Sir Robert (4131), by Tomboy (3546), in April, 1869; Winter-de-Cote following in 1870.

The first time we encountered Winter-de-Cote was at the Hereford Show, in the autumn of 1872, when he won in the two-year-old class, and we thus wrote of him: "For the best bull in the yard people turned to the two-year-olds, where Mrs. Edwards was first with Winter-de-Cote, the best yearling of last autumn, and hitherto unbeaten; though he has never ventured far from home, his only trials having been at Leominster and Hereford. He is a straight, deep, heavy-fleshed bull, high-bred in appearance, but with a good masculine stamp about his head and in his general character. The class was a superior one to that at Cardiff, and Winter-de-Cote, if he goes on, threatens to be the best bull of his year."

In 1873, at the Bath and West of England show at Plymouth, Winter-de-Cote was only highly-commended in the aged class, Von Moltke and the Provost being put above him; although we thought that "the Provost would never beat him again." At the Hull Royal Winter-de-Cote took the first prize in the two and three-year-old class, another first in the family class at Hereford, and a similar prize at Leominster.

In 1874 Winter-de-Cote has taken a first prize at the Bath and West of England meeting at Bristol, and a first prize at the Bedford meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society at Bedford, where he "looked to have fed and thrived" only too well. At Hereford Winter-de-Cote was also first when he beat the Provost; but at Dudley he was beaten in turn by old Bachelor, put second to him at Bedford. These are the chief of Winter-de-Cote's performances.

TO THE BINDER.—Through a mistake on the part of the printer during the Editor's absence from town, the wrong plate was used for the September number; the print in which should be *cancelled*, and that of the mare, Comtesse, placed to face the description.

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PRACTICAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SENSES.

"In reviewing the past session from a country-sid point of view, it is really difficult to surmise what the honourable gentleman will be able to say beyond the fact of his having consistently voted with Blue and White and resolutely opposed Black and Yellow." It was thus that we wrote immediately on the breaking-up of Parliament and since then the honourable gentleman on the country-side has found the simplest possible solution of the difficulty—by saying nothing whatever. For some years past we have week for week during the autumn been able to string together column after column of agricultural table-talk; whereas, so far, during the round of meetings we have had to be content with a few words or so from the chairman, as tacked on to the now fashionable luncheon or more orthodox dinner. The county member has become shy even of "the hazy platitudes of Local-taxation;" and when he has cared to talk, his speech, as we had anticipated, turns on the Labour Question and the good harvest. Not that the honourable gentleman has commonly committed himself to much more than mere congratulation, as far away the most able address of the off-season has been that of Lord Spencer at Northampton on Thursday, which we give in another column. As chairman of a dinner where he was well-supported by farmers he told the meeting that in some parts of the country the agricultural labourer was in a wretched condition, and that "he was not surprised at an endeavour having been made to improve it." He spoke to the great number of empty cottages in many of their large villages, one in his own neighbourhood "having now no less than fifty-two empty cottages," a result consequent on the state of things as brought about by the Law of Settlement, when short-sighted landlords pulled down their cottages wherever they could, and drove the labourer away from his work into the towns and villages. Naturally so vicious a system is coming to correct itself, while there is something very judicial in the manner in which Lord Spencer sums up the case, and his speech is one of the few which will tell with thinking men and really do good.

In the more complimentary effusions from the dinner-table it is noticeable, nevertheless, how very little jubilation has been uttered over the fact that the right Party is now in power. We hear nothing of what Mr. Disraeli's Government did for the farmer during the past session, and not much more of anything which it is likely to do hereafter. It is true, certainly, that when in Warwickshire the other day Mr. Newdegate with a gentleman-like melancholy assured his constituents that "the present Parliament had shown itself more ready to turn its attention in a practical and legislative sense to the requirements of agriculture than any Parliament of late years." Now, of all the nice subtilties of expression, what in the world can this practical sense mean when uttered in a Parliamentary sense? Has the present Government—for this is what it really comes to—shown itself ready to attend to anything which Agriculture has required of it? Has it not, on the contrary, carefully turned away its attention from such agricultural requirements as the extension of Tenant-Right "in a legislative sense," the correction of the Game evil "in a legislative sense," or the repeal of the Malt-tax in any sense? But a fine phrase, surely, is this same "practical sense," and honourable gentlemen are not the only people, as it would appear, who may indulge in it. Thus, in the adjoining county of Stafford, Mr. Masfen ignores the Club and the Office, and even the editor's room, and wants the opinion of practical men on such vital and intricate questions as whether at a breeding show they should encourage pure blood, or mongrels or animals of doubtful lineage? He would have the judges adhere to the true type, and breeders of sheep who reared from cross-breds should not be put forward as pioneers. In "a practical sense" we cannot say much for the discussion which followed on this text word. One of the Shorthorn judges, Mr. Robinson, thought very prudently the less he said about his department the better; Mr. Mansell and Mr. Little, two of the sheep judges, never noticed the cross-bred question, and Mr. Evans, a third judge, fairly snuffed it out by saying, all to the point, that "it was no compliment to exhibitors to suppose that they would show cross-bred animals, though of course any man might sometimes make a mistake in purchasing. It might be taken for granted that a man who bred sheep or cattle would do so from animals of the right type and character. That principle would no doubt be recognised by the judges, but perhaps the less that was said on the subject before the show the better." And so it was left to the meeting to make the greatest goose they could by putting two together.

But perhaps the most remarkable feature in these proceedings was ignoring, in "a practical sense," the Club and the Office at the office-dinner of an institution which s a club. The Staffordshire Agricultural Society is as much a club as the Smithfield Club or the Bakewell Club, that is a body of men banded together with a particular purpose, and that purpose a cattle show. Then, again, this was an office dinner, that is, so far as our experience goes, of such officers as judges, stewards, and committee men, where, according to *The Midland Counties Herald*, "the committee do not even carry out their own rules in the selection of judges, but appoint members of their own body in the face of rule 24: *That the judges appointed for general purposes should be wholly unconnected with the Society.*" Speaking in "a practical sense," it would be only wholesome that rules should be either observed or expunged, or the management stultifies itself. These Birmingham or Midland strictures, moreover, serve to remind one that as Mr. Masfen is himself a frequent speaker at the meetings of the Midland Club he may have encountered there eloquent gentlemen "whose farming was confined to the office, or the club, or the editor's room," just as Mr. Mechi was wont a long time ago to be reminded of his City offices when speaking at the London Club. But the agricultural world has, to its credit, outgrown any such narrow petty prejudice as this; for in almost every pursuit, that of agriculture included, some of the most marked improvements and advancements have come from the outsider, who has thought out his idea in the office or the library rather than at the plough-tail. It behoves us to say as little as possible of the Editor's room, or of any reforms in the conduct of our Agricultural Societies which may have come from such a quarter; but we may venture to say, speaking in a strictly "practical sense," that an Editor has been invited before now to act as judge at a meeting of this very Staffordshire Society, and that at the office dinner preceding the show, he, like the judges of last week, declined to indicate any special line which he might take when discharging his duties.

Nowhere have the "opinions" and authority of the practical man been more thoroughly upheld than in the columns of this Journal; but we question very much the policy of a farmer by profession going out of his way, as it were, to sneer at people who unfortunately do not happen to unite

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the highest intellect with the nicest practice. That such policy did not tell at Tamworth is sufficiently evident, for the discussion provoked after this fashion came to a ludicrous conclusion; as we may show further, should we care to return to the momentous principles involved in this memorable debate.

THE SICKNESS OF THE SOIL.

The partial failure of the wheat crops for the three last years has led many persons to conclude that the land of England has become sick of such grain, and that it will never recover, except by a protracted fallow; in other words, by laying it down for pasturage, or by resuming the triennial course of husbandry, which consists of two white crops and a fallow. The present year will be enough, one would suppose, to dissipate the idea of sickness of the soil through any other known means than injudicious cultivation, or starvation, by the witholding of manure. There is no doubt that, like working horses or any other animals, hard labour and scanty feeding will have its effect, whether upon sensitive animals or insensible plants, Dr. Hooker's theory notwithstanding, which, literally speaking, gives plants the power of swallowing and digesting their food. If the farmer neglects, or is too poor to cultivate his land in the proper manner, he must expect the certain consequence—a short yield and poor quality, as the inevitable result. This complaint of sickness of the soil is no new one, but the rather very old—say as the Christian Era itself. Did not Columella during the first century write on the subject, in reply to those who just discovered the same mare's nest? He has a whole chapter about it but we shall be content with a paragraph: "It is not, therefore, from weariness, as very many have believed, nor from old age, but indeed from our own slothfulness, that our cultivated lands do not so bountifully answer our expectations as formerly; for we might receive a greater product if the earth were refreshed and cherished with frequent seasonable and moderate stercoration."

Arthur Young, whose opinions were ever founded on facts, made a series of thirty-six experiments of a six-years' course of cropping or rotation, the results of which were published in the 23rd volume of the *Annals of Agriculture* of which he was the sole editor. The experiments were made upon a piece of old pasture of *many* years' standing, the soil a sandy loam, with a clay-marl subsoil, and his deductions were as follows: That potatoes, as a fallow crop, were more exhausting than any other without plenty of manure, and that barley, beans, and oats succeed better than wheat after potatoes. That beans are the most valuable crop on new land, and that the fertility of such land depends for its continuance greatly on the number of bean crops planted on it, and that the oftener they were grown on it, the better were the succeeding crops of other kinds of produce, and that three successive crops of beans were followed by an extraordinary produce of wheat. He also found that successive crops of white corn are destructive of fertility, and that three such crops will reduce the land to a foul and unprofitable condition. He also ascertained by the experiment that beans and barley alternately, and beans and wheat, also alternately, were the two most productive courses; and lastly, that five crops of beans and one of wheat not only yielded good profit, but left the land in the very best condition. On new land also, as is well known by every farmer of any intelligence, oats are the most profitable crop that can be grown. On the other hand, turnips, cabbages, and potatoes are declared to be the most unprofitable in any course of cropping; and yet, what would the farmers of such light lands as those of Norfolk, Suffolk, and others of the Eastern Counties do without the four-course husbandry? And how could the supply of animal food be provided without green crops? The number of cattle and sheep kept in Arthur Young's time was much smaller than at present, but the graziers had learned to know the value of green crops, although they were chiefly valuable as substitutes for the bare fallow, and as materials of which, with the help of cattle, manure is manufactured, besides keeping the land clean by hoeing. There is an improvement in this respect, in the value of root and green crops from the increased consumption and enhanced value of fat cattle; indeed, of animals of every kind on the farm, by which the profits of breeding as well as of fattening are rendered more remunerative. A good deal of land has been withdrawn from the cultivation of cereal produce, and laid down in grass, especially in Ireland; but this is quite irrespective of any decadence or diminished fertility of the soil, and is in consequence of the increased value of pasture land and the high price of butcher's meat; but in Ireland specially, from the climate being more adapted, by its dampness, to pasture land and the rearing of cattle than for the cultivation of cereal produce. Ireland shows a decline in breadth of land sown yearly; and whilst meat is dear, and the transit of cattle from abroad difficult, and therefore limited to the nearest countries on the Continent, the acreage in corn crops cannot increase.

Returning to the subject on which we started: Those who are croaking over the alleged decadence of the soil in England will be disappointed this season by the goodness of many grain crops and a partial failure of green and root crops. If the land does not produce what it ought or what it formerly did, this is the fault either of the farmer, who does not bestow the outlay upon it, or that of the landlord who will not allow the tenant to deviate from the stereotyped course of cropping laid down in the lease or agreement. No absolute rules can be laid down for a rotation of crops applicable to all soils or situations. The fact is, that except for the greater convenience of the farmer, a rotation of crops is not absolutely essential to good or profitable farming. By working on scientific principles, for which a large number of the present race of farmers are qualified, they may, without impoverishing the land, grow any crops they please, but the landlord, or rather his factotum, the lawyer, steps in and condemns, very probably, the very course that would both benefit the land and best remunerate the farmer; and thus, half the land of England is only half profitable to any of those parties who possess an interest in it.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The Cattle Markets' Committee of the Corporation, in view of the approaching compulsory closing of private slaughter-houses in the Metropolis, have been authorised to construct from time to time, as may be required, 20 additional slaughter-houses upon vacant ground on the east side of the Metropolitan Cattle Market in Copenhagen-fields, Islington, contiguous to the Great Northern Railway. The plans have received the approval of the trade, and the new buildings will be replete with every accommodation. The slaughter-houses, when erected, will be let on short leases, and at rents varying according to the size and construction of the buildings, from £130 to £36 a year. The rents in all are estimated to produce about £1,900 a year, or a little over 7 per cent. on the cost of the works.

ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE.

That a vast population once dwelt along the banks of the Nile the numerous remains of the ruins of cities, pyramids-temples, and obelisks sufficiently attest. Even at the present day, with all our experience of great centres where people congregate together, the visitor is astonished at the incomprehensible vastness of these monuments of antiquity. Although many thousands of years have rolled between, whilst Athens, Rome, Pekin, Delhi, the deserted cities of Montezuma, may be judged in comparison, yet the immense extent of what was "hundred-gated" Thebes becomes as much a marvel to ourselves as it was to the world in the days of Homer. Were it not for the barbarian acts of man, the propitious climate and the durability of the buildings would have permitted the palaces to be seen and the streets to be trodden in the same conditions as they were by the feet of Moses. The judgment of modern critics has been passed upon the exact position held by Egyptian architecture amongst the other works of the kind, but the engineering methods that must have been brought into existence to accomplish such feats in stonemanship seem to remain unfathomed. With regard to the laws that governed the landed system and the condition of agriculture that would have provided for the multitudes who then lived, worked, and died, somewhat may be gleaned from Holy Writ, somewhat from ocular evidences, and the void must still further be supplied by conjecture. An ingenious and interesting theory has been advanced by M. Barthelemy St. Hilaire, member of the Institute, and one of the learned Frenchmen engaged in the preparatory surveys for the Suez Canal, and this seems to receive confirmation from the state of landed property in Egypt at the present time. The preservation of this tract of land from the surrounding desert depended upon the rise and fall of the Nile, which might well be worshipped as a deity, whose fertilising influence shaped alike the destinies of the nation that lived upon the soil thus created. To retain the waters required a complicated system of irrigation that could not be left to the caprice of individual proprietors; and to the operation of this necessity may be attributed the fact mentioned in the Bible of Joseph having acquired for Pharaoh the whole of the lands of Egypt. The river has never ceased to flow its regular course; and when irrigation has been carried to the highest perfection, the labours of man have obtained the greatest advantages from the bounties of Nature. Thus, ever since the time of Joseph, nearly two thousand years before the Christian era, all claim on the part of individuals to territorial property has been abolished in Egypt. The State is the sole possessor of the soil, and the people have only the usufruct. The Nile therefore, which exercises its beneficent influence, has been the means of creating a despotism that has lasted to the present day.

The soil is so fertile that it seldom requires the plough. Every year, about the summer solstice, at the end of June, from causes still imperfectly known, the river gradually rises in the upper country whence it descends, and continues to swell as it approaches the sea, into which it empties itself. This progressive increase continues for nearly four months, and reaches its height in the middle of October. The river then sinks, as slowly as it has risen, and when, in June, its waters are at the lowest, it begins to rise again as in the preceding year. The periodical recurrence of this phenomenon is itself a great benefit; but the Nile has also two other advantages, no less admirable: it never devastates its shores, and its swollen waters perpetually deposit a mud, which is the most fertilizing of manures. From the supplies of slime brought down annually, the country has been enabled to bear three, and even four, crops without the least impoverishment. In Lower Egypt sowing commences immediately after the waters subside, the seed only requiring to be strewed over the land, and it either sinks into the soft earth by its own weight, or is trodden down by the cattle driven over it. This is generally done in November: in February the fields are verdant, and in May the harvest takes place. In July rice and maize are again planted, and yield a second harvest in September. In Upper Egypt the constant artificial supply of irrigation required by the land gives to the farmer increasing employment. Deprived of rain and exposed to a burning sun, the land would be arid and barren if not constantly refreshed with moisture. After the water has been preserved in canals and wells, it is raised by Persian water-wheels, worked by oxen, or by means of hand machines of more simple construction. Sowing begins here about November, as in Lower Egypt, and the corn begins to spring up before the end of the month, and by December gives the country the appearance of a verdant spring. In January lupins, dolicoes, and cumins are cut for the press. By April flax has been ripened, and the plants pulled up; tobacco leaves are gathered, and the wheat-harvest is got in. In July there is a third crop of trefoil and a second of rice. October is the month for all sorts of leguminous seeds to be sown.

In one of the tombs of the Pharaohs there are paintings of the arts and sciences in vogue in Egypt, illustrating probably the predominant features of the reign, and from these we learn that the customs of agriculture have remained unchanged. The *shadoufs*, or machines for drawing water, which are seen at every step on the banks of the river, are precisely the same as those equally rude and clumsy used in ancient times. The plough is still constructed of two simple pieces of wood, seldom furnished with an iron share: there is neither shovel nor wheelbarrow, and the fellahs very often remove the earth with their hands, or at most in baskets made of palm-leaves, which they put on their shoulders. The dwellings in the villages and provincial towns are all formed of clay, there being scarcely any wood for building. The sun-baked bricks, of which they are constructed, give them a dull and sombre appearance, which the sun cannot enliven in the narrow streets, built to exclude the heat: they usually consist merely of a ground-floor. Most of them are only an occasional shelter, being inhabited very little during the day, and barely used to sleep in at night. The people have no furniture of any value to lock up; the animals lie on the open ground, like their masters, in a climate where it never rains. The house serves as a shelter for the women only, and infants at the breast. With this indifference to progress, so visible throughout the East, and the use of the most imperfect instruments, there are evidences of incessant toil in the innumerable earth-works, indispensable not only for the great embankments from village to village, and for the canals, but for any cultivation of the fields. To Egypt the subject of the greatest importance is the construction and maintenance of these canals: the more she has of them, the richer she becomes. She possesses neither forests nor mines, which is an immense want, but she has this wonderful stream, capable of supplying many, if not all her wants and deficiencies.

The Viceroy has directed attention to an extended production of cotton, and more recently to the sugar-cane.

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The cost of the cultivation, including ploughing and irrigation, is about eight pounds per feddan, or acre, which produces about one hundred pounds weight of sugar. The sugar makers, the refiners, and the engineers at the Viceroy's establishments are all Europeans, and most of them Englishmen. The strange anomaly was witnessed for some time of this country, which has always been the granary of surrounding nations, being transformed into an importer of grain. The oppression of the fellahs, from whom even seed corn is extracted, has been another cause of this falling off. In this land, which from time immemorial has always been dominated by one all-powerful and imperious will, it is not unusual for a village sheikh to be seized and flogged, and even the women have been flogged, to make them give up their jewellery for taxes due by their husbands. Whether much of this tyranny is effected without the direct cognizance of the Government it is difficult to ascertain; but a successful tax-gatherer is considered as sure to obtain favour and promotion. Since 1872 a system of compounding for taxes has been introduced, Government having invited landowners to pay in six years the taxes for twelve years. To those who accept this proposition—and it is considered by the Egyptian landowners as a command—half the present tax is for ever remitted on their having made six double payments, nor will the tax be subject to future variations. Thus, the owner of land now paying £100 a year will, should he pay £1,200 in six years, receive a title by which he will hold his land for ever, subject to the payment of £50 annually.

There are about 5,450,000 feddans, or acres, of land under cultivation in Egypt, and a feddan that in 1865 was worth £50 might have been purchased since for about £5 The whole of the population is available for agricultural purposes. Were Europeans, who could have redress against direct oppression, to purchase land and cultivate it scientifically, considerable profits might be made. They would have many annoyances to contend against, but none that an energetic Englishman with the support he would be entitled to claim would not be able by tact, firmness, and patience to overcome. Such is the wonderful fertility of the soil, when fairly treated according to the normal succession of crops and the perfection of the irrigation system when not arbitrarily interfered with for the enriching of certain ground, that a good crop of grass and grain of all kinds can always be expected.

THE IMPLEMENT TRADE AND THE STRIKE.

Whether on the whole the recent agitation has been or is likely to be beneficial to the farm labourer as a body, is an open question, and one to which a decisive reply is hardly warrantable at present; but there can be no doubt that the implement manufacturers have reason to congratulate themselves upon an influx of trade due in great measure to the labour disturbances. As long as labour was plentiful, wages low, and the relationship of employers and employed on a pleasant footing, a large proportion of farmers did not trouble themselves much about labour-saving machinery. There were many reasons for keeping on in the old way, the chief of which was the dislike to discharging men who had served them for years. Then, the use of machinery involves a little extra anxiety and superintendence on the part of the master, as well as an outlay which he is often strangely unwilling to make, although it will be so speedily repaid out of his wages account. In short, the force of habit was entirely in favour of the employment of many men at low wages, and against the increased use of labour-saving machinery. Hundreds of intelligent and well-to-do farmers have hitherto never used a reaping-machine, and declare that they will not use one as long as they can get men enough to do the work at anything like moderate wages. One explanation of this strange fact is, that where the harvest is let to the men to "see it in," that is, by piecework, their prejudice against new machines has prevented them from making due allowance for the assistance afforded to them by the reaping machine; but this is not all. Even where the harvest is let by the month, no machine is used in numbers of instances, although the use of one would effect a saving of at least 10 per cent. on the cost of getting in the crops. The truth is that the farmers of this country require well stirring up before they adopt any new courses, whether in relation to business or to politics, and in this case the stirring has been done by the Labourers' Union.

If the Union gives increased independence to the labourers, it gives it also to the employers; the farmer having long laboured under the serious disadvantage of a feeling of dependence upon a very burdensome obligation—namely, that of finding employment for a larger number of men than were absolutely required. Now that the men have ruptured the old relations, this obligation is no longer felt, or if still felt, is at least much weakened. Probably it will be best for both parties concerned that it shall be altogether lost sight of, and the relationship of the agricultural labourer to his employer be placed upon a strictly commercial footing. Wherever there is charity there is pauperism, and it was in every way desirable to sever the men from their semi-pauperised position; but the Union leaders were wrong in declaring that the masters should not reduce the number of their workmen. The cultivation of the soil by a minimum of skilled and well-paid workmen using improved machinery is what the best friends of the labourer must look forward to, if they will not blind themselves to the signs of the times. There is nothing more safely to be trusted as a rule than the careful regard of men of business for their own interest. Employers will not be content with few men when they know it would be to their advantage to employ many; and any attempt to induce them from motives of philanthropy to keep on more than they require for the profitable conduct of their business, is a great mistake, and one that is in the long run injurious to all concerned. The consumer not less than the employer or the workman is interested in the economy of the expense of food production. Contrary to the views of those mistaken philanthropists who advocate a system which involves, according to their own representation, a maximum of producers and a maximum of produce, it is the interest of the nation at large that a maximum of produce should be obtained by a minimum of producers. Improved machinery, forced into greater use by the agitation of the labourers, is tending to this result, and in the end all classes may be thereby benefited. It is true that the removal of surplus labourers may be necessary, but as the leaders of the Agricultural Labourers' Union profess to have found their Canaan in Canada, they should be the last to regret even the enforced emigration of the "serfs of the soil" from the land of bondage.

But have we, after all, more farm labourers in the country than might be profitably employed even at increased wages, and with the utmost available use of agricultural machinery, if it were made the interest of every tenant-farmer to do his very best by the land? We be-

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lieve not. Surplus and deficiency are relative terms, and the surplus of to-day may easily become the deficiency of to-morrow. To men who dare not farm at their best there is a surplus of labourers in many parts of the country, but with perfect security for tenants' capital the complaint would soon be reversed. The change would, of course, be a work of time, and emigration might still go on in the interval. Not only is the capital of farmers unprotected, but it is unfortunately in many instances deficient. But for any such failing our iniquitous land tenancy laws are in great measure responsible, since through them men are tempted to hire more land than their capital enables them to do justice to, simply because they would not dare to do justice to the small holding instead. With a fair law of Tenant-Right, capital would soon flow to the land, which is everywhere a favourite investment when artificial hindrances are not imposed. After a reasonable time, then, it is probable that, even with the utmost advancement of agricultural mechanism, our present number of agricultural labourers would find ready employment at satisfactory wages, and would no longer be tempted to go where, according to travellers' tales the frost and the mosquito alike bite sharply.

In the absence of the desired incentive to improved farming, who will derive the chief benefit from the economy of labour-saving machinery? Undoubtedly those who have hitherto swallowed nearly all the advantages of agricultural improvement—the landlords. Of course the increased use of machinery tends in the first instance to keep wages down, and, other things being equal, must always have that effect. But as machinery advances in perfection, its common effect is to stimulate production, and this it will undoubtedly do in agriculture if unfavourable conditions are removed. Then labour will reap its proper share of the advantage derived from the cheaper production of food, and will have reason to bless and not to curse the advancement of mechanical science. But if much work, which is at present done by hand, is in future to be done by machinery, whilst tenant-farmers are still to be left without the security which alone will promote their highest enterprise, what will be the result? Why that they will reduce the number of their men, and that the few who are even then employed will, unless emigration shall be more extensive than we have any reason to expect, have but little command over the wages market. In that case it is easy to see that the economy effected by the machinery will soon chiefly go to increase the rent-rolls of our landowners, and neither farmer, labourer, nor consumer will be materially benefited. Such a result could only take place in a branch of enterprise hampered by burdensome and unnatural restrictions. Every one knows what those restrictions are in the case under consideration, but few have yet had their eyes opened to the vastness of the interests involved in their retention or removal.

THE QUEEN'S PLATES—"A MORE USEFUL PURPOSE."

In our report of the last meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, as held upon Bedford racecourse, we were enabled to state that the fifty-pound plate which had been given by the Dukes of Bedford for nearly a century had now been withdrawn, and that, as something of a consequence, the races had fallen through "The course has been turned to other uses, and the Queen's Plate, for which there can be now no call, should be transferred to the horse-ring." Since then the Marquis of Exeter has taken more direct action, and given notice that after this year he "intends to devote Stamford course and stand to more useful purposes," as, "under these circumstances," the race-meeting will be abandoned. No reasonable man can quarrel with the resolution arrived at almost simultaneously by the Duke of Bedford and the Marquis of Exeter. In fact, it has long been a matter of astonishment that country gentlemen of position should continue to give their countenance to that open rascality and utter demoralisation, the now common features of a country race-day. The neighbours, as a rule, carefully keep out of the way, and the full attendance is contributed through special trains, which bring in the scum of London, Manchester, or Birmingham, as the site may suit. And yet noblemen, country squires, and members of Parliament feel it to be "a duty" to subscribe towards such scenes, to suffer their names to appear on the lists of stewards, or even to give over their grounds for purposes which have for some time past become far more typical of a national disgrace than a national sport.

It is only to be hoped that the example which we have cited may be followed by others, and that one of its first effects may be to induce the Government to move. Everybody, including the racing men themselves, sees the absurdity of continuing the custom of offering Royal Plates at these meetings, the competition for which is commonly so small as to preclude even betting on the result. A correspondent of *The Times* has, at length really come to see this, as his letter has been supported by another through the same channel from Mr. S. Sidney, who subscribes himself as "the author of the Book of the Horse," and who states that Corisande won a Queen's Plate by twenty lengths. In point of fact she won by *thirty* lengths, but the author of "The Horse" is evidently well up in the history of this famous mare, as he also states in "the book" that Corisande won the 2,000 Guineas stakes—*for which she did not start*—and the Oaks at Epsom—*for which she was not placed*. But *The Times*, when it touches on outside subjects, does manage to get hold of funny authorities. Still the author of "The Horse" has, in turn, been followed by a man who does know something of that which he is writing about—Mr. W. E. Welby, who says, as to the Royal grants, that "the best use for the money is to be found in the encouragement and improvement of hunter-getting stallions, as from sires of this class spring almost all our best riding, harness, and troop horses. But the difficulty is to know how to make so small a sum (£3,465 for England) at all generally profitable. Distribution of it among local agricultural societies as a subsidy to their prize-lists has been frequently suggested, but to this there are obvious objections. These societies are so numerous, and many of them so nearly on a par, that it would be most invidious, if not impossible, to select from among them, while without such a selection the grant would be simply frittered away in driblets. Again, many owners of valuable stallions dislike sending them to agricultural shows. The prizes there are generally concentrated on the one or two best horses exhibited, and a man will not send his animal when he knows there will be a better in the show-yard." It is many years since the suggestion for converting Royal racing plates into agricultural show plates was first, that is originally, made through the columns of *The Mark Lane Express*, and, despite Mr. Welby's protest, we adhere to an opinion, which has now found so much favour elsewhere. It is, however, only fair to hear Mr. Welby out, as to what would be *better*: "Discontinue the Queen's Plates. Let Government

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select half-a-dozen of our railway centres—say, *e. g.*, London, Bristol, or Exeter, Birmingham, Manchester, or some other Lancashire town, York, and Peterborough—and at each of these let £500 be given annually in ten equal prizes of £50 each. This would leave £465 for expenses. Let the prizes be for the ten best stallions brought for inspection, which shall fulfil certain specified conditions as to soundness, pedigree, and age, and which shall be at the service of the public at a limited price within a given distance (say 80 or 100 miles) of the town. Let the inspection be held shortly before the commencement of the covering time, and the payment of a premium made contingent on the stallion being available during the ensuing season, to prevent the money being wasted through his going abroad. Let no horse be eligible for more than one prize in a year. Have for judges in each case a cavalry or artillery officer and a civilian, appointed by Government, with competent veterinary assistance; let them attend at each centre on a given day, examine each horse submitted to them separately, and, when all had been examined, award the ten prizes to the ten most worthy competitors, without further classification; and lastly, let the judges be changed every year, so as to avoid all suspicion of prejudice and favouritism. By these means, it seems to me, most of the sound and stout sires in the country would be attracted."

Many of these proposed conditions as to limited service-fees, the prize horses standing in the district and so forth, have of course been offered over and over again, as in truth they are borrowed from the rules of some agricultural societies; whilst Mr. Welby's objections to our plan apply equally to his own. If premiums be offered, and these prove attractive, some of the horses exhibited must be better and some inferior; while we are very confident that the business of judging would be much better done under the control of the agricultural society than if left in the hands of a cavalry officer and a government civilian! One somehow shudders at the very notion. Further, the choice of agricultural societies would *not* be a difficulty, simply because these societies are *not* "nearly on a par;" and the very districts which Mr. Welby cites are already well provided with institutions which might be safely trusted with the distribution of these grants. Thus, "Bristol or Exeter" would naturally fall to the Bath and West of England Society; "Manchester or some other Lancashire town," to the Manchester and Liverpool Society; "York," to the Yorkshire Society; "Peterborough," to the Northamptonshire Society; and Birmingham to the Midland Counties Society, where the machinery is all ready-made, and where the benefit would be as mutual as direct. In place of London, where such a grant would have very little effect, one of these plates should follow the migratory movement of the Royal Agricultural Society.

There is more weight when Mr. Welby objects to "the risk of exposure for two or three days, or more, to cold, or wet, or burning sun, the fear of accident, and other causes for misgiving," as we are inclined to think that a show of valuable horses should not extend beyond two days; while if you smuggle the awards up in the time during which the cavalry officer and the government civilian are at work, half the effect of the lesson, and half of the winner's advertisement must be lost. The strong line which we would draw should go against any of these plates being put under the control of people who go in for the jumping business—a practice which threatens to eventually disgrace our agricultural meetings as much as gate-money, hurdle-jumping, and light handicaps have our minor race-meetings. Of the Societies we have named the Royal, the West of England, the Birmingham and the Yorkshire do not offer jumping prizes; and others must reform their ways before they can become qualified for stallion plates. The abuse has now grown to be something intolerable; and at the last meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Societiy of Ireland, Mr. Bagot proposed "That in future shows horse jumping shall commence at four o'clock, and that the only additional charge for admission shall be to the stand." Major Borrowes, in seconding the motion, said he did so in the hope that this was only a step towards the total abolition of jumping at the Society's shows. Sir Allan Walsh said there had been a great falling off in the exhibition of implements at late shows, and he attributed that principally to the prevalence of horse-jumping. Colonel Vesey and several other members stated that they would rather have no show at all than have the horse-jumping continued. Major Borrowes gave notice that at next meeting he would move that after the forthcoming show at Derry no horse-jumping be allowed at the Society's exhibitions; and eventually a Committee was appointed to consider and report on the whole question of horse-jumping.

All this speaks for itself, and if the Irish Society is really desirous of holding its ground as a national institution, it must go with Major Borrowes for the total abolition of jumping at shows.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.

A certain special interest has come to be attached to the meetings of this Society, as, no question, the open classes of fat stock afford something of a trial for the approaching Christmas shows. Thus, at Kettering last year, the best Shorthorn in Bingley Hall, in 1872, foreshadowed his subsequent failure by taking no prize; while the best of the class had his position there something more than confirmed at Birmingham in two or three months' time, where he was declared to be the champion beast of the Midlands. And of this ox we said, immediately on his being so distinguished, that he "hardly looks like a thorough-bred one, but is simply a great mountain of beef, of not very prime quality, while he begins with a poor, plain, mean head, and has as little style about him as any beast which ever took so high a place; as, what with standing terribly in at his hocks, he is anything but clever from behind." And for saying so much against the champion we were called to account, perhaps a little too soon, by some "authorities!" The Organ complacently quoted *The Times* on "the grandest beast in the show," and went on to settle the question in a very off-hand manner: "of course the beast is a grand one, or else all the different sets of judges must have been wofully wrong and *The Mark Lane Express* right." And within a few weeks or days of the question being thus settled the Birmingham champion ox was beaten again and again, directly or indirectly, by beasts which he had beaten in Bingley Hall. Moreover, in accordance with a very absurd and pernicious practice, which we have already exposed, Mr. Wortley has kept this animal on for another year, and so at Northampton on Thursday, at five years and some months old, he was brought out once more in the fat ox class. And all we have said of the Midland champion of seventy-three we

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emphatically say again: he is simply a great or greater mountain of beef, as his size and weight, over twenty-six cwt., now only serve the more to bring out his defects—his lack of breed and style, his poor, mean, common head, and his coarse, faulty thighs and hocks. Naturally he showed signs of having been overdone, and could barely hobble under the burden of his fine broad back, his one redeeming point. We seldom saw a worse show out, and not one of the judges would have him; taking for first and best a younger and far more comely white, which was only second to the other last year at Oakham, but has since furnished capitally, and with the exception of being a little patchy behind came out very fresh, blooming, and ripe. And with two Shorthorn men in office they even went further, and for second prize selected a pretty, high-bred little Devon, whose want of scale and weight looked almost ludicrous as he braved the leviathans on the Pytchley race-course. The fact of Mr. Senior's beast finishing so forward did not say much for the rest of the class, but spoke more decidedly to the discomfiture of the champion, whose days should be numbered. The best in the younger class of steers was a thick, wealthy three-year old of quite Mr. Howe's type, but standing badly on his feet; while Mr. Wortley was second with a really nice two-year-old, which so far has a deal more promise about him than the Tidy bargain, his triumphs notwithstanding. Mr. Wells' fat cow had better character, and more beef than the Moss Rose placed before her, and the award was pretty generally regarded as a mistake; but either of the two capital Shorthorn heifers, which stood first and second in a small class, will be heard of again in better company. Maiden, indeed, has already distinguished herself about home, and Mary Ann alas! was the best heifer in calf or in milk at the Royal show at Hull and also at the West of England show at Plymouth in 1873.

To look on from the near side, for he has his side, one can still scarcely comprehend how so true, stylish, and *neat*—in the best sense—a bull as Telemachus could this season have ever been put below the white Irwin. With his length and depth, his rich coat, and his placid high-bred "expression," a pupil might study the modern Shorthorn from such a model, the more especially when put side by side with such a foil as Notley, and yet say the judges on the ordeal by touch "that is a useful bull, too." Worthy of the Burghley hero, and, indeed, his only opponent for the extra premium, was Victoria Victrix, looking all the better as more level to the eye from having left her baby, just a week old, behind at Branches. And then there was Telemachus 6th, a far better young bull than they thought him at Bedford, and Telemacina—if there ever could be such a title; and John Ward leading forth one of his conquering Roses, though soon doomed to be more surprised than satisfied when he saw his high-bred calves actually beaten by a little bit of a Devon. But Roses, reds or roans, will flourish almost anywhere. The Devons finished first once more in a cow class of Shorthorns, against one of Mr. Sharpe's Julias, and so forth, and people began to look on Mr. George Baker, of Luton Hoo, as a very strong man, matched though he might be against Mr. Bowly. There were other classes of more or less merit and interest, of which the prize-list may tell out the story; though Mr. Clapton Wood supplied but an indifferent advertisement for his coming sale, and Captain Oliver was kind enough to put a chip of the old Dukes into the extra class, just to show the folks what a Shorthorn should be.

The sheep were shown in very mixed classes, and some of the Longwools under the disadvantage of having got wet through in the heavy rain which fell in the Shires on Wednesday. A damp Lincoln is not an agreeable neighbour either to handle or look on, and so Mr. Gunnell's dripping theaves lost their place. It seemed to us that the different breeds were more confounded than should be at a show of the calibre of the Northamptonshire; and it might be well if the classes were occasionally more clearly defined. It is not every man who can carry a Devon or Leicester against bigger animals, and Mr. George Turner kept his rams at home, at Thorpelands. The strongest entry throughout was that of Lincolns, but some of the smartest and most sorty pens in the show were the theaves and lambs sent by Mr. George Street from Maulden, of a really handsome Oxford type, while his brother's entries from Harrwoden were continually labelled as too late for competition, the railway authorities having failed to deliver the sheep in due season. The pig show was short, but with some strong names in the entry; and here also, as when amongst the sheep, Mr. Treadwell had to do "the best he could" against his Lincolnshire colleagues.

In most places the meeting was a legitimate success, and the horse section, with plenty of competition here and there, opened with a capital class of cart mares, which took a deal of judging, so generally good were the entries; and an honest half or more appeared to be in it. The two premiums were eventually taken by the same breeder, Mr. Tomlinson, from off the Sutton marsh in Lincolnshire, with a couple of mares which have been continually winning about the country, and for which it is said £400 the pair has been refused. We should rather go for the bay put second, a famous mover in her walk, as we hear that she has beaten the chesnut before now. The cart geldings and fillies ran up to only small entries, but with one or two very good amongst them; and when we left it looked as if the riding horse business would go on to the end of the week. It was literally riding the horses, as each one of the three judges would get on the same animal, and we should be afraid to say how long it took to appraise a hunter class of some twenty odd entries, in which Marshal MacMahon had placed himself in ten minutes, although it took hours to get so far. It was simply anything for second, and this turned up in a flashy, white-legged chesnut from Husband's Bosworth, although there were better in the class, such as Mr. Whitehead's chesnut, a good third at Bedford, and a winner in Warwickshire the other day. Considering the fuss they made over it, the judging occasionally was very faulty, as amongst the three-year-olds they left out quite a Shire stamp of colt, shown by Lord Spencer and got by Dalesman, but probably "riding purposes" might suit any purpose a judge might turn this to; although in the very next class, under precisely the same conditions, they put another Dalesman fitly enough first, but if Mr. Keaning's hunting colt had a right to be in, so most assuredly should have been Lord Spencer's entry. And then when the hackneys proper came in the judges threatened to ride everything, and we fairly ran for it, having seldom or ever felt so sick of that noble animal—the horse. The tedium attendant on this sort of thing is becoming insufferable, and would almost warrant the management in going back to judging in private, and having the horses afterwards paraded in public.

It is, however, only fair to say that in consequence of the show coming immediately on the St. Leger the management encountered in turn some fifteen refusals from horse-judges; while so really good a man as Mr. George Higgins would look to have been only put on at the last moment, as his name does not appear in the catalogue. The sporting farmers, led by Messrs. Drage and Saunders, did credit to the county, although they went mostly for made horses, the younger stock being often indifferent. We do not despair of the jumping being abandoned at a meeting of the repute of the Northamptonshire; and, as it was, this absurdity was very properly put off, as we have suggested, to the cheap or shilling day,

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when of course few or no good horses take part in the performances. It will be seen how, at the dinner, Lord Spencer, a very able chairman, announced that the show in 1875 will be held in Lord Exeter's park at Burleigh, and Stamford stand and course put, as we stated, to "more useful purposes."

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—BEASTS: E. Bowly, Siddington, Cirencester; G. W. Baker, Luton; George Bland, Colby, Lincoln. NAG HORSES: G. Higgins, Bedford; F. Oldaker, London; G. Hewitt, Draughton, Maidwell. CART HORSES: T. Turnell, Irchester, Wallingborough; F. J. Berry, Stanion; R. Crawley, Melchbourne, Bedford. SHEEP AND PIGS: J. Lynn, Stroxton, Grantham; E. Howard, Nocton Rise, Lincoln; J. Treadwell, Upper Winchendon. BUTTER: J. Hudson, Ludgate Hill, London. IMPLEMENTS: J. Craig, Fotheringhay, Oundle; Gilbert Murray, Elvaston, Derby; A. Hughes, Brampton Ash, Market Harboro'. VETERINARY SURGEON: T. J. Merrick, Northampton.

CATTLE.

FAT STOCK.—(Open to all.)

Ox, exceeding three years and three months old on the 1st of December next.—First prize, £10, and a piece of plate value £5, Earl of Lonsdale, Barleythorpe Hall, Oakham; second, £5, T. Lee Senior, Broughton House, Aylesbury. Highly commended, Lord Spencer and E. Wortley.

Steer, not exceeding three years and three months old on the 1st of December next.—First prize, £10, J. How, Broughton, Huntingdon; second, £5, E. Wortley, Ridlington, Uppingham.

Cow of any age.—First prize, £10, O. Bennon, Cresswell, near Stafford; second, £5, W. T. Wells, Withern Hall, Alford, Lincoln.

Heifer, not exceeding four years old on the 1st of December next.—First prize, £10, R. Wright, Nocton Heath, Lincoln; second, £5, O. Viveash, Strensham, Tewkesbury. Commended, T. L. Senior.

BREEDING AND STORE STOCK.

Bull of any age (open to all England).—First prize, £10, the Marquis of Exeter, Burghley House, Stamford; second, £5, B. S. J. Ackers, Prinknash Park, Painswick. Commended: J. A. Mumford, Brill.

Bull, above two years old.—First prize, £10, T. H. Bland, Dingley Grange, Market Harborough; second, £5, H. Sanders, Brampton Hill, Northampton.

Bull, above one and under two years of age.—First prize, £10, the Marquis of Exeter; second, £5, J. J. Sharp, Broughton, Kettering. Highly commended: T. U. Sartoris.

Extra prize of £5, for the best beast in either the breeding or store stock classes.—The Marquis of Exeter (Telemachus).

Bull calf, above six and under twelve months old.—First prize, £10, J. N. Beasley, Pitsford Hall, Northampton; second, £5, T. Simonds, Carter's Hill, Arborfield.

Cow, in-milk or in-calf.—First prize, £7, T. Lee Senior; second, £3, J. J. Sharp.

Heifer, of any breed, in milk or in-calf, above three and under four years old.—First prize, £7, Lady Emily Pigot, Branches Park, Newmarket; second, £3, Marquis of Exeter.

Heifer, of any breed, in milk or in calf, above two and under three years old.—First prize, £7, D. Dainty, Belmisthorpe, Stamford; second, £3, J. Chaplain, Three Chimneys, Ridwells, Halstead.

Heifer, of any breed, above one and under two years old.—First prize, £7, Lady Emily Pigot; second, £3, G. Underwood, Little Gaddesden, Hemel Hempstead.

Heifer calf, of any breed, under twelve months old.—First prize, £3, T. Lee Senior; second, £2, Marquis of Exeter.

Short-horned heifer, above one and under two years old, to have been in the exhibitor's possession six months previous to the day of show. (Open to the above subscribers, and to all members of the society resident in the county.)—First prize, £10, R. E. Oliver, Sholebrooke Lodge, Towcester; second £5, J. J. Sharp.

Prize for extra stock, awarded to the Marquis of Northampton.—Alderney bull.

HORSES.

Mare and foal, for hunting purposes.—First prize, £15, S. Middleton, Water Newton, Wansford; second, £5, W. Kenning, Bradden, Towcester. Commended; W. Faulkner, Rothersthorpe, Northampton; C. W. Scriven, Willen House, Newport Pagnel.

Mare or gelding, five years old and upwards, adapted for hunting purposes (open to all England).—£15, J. Goodliff, Huntingdon; second, £5, J. Sneeton, Husbands Bosworth Rugby. Commended: J. Drage, Moulton Lodge, Northampton.

Mare or gelding, above four and under five years old adapted for hunting purposes, bred within the county of Northampton.—£20 and second prizes, J. Drage, Moulton Lodge, Northampton.

Mare or gelding, above four and under five years old, adapted for hunting purposes.—First prize, £10, W. A. Harrison, Oxenden House, Market Harborough; second, R. Horrell, Oakeley Beds. Commended: H. Sanders, Brampton Hill.

Gelding or filly, above three and under four years old, adapted for riding purposes.—First prize, £7, J. Goodliff, Huntingdon; second, £3, J. Wiggins, Market Harborough.

Gelding or filly, above two and under three years old, adapted for riding purposes.—First prize, £7, W. Kenning, Bradden, Towcester; second, £3, J. P. Wright, Priors Marston, Daventry. Commended: J. A. Craven, Whilton Lodge, Daventry.

Gelding or filly, above one and under two years old, adapted for riding purposes.—First prize, £7, W. George, Gayton, Northampton; second, £3, C. Cottrell Dormer, Courteenhall, Northampton. Commended: J. Goodliff, Huntingdon.

Mare, not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch high, with foal at foot, for breeding hackneys.—First prize, £7, W. Catton Branford, Upton, Southsea; second, £3, J. Cooper, Overstone. Commended: W. Linnell, Woodford Grange, Trapston.

Hackney (mare or gelding), not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch high.—First prize, £7, J. G. Franklin, Shutlanger Grove, Towcester; second, £3, Lee Bevan, Brixworth-hall, Northampton. Commended: J. Reeve, The Grange, Newnham, Daventry.

Cob (mare or gelding), not exceeding 14 hands 2 inches high.—First prize, £5, J. Wiggins, Market Harborough; second, £2 10s., J. Marsh, Benefield Lodge, Oundle. Commended: H. Sanders, Brampton-hill, Northampton.

Pony (mare or gelding), not exceeding 13 hands high.—First prize, £3, Captain T. Wetherall, Loddington, Kettering; second, £2, Rev. H. Stobart, Warkton Rectory, Kettering. Commended: J. H. Smith, Highcroft Lodge, Oadby, Leicester.

Cart mare, with foal at foot.—First prize, £10, J. Tomlinson, Lutton Marsh, Long Sutton; second, £5, J. Tomlinson. Highly commended: W. Colpman, Naseby Grange, Rugby. Commended: J. Ashby, Murcott, Long Buckby.

Best foal in the class, the foal to be the progeny of the mare suckling the same.—Prize, £5, T. Marchant, Great Easton Park, Leicester. Commended: Captain J. Borlase Tibbits, Barton Seagrave, Kettering.

Cart gelding, above two and under three years old —First prize, £5, J. Walker, Newnham; second, £2 10s., G. Street, Maulden, Ampthill.

Cart filly, above two and under three years old.—First prize, £5, H. Burgess, Middleton, Rockingham; second, £2 10s., T. H. Vergette, Borough Fen, Peterborough.

Cart gelding, above one and under two years old.—Prize £7 10s. (first and second prizes), R. Timms, Manor House, Braunston, Rugby.

Filly, above one and under two years old.—First prize, £5, T. Messinger, Cold Higham Downs, Towcester; second, £2 10s., G. Stops, Greensnorton, Towcester.

SHEEP.

Ten longwoolled ewes that have suckled lambs to the 1st June, 1874.—First prize £7 7s., T. W. D. Harris, Wootton, Northampton; second, £3s. 3s., T. Gunnell, Willow House, Milton, Cambridgeshire.

Five longwoolled theaves.—First prize, £5, J. Byron, Kirk Green, Sleaford; second, £2 10s., T. Close, jun., Barnock Villa, Stamford. Highly commended: J. Byron. Commended: T. Gunnell.

Five shortwoolled or cross-bred ewes, that have suckled lambs to the 1st of June, 1874.—First prize, £5, C. Barge, Weedon; second, £2 10s., C. Barge.

Five shortwoolled or cross-bred theaves.—First prize, £5, G. Street, Maulden, Ampthill, Beds; second, £2 10s., G.

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Street. Highly commended: F. Street, Harrowden House, Bedford.

Three shortwoolled or cross-bred shearhoggs.—First prize, £5, G. Street; second, £2 10s., G. Street. Highly commended; W. G. Duncan, Bradwell House, Stony Stratford.

Three longwoolled shearhoggs.—First prize, £5, T. Close, jun.; second, £2 10s., T. Gunnell.

Shearling longwoolled tup.—First prize, £7, R. Wright, Nockton Heath, Lincoln; second, £3. T. Close, jun. Highly commended: J. Byron. Commended: A. Hack, Buckminster, Grantham.

Longwoolled tup, two-shear and upwards, that has proved himself a stock-getter.—First prize, £7, R. Johnson, Westborough, Grantham.—Prize, £3, R. Wright. Highly commended: R. Wright.

Shearling Down tup, of any distinct breed.—Prize £5, F. Street.

Five long-woolled wether lambs.—First prize, £3, T. Close, jun.; second, £1 10s., T. Gunnell. Highly commended: J. Byron.

Five long-woolled ewe lambs.—First prize, £3, T. Close, jun.; second, £1 10s., J. Byron. Highly commended: T. Gunnell.

Five short-woolled or cross-bred wether lambs.—First prize, £3, G. Street; second, £1 10s., G. Street.

Extra Sheep.—R. Linnell, Moreton Pinkney, Banbury, five shear, bred by the late A. Linnell, Crockwell Farm, Eydon, Banbury.

PIGS.

Boar of the large breed.—First prize, £3, M. Walker, Stockley Park, Anslow; second, £2, R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton-in-Lindsay.

Boar of the small breed.—First prize, £3, R. E. Duckering; second, £2, S. Deacon, Polebrooke Hall, Oundle. Highly commended: J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour.

Breeding or suckling sow.—First prize, £3, M. Walker; second, £2, R. E. Duckering. Highly commended: M. Walker.

Breeding or suckling sow of a small breed.—First prize, £3, J. Wheeler; second, £2, R. E. Duckering. Highly commended: M. Walker.

Three fat pigs of one litter, of any breed or age.—First prize, £3, M. Walker; second, £2, M. Walker.

Five breeding pigs of one litter.—First prize, £3, M. Walker; second, J. Wheeler.

BUTTER.

Twelve pounds of butter, made up in two pound lumps, wholly or partially the production of Alderney cows.—First prize, £3, W. G. Duncan, Bradwell, Stony Stratford; second, £1, Lieut.-Col. Clarke, Welton Place, Daventry.

Twelve pounds of butter, made up in two pound lumps.—First prize, £3, W. Newitt, Bradden, Towcester; second, £1, J. Tew, West Haddon Lodge.

Six pounds of butter, made up in one pound rolls.—First prize, £3, J. Robinson, Courteenhall Lodge, Northampton; second, £1, J. Wareing, Berry Fields, Daventry. Highly commended: W. Everett, Great Doddington, Kettering. Commended: S. Lea, Cransley Lodge, Kettering.

IMPLEMENTS.

A silver medal to Ball and Son, Rothwell, for collection of implements; and the Society's medal for waggons and carts.

The Society's medal for Coulta's improved press for corn-drill, exhibited by Ball and Son.

A silver medal to Smith and Grace, of Thrapston, for their improved steerage horse-hoes.

A silver medal to W. Smith, Kettering, for his turnip thinners.

A silver medal for Barford and Perkin's steam tackle and elevator.

The Society's medal to G. Lewis and Son, Kettering, for their improved sack elevator and shooter.

The Society's medal to Marshall, Sons, and Co., Gainsborough, for improvement in engine and thrashing machine.

The Society's medal to Hayes and Son, Stamford and Peterborough, for market cart.

Very highly commended, A. Hughes, Brampton Ash, Market Harborough, for patent laid corn-lifter attached to Samuelson's reaper.

Highly commended: Whitwell's patent warming and ventilating fire grate.

Commended: Burdick's self-delivery reaper, and Kirby's mower and reaper, exhibited by D. M. Osborne and Co., Fox-street, Liverpool.

The Society's medal to H. Smith, Midland Carriage Works, Northampton, for Stanhope wagonette.

At the dinner, Sir Rainald Knightley, M.P., was glad to find that they had not been much troubled with the labour movement which they had all been watching with the greatest interest. He was very glad the struggle had terminated as it did. It was perfectly right that the poor man should endeavour to obtain the best price he could for his labour; but if they had persons living at a distance and knowing nothing at all about the districts coming amongst them and dictating to the farmers what wages they should pay, it would be utterly impossible for farming to be carried on; the greater part of the land would have to be laid down in grass, and only a certain number of labourers—a very few—could be employed; and as these few would be the best men the others would have no resource but to go to the union. He did not want to see landlords deprived of their rents, farmers of their profits, or the deserving labourer obliged to go to the workhouse. The question then was what was the best way of meeting the difficulty, as it would inevitably crop up again some time or other. What had been resorted to in the Eastern counties was a perfectly legitimate mode of warfare; the lock-out was the only means of protection the employer had against the strike. Both, however, were harsh and objectionable measures, which should be resorted to as little as possible; and the best way to avoid those measures was to endeavour to make the labourers as comfortable as possible. The best means of doing this was by letting them have comfortable, well-drained, and well-ventilated cottages, with allotments let at a moderate rent—this, however, was a landlord's question—and by the establishment of coal and book clubs as counteracting influences to the attractions of the public-houses; while it was the duty of all those amongst them to employ the intellect and means with which they had been blessed for the amelioration of the condition of their less fortunate fellow-men.

Mr. Pickering Phipps, M.P., said the interest of the town and country were not all divided, and one of the very best things for agriculturists was that they now obtained comparatively high prices in consequence of the beef-consuming and bread-consuming power of the artisans in towns being increased by the prosperity of trade. All classes of which this country consisted had an interest in each other's welfare; and the greatest enemy to be found in this country, in which all ought to be striving to do their duty to the Queen and constitution—the greatest curse was the man who went about striving to set class against class. The union had been tried and had failed, but there were two other kinds of unions—one which they should try to keep out of, the union workhouse, and the other which he should wish all to try and maintain, the union of good fellowship and kindly feeling. So long as the interests of the large centres of commerce were prosperous, so long would agriculturists be prosperous. But they must take care that their local burdens were not allowed to increase. He was quite sure that real property in this country—the land and houses—bore quite as much as it ought to do of the share of taxation, and he was glad to find that allowances had recently been made from the Consolidated Fund for some purposes formerly looked upon as local, but now recognised as imperial.

Lord Spencer, the chairman, regretfully alluded to the removal from amongst them, he was afraid on account of his health, of Mr. Owen Wallis, and to the recent death of Mr. John Beasley, who, not only as an agriculturist set them an excellent example in high farming, but who was at all times ready to give them the assistance of his valuable and wise counsels. He felt that he could to-day congratulate the Society on the success of its meeting. What they wished to do by means of these societies was to give the highest possible examples of what good stock and horses should be, and also to show the most recent and useful inventions in the way of agricultural implements. In both these particulars they found as good examples in their showyards that day as could be found in the whole of England. They had in Telemachus an animal of which the county ought to be proud—an animal who had travelled about England almost as much as the young

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hero, from whom he got his name, travelled about the Grecian seas. And he understood that he had brought to his noble owner nearly £1,000 in prizes. They could not have a nobler example of what stock should be than in Telemachus. So in the horse classes, they had had splendid specimens of what horses should be; whilst implements for ploughing, carting, and other agricultural operations had been fully represented. When they saw the increasing space which was taken up by the implements it led them to reflect what a great change was taking place in the culture of land—in the mode in which it was cultivated, and in the population who lived on our soil. Seeing how much agricultural machinery was lessening the necessity for human labour, that their own observation supported by the results of the last census indicated that there were fewer men engaged in the cultivation of the soil than there were ten years ago. Another indication of this was to be found in the large number, of empty cottages in many of their large villages—a large village in his neighbourhood having no less than fifty-two empty cottages, which a few years ago were full of tenants. Though this was partly to be accounted for by the use of labour-saving machinery, yet there was another cause, and one upon which he thought they might congratulate themselves. The farmers and occupiers of the land were most anxious to get their labourers as close to their work as possible. Some years ago there were many places with hardly a single cottage on the farms, and the labourers had to go a great way to their work, and a great waste of power was the result. This had been largely obviated by the erection of cottages on the close parish, and the open parish had lost many of its inhabitants. It was a great advantage to the farmer; and it was an advantage and an additional comfort to the labourer, not only to find himself nearer to his work, but with a better house, and probably at a much cheaper rent. What became of a large class who used to remain in our parishes, often to fall into idleness, and eventually on the poor-rates? Most of them he thought, went to the towns, and there got assistance in the shape of employment from commerce and trade, to which the member for Northampton had referred in such sensible terms. This was a great advantage, but it pointed to the importance of their giving, as far as possible, a good education to the labouring classes. With steam cultivation and the employment of agricultural machinery in other operations of the farm, they would need more education and intelligence in their labourers. And as to what he might call the surplus labour, that, if educated, would be enabled to gain an independent livelihood in the towns. They would see a yet greater increase in machinery, and a greater need for an intelligent and educated class of labourers. The result of recent changes had been to make a certain class of our labouring classes not satisfied with the lot in which they lived. He was not referring to this county, for here, as a rule, the agricultural population were in a satisfactory position. The labourers, as a rule, were well housed, and the farmers had met the demand for increased wages with liberality. No one would deny that in some parts of the country the agricultural labourer was in a wretched condition; and he was not surprised that an endeavour should be made to improve his position by combination. No one would deny that the agricultural labourer had a full right to combine; and in dealing with these matters, as Sir Rainald Knightley had justly observed, they should try to use the utmost forbearance and moderation. With regard to the strike and lock-out in the Eastern Counties, one side took matters with too high a hand, and were hardly justified in the demand they made. But still, on the other hand, extreme demands were made. A useful lesson would perhaps be learnt by both sides. Each party would see that the other could combine, and that in dealing with each other there should be the utmost forbearance and moderation. If they did this throughout the country he thought they would get rid of this difficulty of agricultural strikes. It was a necessary consequence of a popular movement that some men who joined it would use intemperate and violent language; but they ought not to repudiate a whole movement on that account. Looking over some recent Government returns, he observed that there were more allotments in Northamptonshire than in any other county in England, save one—namely, the county of Leicester. There was a per-centage of 6·78 of the whole of the allotments in England to be found in Northamptonshire, the per-centage in Leicestershire being 7. He attached great importance to this, because, although a labourer might not get much from his allotment, yet it gave him an amount of self-respect and independence which he would not otherwise have. If they by such means led their labourers to be self-dependent, and to rely on their own exertions, they would be less liable to become the victims of agitators who went about the country, and more likely to be reasonable with their employers. He believed that at this moment there was considerable prosperity amongst the agricultural classes of England. He believed they would find, when the returns were published this year, that there were more lands under corn crops than last year, and that the head of stock had greatly increased. He was sure they would receive the announcement with enthusiasm, and very heartily acknowledge the liberality of Lord Exeter—that as the Agricultural Society held its next year's show in Burghley Park, he desired to give certain special prizes. The prizes were exceedingly handsome and would do much to attract from all parts of England the best stock to compete for them. The noble marquis would offer a £100 prize for the best bull in the yard; £50 for the best cow; and £30 for the best pen of sheep. He added that if Telemachus were successful to-day—as he had been—he would give a further prize for the labourers.

WARWICKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT KNOWLE.

The entries of cattle were sixty-seven animals, against forty-three of last year; and these were generally useful, but without any of great repute. The Shorthorns took the leading place, and the Longhorns the second; the Herefords, though prizes were offered for them, being entirely absent. In the class for Shorthorn bulls over three years old, of five entered the two best were Puck and Earl of Warwickshire, both bred by Mr. H. J. Sheldon, of Brailes, but exhibited, the one by Mr. R. Penson, and the other by Mr. J. W. Wilson. The judges differed as to which was the better bull, and Mr. Lynn was called in, and the premium was awarded to Mr. Wortley's fancy, appropriately enough here, as a Warwickshire noble. For two-year-olds Mr. Ackers took the first prize with Cymbeline. In the Shorthorn bulls over 10 and under 20 months, the first prize was awarded to Mr. J. J. Sharp, of Kettering; and for the second, Mr. Robotham, who took second at Tamworth, was beaten by Earl Beauchamp with Robin Adair. The next three classes were those for Shorthorn cows and heifers, and among the exhibitors was Mr. Owen Benion, of Cresswell, Stafford, whose cow, which was disqualified, as it is not in milk; and Mr. Sharp took the first prize, the second going to Mr. W. B. Gibbins, of Eatington. The class for heifers under three years old, in milk or in calf, was poorly filled. The best was Mr. B. St. John Acker's Queen of the Georgians, which took first prize at the Worcestershire show. The seven heifers under two years old were better, Mr. Ackers taking the first prize with Lady Carew, and Mr. J. J. Sharp second. The only remaining Shorthorn class was that in which entries could be made to compete for the prizes of £22 and £7 offered by the local committee for the best Shorthorn bulls from any place in the kingdom, introduced into or bred in the neighbourhood, of not more than ten miles from the show, and to be kept for the use of tenant farmers in the district, at a price not exceeding £1 1s. per cow during the succeeding twelve months. There were only three competitors, and the prize was awarded to a red-and-white three-year-old, bred and exhibited by Mr. Thos. Walker,

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of Berkswell. Six animals were exhibited in the three Longhorn classes, of which four were the property of Mr. S. Forest of Kenilworth, and Mr. John Godfrey, of Wigston Parva. The entry chiefly served to show that the breed is now falling away even in the Midland Counties. The pairs of cows for dairy purposes ran to six entries, and the first-prize pair was that exhibited by Earl Beauchamp, and the second by Mr. J. Dugdale, both being good. There was a class for pairs of dairy cows belonging to tenant farmers residing in the county, but the animals exhibited were of little merit.

The show of sheep, as of cattle, was larger than last year. Mr. G. Turner, of Thorpelands, sent in some of his Leicesters, and took the three first and three second prizes. The Cotswolds, a breed seldom found on farms in this district, was represented by Messrs. Raynbird and Wheeler; while Mr. T. W. D Harris, of Wootton, Northampton, took the prizes which were offered for "other" longwools. The Shropshires, as at all shows in the Midlands, were the principal feature in the sheep department; and the first prizes in the principal classes were set down to Mr. H. J. Sheldon, Mr. W. Baker, and Mrs. Sarah Beach. Mr. F. Street, of Bedford, was the only exhibitor of Oxfords, but with some very good specimens of the breed.

In several classes the number of entries of pigs was small. In class for boars of large breed Mr. Hicken, of Dunchurch, took first prize, and Mr. Matthew Walker second. Small-breed boars were scantily-filled classes; but in the Berkshire boar class the competition was keen, the show being large, and the quality of the animals high class, Mr. Heber Humfrey, of Shrivenham, Berks, sending a number. In breeding sows Mr. Hicken again won, as did Mr. Humfrey with Berkshires.

The show of horses was but moderate. In the mare-with-foal class there were several animals which would have been better away There was only one entry in the cart gelding class above four years old, and although the committee offered a handsome prize for a pair of agricultural draught horses, there was no entry whatever. The hunters' classes filled much better, and there were some promising things amongst the four-year-olds. There were several weight-carrying hunters, Mr. Goodliff, of Huntingdon, taking the prize of £40 with Marshal McMahon. The mares were an uneven class, and there was a great falling off noticeable. Hacks were fairly good, and there was a good show of ponies.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE: T. Morris, Maisemore Court, Gloucester; E. Wortley, Ridlington, Uppingham. AGRICULTURAL HORSES: T. Rush, Chalk Farm, Babraham; S. Burchnall, Catton, Burton-upon-Trent. HUNTERS, HACKS, PONIES, &c.: Col. Luttrell, Badgworth Court, Axbridge, Somerset; H. J. Thurnall, Royston. SHEEP AND PIGS: J. Lynn, Church Farm, Stroxton, Grantham; T. Horton, Harnage Grange, Salop. IMPLEMENTS: J. A. Beale, Brockhurst, Latterworth. CHEESE: P. Jacks, Leamington.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull, above three years old.—Prize, £10, J. Wilson Wilson, Broadway. Highly commended: R. Penson, Chipping Norton.

Bull, over twenty months and under three years old.—First prize, £10, B. St. J. Ackers, Painswick; second, £5, T. H. Bland, Dingley Grange.

Bull, over ten and under twenty months old.—First prize, £8, J. J. Sharp, Kettering; second, £4, Earl Beauchamp, Madresfield Court.

Cow, in milk, above three years old.—First prize, £6, J. J. Sharp; second, W. B. Gibbons, Eatington, Stratford-on-Avon.

Heifer, under three years old, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £6, B. St. J. Ackers; second, £3, A. Robotham, Oak Farm, Drayton Bassett. Highly commended: Earl Beauchamp.

Heifer, under two years old.—First prize, £6, B. St. J. Ackers; second, £3, J. J. Sharp. Highly commended: J. A. Mumford, Thame.

Bull, provided for the use of tenant-farmers within ten miles of the show, at a price not exceeding £1 1s. per cow, during the succeeding twelvemonths.—First prize, £22, T. Walker, Berkswell Hall; second, £2, with £5 added, J. Dugdale, Wroxall Abbey (Bismarck).

LONGHORNS.

Bull.—Prize, £5, J. Godfrey, Wigston Parva (Royal Charlie).

Cow or heifer, in milk.—First prize, £5, J. Godfrey (Fairy); second, £3, S. Forrest, The Chase, Kenilworth.

Bull, for breeding purposes, of any pure breed.—Prize, £3, W. A. Battine, Eathorpe Hall (Alderney).

DAIRY CATTLE.

Pair of cows in milk, which have been used in the exhibitor's dairy for the last two seasons.—First prize, £10, Earl Beauchamp; second, £5, J. Dugdale.

Pair of dairy cows in milk, belonging to a tenant farmer residing in the county.—First prize, £7, J. F. Packwood; second, T. Satchwell, Hearnfield, Knowle.

EXTRA STOCK.

Highly commended.—J. Dugdale (two Shorthorn calves).

SHEEP.

LEICESTERS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £6, and second, £3, G. Turner, jun., Thorpelands, Northampton.

Two-shear rams.—First prize, £6, and second, £3, G. Turner, jun.

Five shearling ewes.—First prize, £5, and second, £2, G. Turner, jun.

COTSWOLDS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £5, and second, £3, H. E. Raynbird, Basingstoke.

Two-shear ram.—First prize, £6, H. E. Raynbird; second, £3, J. Wheeler, Long Compton. Highly commended: H. E. Raynbird.

Five shearling ewes.—No entry.

OTHER LONG-WOOLLED SHEEP.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £5, and second, £3, T. W. D. Harris, Wootton, Northampton.

Five shearling ewes.—First prize, £5, T. W. D. Harris.

SHROPSHIRES.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £6, H. J. Sheldon, Brailes House, Warwickshire; second, £3, S. C. Pilgrim, Hinckley. Highly commended: S. C. Pilgrim.

Two-shear ram.—First prize, £6, W. Baker, Moor Barnes, Atherstone; second, £3, S. C. Pilgrim. Highly commended: B. Long, Middleton.

Five shearling ewes.—First prize, £5, Mrs. Sarah Beach, Penkridge; second, £2, S. Wilkes, Brewers' Oak Farm, Shifnal.

OTHER SHORT-WOOLLED SHEEP.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £5, F. Street, Harrowden House, near Bedford.

Five shearling ewes.—First prize, £5, F. Street; second not awarded.

Tup, the property of a member, and to be used this season in the county.—Prize, £2, E. Lythall, Radford Hall.

EXTRA STOCK.

Highly commended: H. E. Raynbird.

PIGS.

Boar of the large breed (except Berkshire), under 18 months old.—First prize, £3, J. Hicken, Dunchurch; second, £2, M. Walker, Stockley Park, Anslow.

Boar of the large breed (except Berkshire), above 18 months old.—First prize, £3, C. Benson, Grove Farm, Knowle; second, M. Walker.

Boar of the small breed, under 18 months old.—First prize, £3, M. Walker; second, £2, J. Wheeler, Long Compton.

Boar of the small breed, above 18 months old.—First prize, £3, M. Walker; second, £2, J. Wheeler.

Boar of the Berkshire breed, under 18 months old.—First prize, £3, H. Humfrey, Kingstone Farm, Shrivenham; second, £2, M. Walker.

Boar of the Berkshire breed, above 18 months old.—First prize, £3, J. Spencer, Villiers Hall; second, £2, G. C. Greenway, Ashorne.

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Breeding sow, suckling pigs of her own farrow, and in milk, of the large breed (except Berkshire).—First prize, £3, J. Hicken, Dunchurch; second, £2, C. Benson, Grove Farm, Knowle.

Breeding sow of the small breed, suckling pigs of her own farrow, and in milk.—Only one entry; prize withheld.

Berkshire sow, suckling pigs of her own farrow, and in milk.—First prize, £3 and second, £2, H. Humfrey.

Three breeding pigs of one farrow of 1874, of large breed.—First prize, £2, M. Walker.

Three breeding pigs of one farrow of 1874, of small breed.—Only one entry; prize withheld.

Three breeding pigs of one farrow of 1874, of Berkshire breed.—First prize, £2, H. Humfrey.

Sow of any breed suckling pigs of her own farrow, and in milk.—First prize, £2, J. Hicken.

HORSES.

AGRICULTURAL.

Stallion.—First prize, £15, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Whitfield, Manchester; second, £5, Messrs. Yeomans, Four Ashes, Wolverhampton. Highly commended: T. Tagg, Newhall, Burton-on-Trent.

Mare, with foal at foot.—First prize, £10, W. Hulston, Ditchford Friary, Moreton-in-the-Marsh; second, £5, S. Abbotts, Arley Hall, Coventry. Highly commended: T. Russell, Lower Shuckborough.

Gelding, under three years old.—First prize, £5, and highly commended, C. Burton, Temple Balsall.

Filly, under three years old.—First prize, £5, S. Davis, Woolashill, Pershore. Highly commended: W. Baker, Atherstone.

Cart gelding, above four years old, regularly worked.—First prize, £5, T. T. Barman, Hockley Heath.

Cart mare, above four years old, regularly worked.—First prize, £5, J. Dugdale, Wroxhall Abbey. Highly commended: R. Timms, Braunstone.

Pair of agricultural draught horses, regularly worked, the property of a tenant farmer, residing within ten miles of the show.—No entry.

HUNTERS.

Stallion adapted for hunting purposes.—First prize, £15, R. Hutton, Portman-square, London.

Hunter ridden during the past season with the Warwickshire, Atherstone, Pytchley, Bicester, Quorn, Lord Coventry's, Heythorp, or Cotswold hounds.—First and second prizes, £15 and £5, W. Whitehead, Woolaston, Wellingborough. Commended: A. Robertson, Banbury.

Hunter, four years old and upwards.—First prize, £15, J. Hicken, Dunchurch; second, L. Riley, The Outwoods, Meriden.

Weight-carrying hunter.—First prize, £40, J. Goodliff, Huntingdon. Highly commended: R. Hutton, London.

Mare, best calculated to produce weight-carrying hunters, the property of a Warwickshire farmer.—First prize, £40, J. E. Bennett, Bosworth Grange, Rugby. Commended: H. Green, Hatton.

Four-year-old gelding or filly, adapted for hunting purposes, the property of a tenant farmer residing within the limits of the Warwickshire or North Warwickshire hunts.—First prize, W. Mann, Brookhampton.

Half-bred two-year-old colt or filly, the property of and bred by a member.—First prize, £3, J. Griffin, Burton. Highly commended: W. Tyler, Birmingham.

Mare best calculated to breed hunters, with foal at foot, the property of a member of the Society.—First prize, £5, T. Watson, Whitacre.

Weight-carrier, equal to no less than 15 stone, the property of a Warwickshire farmer, and that has been hunted during the past season.—First prize, £5, L. Riley, Meriden.

Hunter, hunted during the past season, the property of a tenant farmer.—Only one entry. No award made.

HACKNEYS AND PONIES.

Hackney, exceeding fifteen hands.—First prize, £10, W. T. Stanley, Leamington.

Hackney, not exceeding fifteen hands.—First prize, £10, Major Quentin, Woodleigh, Cheltenham.

Pony, above thirteen and not exceeding fourteen hands.—First prize, £5, W. S. Cooper, Hilmorton Paddox, Rugby.

Pony, above twelve and not exceeding thirteen hands.—First prize, £5, W. Tyler, Birmingham,

At the dinner Lord LEIGH thought with the Earl of Yarmouth that the department for horses was a weak part of the show, but he hoped that exhibitions in future years would be more successful in that respect. He was pleased to learn that there had been more competitors for the cottagers' prizes this year. It had often been said, and with justice, that it was most important that the labouring classes should have their cottages improved. He had visited that day some cottages in that neighbourhood which were setting a good example, and he was glad to see that the cottages generally throughout the country were being improved But while they were building new cottages, he did think that it was important to give every encouragement they possibly could to make the labourers themselves know how to make those cottages comfortable. He knew from his experience that many cottages well built were miserably kept, and therefore he thought that encouragement given to cottagers to keep their houses and gardens neat and tidy was a step in the right direction.

Mr. MUNTZ, the chairman, said, in regard to the proposal which was made to amalgamate that Society with others, he could not see sufficient reason for it. He thought it would not be creditable to that Society to do so. There were many parts of the county that they had not visited. He was a believer in the usefulness of such societies as that, the primary object of which was the education of agriculturists, and as there were parts of the county which had not been visited, he thought that the work of the Society was not complete. They had felt the need in that neighbourhood of such a Society. They had a small local society, and by bringing the county society there they should accomplish greater good than they had done. One of the great objects of the Society was to establish competition, which was an excellent means of improvement and of gaining information. He only hoped that what was now done in Knowle would be repeated in other parts of the county which had not experienced the advantages resulting from a visit of the Society. Several gentlemen had expressed to him the opinion that the Society had done its work, and was getting antiquated, and that it would not go on much longer; but if they would only put their shoulders to the wheel the Warwickshire Society would not die, and he hoped it would live much longer than he should. He was in favour of a meeting of the associated societies of the counties, and no one would be a greater supporter of such a meeting than he, but he should, at the same time, like every county to maintain its own independence.

Mr. C. N. NEWDEGATE, M.P., felt that in the presidency of Mr. Muntz that day they had a union of all opinions in the cause of agriculture, which boded well for the success of that association, and it was creditable to the temper of good old Warwickshire. The agricultural interests had been exposed to storms, as they all knew, during the last four years. Social difficulties—that was, difficulties between employers and employed—he believed were passing away, thanks to the steadiness, the good temper of all classes employed in agriculture. There was an agitation, justifiable at first, but which some intended to urge beyond the legitimate objects of that movement. Those engaged in that agitation began by doing some good, but he thought they had shown that they meant mischief. The effect of that had been to draw closer together the landlords and tenants. He believed also that the effect of this movement was this—that the agricultural labourers, who were induced to believe that there were ready cultivated Edens lopen for them in foreign lands, had learnt that, though they were free to leave the country, still the homes they would find abroad were some of them colder, some of them hotter, and some of them less enjoyable than the homes they would leave behind. It rested with the landlords and tenants to improve that feeling amongst their employés, and he recommended them to consult with those whom they did employ. If they expected intelligent service they must consult with their labourers. They would be disappointed if they failed in intelligence, and how could they give to them intelligence but by conveying to them their own. Let this feeling pervade the agriculture of the country, any the difficulties that they had passed through would be for their good. In conclusion, the present Parliament had shown itself more ready to turn its attention in a practical and legislative sense to the requirements of agriculture than any Parliament of late years.

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Mr. H. J. SHELDON referred to the system of over-feeding. He dare not, himself, at one of these exhibitions, show any animal above eighteen months old; as he could not afford to feed up an animal worth £500, and not make him worth a £10 note. If that system were amended, instead of thirty or forty beasts being exhibited, there would be 500. A man could not be expected to be preparing an animal for a show for twelve or eighteen months, and then not be any use afterwards. As a practical man, he could not refrain from making these remarks.

Mr. T. HORLEX, jun., had been sorry to see the way in which the horses were worked. If any officers of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had been present, they might have objected. With regard to the relations between employers and employed, the farmers owed a debt of gratitude to the noble-hearted men in the Eastern Counties.

STAFFORDSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT TAMWORTH.

The cattle numbered seventy-four entries, and consist of Shorthorns; but the strength of the meeting is in the Shropshire sheep classes, which, however, are so restricted by the regulations that the best breeders are unable to compete in many instances, and therefore several classes must not be taken as containing first-class specimens of the breed. It is time, says *The Midland Counties' Herald*, several of these regulations were expunged, as we observe that the committee do not even carry out their own rules in the selection of the judges, but appoint members of their own body in the face of the following, Rule 24: "That the judges appointed for general purposes shall be wholly unconnected with the Society." In the class for aged bulls the prizes were awarded to Hindoo Chief, a very promising two-year-old of Lord Shrewsbury, and to a large-framed white bull Duke, bred by one of the judges, and owned by Mr. F. Stanier Broade. For yearling bulls, Bloomfield, the property of Mr. A. S. Hill, M.P., was first, and Mr. A. Robotham's Red Rover second, the last named being purchased at the Bingley Hall sale in the spring, whence many other prize winners in the yard were obtained. In a large class of bull-calves Mr. A. Robotham was placed first, and Major Webb second with a calf of the Gwynne family. Mr. A. Robotham was again to the fore in the cow class, as the breeder of Miss Bloomer, the three-year-old shown by Mr. F. Cartwright, and also as the owner of the second-prize cow, Eleanor. In two-year-old heifers Mr. Wolfertan was successful, and Mr. A. Robotham completed his list of honours by winning in the yearling heifer class with a pair of reds of his own breeding. In the classes for cattle for dairy purposes, Mr. Joseph Bickford, of Moseley Hall, Bushbury, was the most prominent competitor. Mr. F. Cartwright's red Shorthorn heifer won as a fat beast, and also as the best Shorthorn in the yard, though closely pressed by Moss Rose, a frequent winner. Mr. Harcourt Griffin's two-shear Shropshire ram was first, and next to him Mr. S. C. Pilgrim's ram of the same age. Mr. Pilgrim also won with a shearling ram, beating a sheep of Mrs. Beach's, which obtained honours at Bedford, where Mr. Pilgrim's ram was unnoticed, one of the two judges acting on both occasions. Mr. Charles Byrd won with ram lambs, Mrs. Beach with ewes, Mr. Pilgrim with theaves, Mrs. Beach with ewe lambs, and Mr. Owen with wethers; Mr. Coxon taking second for ewe lambs, and the other seconds for ewes and theaves going to Messrs. Thomas and Charles Smith, from the neighbourhood of Ashborne. There was a good entry in the classes for 20 ewes and theaves, for the former of which Mr. Thos. Wood was first, Mr. T. F. Cheatle second, and Mr. R. Wyatt, third; and for theaves Mr. H. Lowe was first, Mr. W. Tidy second, and Mr. T. F. Cheatle third; but it is quite possible that the awards in these two classes may be altered, as there were several protests talked of on account of the peculiar conditions under which the prizes were offered. The long-woolled sheep comprised three cross-bred Lincolns and Leicesters, from Mr. Robert Johnson, of Kirkireton, who farms these prizes.

The pig classes were short in number of entries, and Mr. Matthew Walker's pigs carried off every prize for large and small white breeds and Berkshires to Stockley Park, with the exception of two second prizes for Berkshires, which go to the Earl of Shrewsbury. There are just under 100 entries of horses in 14 classes, the competition being fair except for Suffolk stallions, which the Earl of Shrewsbury vainly tries to introduce to the district; and the Clydesdale Young Lofty was once more first in the All-England class. The Earl of Lichfield is a successful exhibitor of working cart horses, and Mr. W. W. Riddell sends the best mare and foal. The nag horses were mainly from the immediate district.

The implement trials were a failure, only a few ploughs, and a horse rake, and a haymaking machine, being entered, and of the ploughs not one was worked by steam. The only exhibitors of ploughs were Barnes, who showed implements made by Ball and Sons, Howard, and Ransome, Sims, and Head; and Perkins, who exhibited ploughs of his own make. Prizes were given to Mr. Barnes for Howard's and Ransome's ploughs, and to Mr. Perkins for those of his own make.

JUDGES.—SHORTHORNS AND FAT STOCK: W. Nevett, Yorton, Shrewsbury; J. Robinson, Clifton, Olney. SHROPSHIRE SHEEP: T. Mansell, Ercall, Wellington; J. Evans, Uffington, Shrewbury. DAIRY CATTLE, LONG-WOOLLED SHEEP AND PIGS: E. Little, Lanhill, Chippenham; W. Tomlinson, Bradley, Ashbourne. AGRICULTURAL HORSES: J. Belcher, Moreton, Gnosall; W. Power, Brancote, Stafford. NAG HORSES: C. Randell, Chadbury, Evesham; C. Milward, Moseley, Birmingham. CHEESE AND BUTTER: H. Smith, Wyastone, Ashborne; J. Swain, Leicester. CORN: J. H. Masfen, Tamworth. IMPLEMENTS: J. J. Rowley, Western Bank, Sheffield; R. Craven, Uttoxeter. ROOTS: R. H. Masfen, Pendeford.

At the judges' dinner, Mr. R. H. MASFEN said, what he wanted was the opinion not of men whose farming was confined to the office, or the club, or the editor's room, but of practical men, and he would like to hear from the latter how stock was to be kept during the coming winter; and if there were any gentlemen present who were in favour of rearing stock from cross-breeds, he would like to hear their reasons for preferring that plan to the use of pure-blooded animals. For his own part he hoped that the judges would stick to true type, and not award prizes to mongrels or to animals of doubtful lineage. He was interested in knowing whether there was any gentleman who would have the boldness to get up and say that cross-breds or mongrels produced superior animals to those which came from pure-breds. He was in favour of rearing from pure-breds in the case of Shorthorns, and he hoped nothing would be done to encourage those breeders of sheep who put themselves forward as pioneers, but who reared from cross-breeds. It would also interest the company to know the views of Mr. Rowley and Mr. Craven with regard to the progress made by inventors and manufacturers of implements. It would, too, be in Mr. Hewitt's power to give them some very valuable informa-

tion with regard to poultry, and more especially with regard to breeding. If he did not mistake, Mr. Hewitt once told him at Market Drayton that a goose from two pure-breds weighed twice as much as a goose got by cross-breeding. If that was true with regard to geese, it might also be true with regard to cattle and sheep, or to any other class of animals. For breeding purposes let the stock have as pure blood as it was possible to get. Cross-breeds might have great weight, but it should not be forgotten that they were great consumers.

Mr. ROWLEY claimed for the department of implements as great importance as attached to the stock classes. He was not prepared to endorse all the remarks of Mr. Masfen, for he did not think it was advisable to confine breeding for a series of years to one kind of animal. It was a very important matter to assimilate animals to soil and climate, for great failures sometimes followed the removal of animals from one district to another, especially if the districts were distant from each other. Close breeding was of less importance than assimilation to soil and climate. The question, "What were they to do with their stock during the coming winter?" was one which it was very difficult to answer "Give them plenty of cake." He would like to ask whether there was any gentleman present who could speak from experience with regard to the use of the liquid manure-drill this dry season. He knew of one farmer in Oxfordshire who had this season used that drill with results so satisfactory that he had determined always to use it and never to use the dry drill again. He was also able to speak from his own experience with regard to the value of the liquid manure drill in raising turnip crops in dry seasons.

Mr. ROBINSON thought that as he was a judge the less he said about his department the better.

Mr. MANSELL said Mr. Lowe had told them to give their cattle plenty of cake, but how could that be made to pay with cake at £13 15s. a ton? (Mr. E. LOWE: You can get it at £13 delivered.) The question was, "What was wheat worth?" With wheat selling at £10 a ton, how could they afford to pay £13 for cake? No; the best thing to do would be to mix wheat with cake and oat straw and other things, and feed the animals with it. Let treacle and water be poured over the wheat, and a capital food would be made for the winter; but it was absurd to suppose that farmers could at the present time afford to pay £13 a ton for cake. He trusted that other gentlemen present would take up this subject.

Mr. LITTLE said he had not sown turnips for the last fifteen years without using the liquid manure drill, and during the whole of that time until the present year he had not lost a "plant." This year they had no rain in his part of the country from the 9th of April to the 10th of July, and the consequence was that the plant was attacked by the fly and then by the green aphis. He had some turnips which were as good as could be shown, but they were not a "plant." It was usual for him to begin about the middle of May and go on until about this time. He could show a regular "plant" over the whole of his farm, but the black grub and the dry weather had been great enemies. The rough wind of Sunday week blew the plant by hundreds into heaps, and it was found that the grub had eaten them through excepting a small portion of the heart. Every man who grew turnips should have a liquid manure drill, with a well or pond, a pump, and all proper appliances. He endorsed all that Mr. Mansell had said with regard to using up their own produce as food for stock during the ensuing winter. With wheat at £2 a quarter, they could have nothing cheaper, and in fact there were some inferior qualities, like the Rivett, which could be bought for less than £2 a quarter. When boiled, wheat made a very fine mucilage, and when mixed with oat-straw and hay it would make an excellent food, and save the growing of extra turnips. If they could only tide over the winter they might depend upon being able to get a good price for their stock. Every pound would be wanted to feed the population, and even if they had to go to a little extra expense some means must be devised for keeping the animals. They must make the most of every bit of hay and straw that they had.

Mr. MANSELL feared that coal was too dear to permit of the boiling of wheat.

Mr. EVANS thought that the end would be gained by soaking the grain for 24 hours.

Mr. LITTLE thought not; it was desirable that the wheat should be made into furmety.

Mr. EVANS thought it no compliment to exhibitors to suppose that they would show cross-bred animals, though of course any man might sometimes make a mistake in purchasing. It might be taken for granted that a man who bred sheep or cattle would do so from animals of the right type and character. That principle would no doubt be recognised by the judges, but perhaps the less that was said on the subject before the show the better. He trusted that all the exhibitors would be satisfied. Of course those who won would be content, and he trusted that those who were unsuccessful would resolve, like true Englishmen, to win another year.

Mr. JOHNSON said they heard a good deal about modern breeds, but 25 or 30 years ago they used to rear animals which at this day would take a good deal of beating—a right good, honest, sound type of sheep, with good features and plenty of wool and mutton, and with a hardy constitution. They were sheep upon whose backs you might have jumped to ride. In that neighbourhood they had made the mistake of selling all the best ewes and taking the inferior animals for breeding.

Mr. TOMLINSON said he would be the last in the world to deprecate good breed, but he must say, as a dairy farmer, that you could not make cheese without milk, and it was frequently found that the more blood the less milk. He wished to impress upon breeders that it was of importance to dairy farmers that they should have milk-yielding animals as well as true shape and quality. Dairy farmers must have cows which give milk for eight or nine months in the year and not three or four months. He could not help thinking that of late, while they had cows of good breed, they had been deficient as milkers, and he supposed this was to be attributed to the fact that cows used for breeding had not good firm udders and had not been accustomed to give milk for eight or nine months out of the twelve. There would be more satisfaction in purchasing pure Shorthorns if they could only give plenty of milk.

Mr. NEVITT said breeders must be very particular in the choice of the bull if they wanted to get good milkers.

Mr. HEWITT said many persons made the mistake of buying fancy poultry which had been kept up in small pens and were not of strong constitution, and turning them out on to large bleak farms, expecting they would do as well as fowls which received careful attention from regular exhibitors. The fact was that an ordinary farmer could not grow show poultry and make it pay. They sometimes read of fowls fetching £3 10s. a pair, but how many pairs were sold at that price? When fowls were very high-bred they did not lay anything like so many eggs as birds less distinguished. For the use of the table simply there was nothing better than to get two first-rate birds of two breeds and cross them. As to geese, he thought there was no more useful bird for a working man with a family than the much-abused goose. If they took an Empden gander and a Toulouse goose, they would get a very much larger bird than by other parents; but if they took a Toulouse gander and an Empden goose, the birds would be three or four pounds heavier than with the sexes reversed. The Empden was white with blue eyes, and the Toulouse was a grey bird; when crossed they produce a saddle-backed bird with a little brown on the thighs, the geese weighing 15lbs., and the ganders ranging from 18lbs. to 26lbs. If, however, they were to breed next year from the produce of the cross, the birds would not weigh more than 7lbs. or 8lbs., which was a wonderful fact. One great advantage in the case of geese could not be passed over: they lived to a greater age than almost any other bird. He once knew a goose which positively lived on the side of the same common for 42 years. Her mistress was ill upon a sofa, and the old bird laid her eggs at the foot of the sofa, and hatched two goslings when she was 42 years old. As a poultry judge the bird was placed before him, and he guessed it was about a quarter of that age. The wisest plan in breeding turkeys was to get the largest-framed hen possible, and it did not matter if the cock was not so large so long as it was strong and lively. It was well known that a turkey which weighed 28 or 30 pounds was worth more than four turkeys of half that weight, because almost any price could be got for birds exceptionally heavy. If farmers would breed from Dorkings and Bramahs and then kill off they would have as good a fowl as possible for their purpose. Game was undoubtedly the best for the table; and the best time to kill the pullets, if they wanted a luxury, was just before they lay. When a game fowl was reared with proper attention to the framework it carried more flesh than any other kind. For

eggs they would cross game and Malay, and then they would have eggs more like those of a guinea fowl than anything else. He repeated that if farmers tried to breed fancy poultry on bleak lands without the care and coddling which they got from exhibitors they would get neither prizes nor profit.

Mr. E. Lowe said the only legitimate cross for the table must have game on one side or the other. He had proved this fifty times. No rule could be laid down with regard to the keeping of fowls in exposed places. He once took with golden-pencilled Hamburghs all the prizes which could be obtained by one man, and the birds never roosted anywhere but under a hedge in a bleak field.

Mr. Mansell: It is quite clear there are no foxes in your country.

Mr. Hewitt thought Mr. Lowe had misapprehended him. He said that if fancy birds were taken from a place where they had been coddled up, and were turned on to a bleak farm, they would be of no service; but if the eggs were bought and the chickens were acclimatised they would do more good.

THE RUMOURED REFORM OF THE GAME-LAWS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

Sir,—Remembering that many of the members of the present landlord administration, and the great majority of its supporters in Parliament—thanks to the tenant-farmers of England—are game-preservers, and having due regard to the rumour which is afloat, that it is contemplated by Disraeli and Co., in the next session, to legislate upon the game question, it is pertinent, I think, to ask, through your columns, How is such a ministry, backed up as it is by such supporters, likely to deal with such an important subject? And before the question is answered, it is to be hoped that many of your readers will well consider (1) what the Game-laws are, and (2) what they are accountable for.

Of this there cannot be a doubt, namely, that these laws are of feudal origin, and still retain a feudal character. By the common law of England game is the property of the occupier. But then comes in the operation of what the landlords of England call "free contracts;" and under these very *precious* "free contracts" the occupier is universally coerced into contracting over to his landlord his lawful right to possess the game. The game is thus "freely contracted" over to one who knows no better wisdom seemingly than to oppress if not to "kill the hen which lays the golden eggs," and who, judging by actual facts, does not think that he has any interest whatever in keeping game within reasonable bounds, or his tenants from being despoiled by it; and if the enforcing of such contracts for such purposes means anything, it means simply the exercising of a power which is unreasoning, reckless, imperious, arbitrary, and entirely feudal in its nature.

In the second place, the Game-laws, when taken in connection with the preservation or over-preservation of this form of vermin upon the occupier's crops, and in despite of his consent, are a serious tax upon the said occupier, and, by the human food which is partly destroyed and partly consumed by the referred-to vermin, ultimately a serious tax upon the consumer—in other words, upon the nation. This tax, too, is imposed in the face of the fact that foreign food to the annual amount of some £140,000,000 sterling, which is virtually an impoverishment of Great Britain to that amount, requires to be imported to supplement the inadequate supplies annually grown at home. By all this a sample is shown of what our Farmers' Friends and "old nobility" are capable of, for sake of self-indulgence, or of what they term "sport"! —that is, sport at such a sacrifice pecuniarily, at the expense of so much destruction to the tenants' crops and to the people's food! In days of yore, when "he took who had the power, and when he kept who could," the feudal lord openly levied what was then called black-mail and what was really a plunder tax upon his inferiors. This was long ago declared to be oppressive and illegal, and as such put down by Government by force. Under, the preservation of game system, however, what is virtually the same thing as was the levying of black-mail has been revived, and he who at the present day either preserves game upon his tenants' crops, through means of an *enforced* contract, or receives a game-rent of his farms in addition to an agricultural rent, is doing neither more nor less than *levying* black-mail upon his tenants and inferiors under another name.

And, in the third place, the Game-laws are carried out at the expense of a violation and suspension of the British Constitution, inasmuch as by the Game-laws Amendment Act, commonly known as Sir Baldwin Leighton's Act (certainly it was not the Act of the majority of the British people), any ordinary policeman, on the merest suspicion, or even in the gratification of private malice, is empowered, of his own accord, to seize upon and to search any of her Majesy's subjects on the highway. He requires no magisterial warrant or authority whatever for doing so. Such is a part of the Game-laws, such an Act is the insolence of a class, and such is the Christianity, or the flunkeyism, or the moral cowardice of the people, or whatever else the supineness may be called, that the said insolence has been hitherto quietly, calmly, and tamely submitted to! It is under these circumstances, be it remembered, that the present landlord Ministry, with the aid of their game-preserving majority in Parliament, propose to reform the Game-laws! and it is hoped and supposed by the said landlords and game-preservers that the British lion will neither "roar nor lash his tail" under the *infliction* of the sort of game-law reform which need only be expected from such legislators—legislators, as already said, returned as their representatives by the highly-educated and intelligent body of English tenant-farmers.

The above, however short it may fall of the whole truth, is a description of what the Game-laws are. With your kindly permission I will, in a future letter, endeavour to describe what these iniquitous laws are accountable for.

Your obedient servant,
Thomas Robertson.

Narragmore, Athy, Sept. 16th.

THE NORFOLK COUNTY SCHOOL.—The pile of buildings erected at Elmham has just been opened for the accommoda- of 300 boys. The style of architecture adopted is described as Old English Domestic. The buildings are substantial and commodious, but there is little, if any, superfluous ornament, and the contract price of £8,000, for which the erection of the entire structure was undertaken, has not been exceeded. The exterior of the building is of red brick, with flint dressings, and with large dormers at intervals. All the timber work, externally and internally, is stained and varnished. There is a hall on the ground floor where a distribution of prizes was made by the Rev. J. L. Brereton.

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THE IMPEDIMENT TO AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—We are a loyal people, not given to sudden changes, but strongly attached to old customs, which is a safe and proper desire within certain limits; but we resisted the introduction of railways, and most of our great towns repented when too late; we smashed up the first power-looms, spinning jennies, and thrashing machines; and it took us thirty years to make us believe in the potato. Jethro Tull's drill and horse hoe required half a century, and the Rev. Patrick Bell's reaping machine quite as long, before it was partially used, and even now the reaping machines are by no means general. The steam plough is working its way slowly, but it will require at least another century before town sewage and human voidances are appreciated and utilised. The hedgerow system and roaming at large of animals, and the attachment to plenty of poor permanent pasture, slowly give way to arable land and a more profitable practice. My neighbours took twenty odd years to believe in the iron fold hurdle on wheels, instead of cheap wooden ones, and it will be fifty years before a fixed engine will be considered indispensable on every arable farm of 200 acres.

Landowners, tenants, and labourers participate in this loyal attachment to old things and old practices, but it a sad bar to rapid advance. We want more food, much more home-grown food, so as to keep our money at home, and our people employed in producing it. This, I know from thirty years of observation and practical experience, can only be done by giving up some of our ancient but now unprofitable agricultural attachments.

I frequently converse with landowners and land agents who are desirous to improve land, but the great difficulty is to get tenants willing to pay a fair interest for such improvements, and invest the necessary increased tenant's acreable capital. On the other hand, intelligent wealthy farmers lament that their landlords cannot or will not make the necessary landowners' improvements, or give, by lease, a valuation for such improvements when made by the tenant at his own cost. In backward districts there is an unfortunate satisfaction with things as they are, and a want of belief in modern agricultural innovations. In such a case it becomes necessary for the landowner gradually to lead the way, and also to exercise a mild despotism as the late admirable Mr. Coke did. Twenty-seven years ago the late Sir Robert Peel expressed to me his difficulties in this respect, and why he could not suddenly "convert" certain tenants. When the itinerating meetings of the Royal Agricultural Society found their way to benighted but very self-satisfied districts, how it astonished the natives to see the old plough worth £5 superseded by Fowler's £2,000 plough, and the old flail represented by a £450 thrashing machine; as the song said, "What an alteration!" Liebig in his *Modern Agriculture*, p. 198, gives an amusing instance of strong prejudice when red clover was first introduced into Germany: "The Birkenfeld peasants of last century grievously complained that Government wanted to compel them to cultivate a foreign weed (clover). They told the officers in the plainest terms 'to stick to their lasts,' and concern themselves about things they had learned. As for husbandry, they (the peasants) were likely to know much more about it than all the margraves and overseers in the world. They did not wish to give the matter a single trial, and when ultimately compelled to sow the clover, they demanded, after a time, a magisterial inspection of the fields, and showed 'that not a leaf of the clover had come up.' And no wonder, for it turned out at last that the peasants had boiled the seed before putting it in the ground. In our day scientific principles are treated somewhat in a similar manner, the professors of modern agriculture boil them in their pot, and it is then openly shown that not a grain has come up."

Many do not know that at one time—before the introduction of clover, root crops, and oilcake—we had no roast beef at Christmas; for, as soon as the grass failed, the fattened beasts were killed to prevent their becoming lean, and were then salted. The past history of agriculture is interesting as showing how gradually we have become civilised, and also points to still further changes than have yet taken place. I am, therefore, justified in foreseeing the time when we "clever" people of the present shall be looked back upon as "the lights of other days."

I am a believer in improved agricultural education combining theory with practice. It will dispel much of the fog of doubt and disbelief. The intelligent farmers who have emanated from the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, afford ample evidence that the multiplication of such institutions in every county of Britain would be of vast benefit and encouragement to a more enlightened and more profitable use of the soil. Our landowners would be none the worse for an education in modern agricultural principles. They would then, concurrently with their tenants, adapt their fields, roads, and buildings to the modern requirements of the steam plough, the covered yards, and the modern sheepfold, which render hedgerows and trees unnecessary.

The evidences of non-education are painful, and nationally disgraceful. None of my men of 50 can read or write. When two of Fowler's great ploughing engines came on to my farm last week, and brought their "house," in which four men and a boy reside, I offered them newspapers to interest them in their leisure hours, but none of them could read, except the boy! That made a deep and painful impression upon my mind, and I said to myself, "Ignorance cannot be bliss."

Two farmers in my neighbourhood (one deceased) could neither read nor write, though successful men. The education movement has come none too soon, for it is the general education of the American people that has, in the brief period of their independence, enabled them to excel by far in enterprise, and equal in wealth, their British parents; but then they have more than 120,000 public schools and colleges, &c., and 32 agricultural colleges to our poor "one." Each agricultural college has a farm of 400 acres attached to it. The American people and their Legislatures are keenly alive to the importance of education in its relation to the business of life.

Not quite so with us, for I have heard many a wealthy farmer say that education would spoil his best men. The Americans have 67,000 miles of railway against our 16,000.

I am quite aware that I have been, and perhaps am now, considered by my "practical" brother farmers "a torment" to agriculture, never letting old things alone, and disquieting the agricultural mind; but so strong is my conviction of the necessity for progress in the art of filling the British stomach (the most important of all the arts), that the short period still allotted to me shall, D.V., be a continuance of my determination in the good cause of *Frugibus vita alitur*, which is the motto on my armorial bearings at the Herald's College, believing that my efforts are for the good of my country and of my brother agriculturists.

Yours,

Tiptree, August. J. J. MECHI.

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BUSINESS HOURS AND BUSINESS HABITS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Why do so few well-educated city young men turn to agricultural pursuits as a business? and those country-born turn from their fields, and find their way to city and town, to office and warehouse? Is it because these are more inviting than the sweet fresh valleys and bracing hills? Scarcely so, for the summer holiday is anticipated with pleasure because of the opportunity to get away from the smoke and din. Is not the reason to be found in the fact that, as a class, farmers and corn and flour factors are not so business-like in hours and mode, but conduct their affairs in a muddling old-world style, particularly irksome to those who possess the faculties of promptitude and method? I speak more particularly of buying and selling as conducted amongst the middle-class country traders. To illustrate my meaning I will give an instance which I witnessed. A farmer had some wheat for sale, and called on a neighbouring factor with the sample: time, soon after dinner. Well, he made various remarks on weather, markets, and so forth, discussed at some length the mode of his neighbours' farming, how many times a certain field had been used for a certain produce in so many years, which was "altogether wrong;" then the manner of fattening his cattle was brought forward, but not a word about the wheat. He was asked to take refreshment, and decanters were introduced; after which he was increasingly eloquent upon what "ought to be done" by others. Well, I thought, how long is this to last? The afternoon sped on. At length the sample was produced, and much praised; but no price asked. His customer was asked "what he would give for such a fine lot?" and of course, the figure did not suit. Some perfectly irrelevant subject was started, which occupied his reasoning powers till nearly five o'clock; then came, "Well, shall I send in the wheat?" "Oh, not at that price;" he objected, and thought and thought again, shook hands, walked to the end of the premises, and in another fifteen or twenty minutes decided to take the price. Three hours over one transaction! and this is not by any means unusual.

Another objection to the country mode is people coming on business are brought into the family room. Now, there are many persons who meet us often in business whom *we* cannot take as friends, and would not wish our wives or sisters to; why then intrude upon them, at any hour, men—possibly plainly evidencing a recent visit to cowshed or piggery—whom they cannot be pleased to associate with? Their city cousins are not subjected to such annoyances, and their expressions of dislike doubtless influence the young men to choose a different profession.

There should be neutral ground for business transactions. Every mill and farm should have an office, so as not to disturb that sweetest blessing of home—privacy, without which home is but a name. Much discomfiture is often brought upon a family where there is no provision of the kind.

A tradesman has his shop, the accountant his office, and so on, and certain hours. When closed, the public know that they must wait for re-opening; but in the country at any hour from 6a.m. to 10p.m. the miller, at least, must be open to his customers' calls. And, in consequence of the style of doing business already noticed, the family are also deprived of the privilege of feeling free from intrusion, which sometimes is most inconvenient. Many feel this, and take steps to have it different; but it is regarded almost as an absurdity, and they are esteemed as being above their business; something, as the old Scotch gude wife considered her neighbour who had taken to clean her house, "So ower proud to want her floor clean soopit; na such fash in the gude old days."

But our business-like young people wish for a better mode of doing things, and if they cannot succeed at home they will try elsewhere, leaving many who are unable to wish they could do likewise. Yours,

A MILLER'S WIFE.

AUSTRALIAN WINES.

It is not very probable that the wines of France, Spain, and the Rhine will be surpassed, or even equalled by any competitors, near or remote; but however ample the resources of existing vineyards, it is certain they cannot keep pace with the constantly-increasing demand produced by the rapid growth of our wealth and its accompanying habits of luxury. An opportunity has been afforded at the International Exhibition, held at Kensington, for the growers throughout the world to enter into competition; and in addition to the wine from the wine countries *par excellence*, the public have been enabled to form an acquaintance with the vintages of Italy, Hungary, Greece, Sicily, Australia, and even America. This collection possesses considerable interest, for it has not been possible hitherto to bring together such a variety as may be seen in the limited space afforded by the cellars of the Albert Hall. The older wine countries of Europe have up to quite a recent period produced all the wine consumed in England, and the advantages attached to the sale of such undoubtedly excellent products has retarded the introduction of any less known or favoured. There is enough, however, in this exhibition to show that no speciality of climate and soil exists, and when viticulture shall have become sufficiently established elsewhere, the monopoly enjoyed by them at the present time will not remain altogether unchallenged.

The success of the samples of Australian wines that have been tested at Vienna, and again in the British metropolis, has encouraged the belief amongst the colonists of Australia in the capabilities of their country to produce a good drinkable wine. By competent judges, who have made it their business to traverse all the principal wine districts of Europe, it is asserted that in Australia many millions of acres may be found, which, from their situation, as regards climate, aspect, and soil, are especially adapted for the culture of the grape. Superior advantages may be derived from the seasons, which are not so uncertain as in Europe, whilst the fruit obtained is equal to any in the world; and with experience in the different niceties during the manufacture, it is confidently anticipated that an article can be produced that will be in no way behind many of the productions of Europe. The progress of the vine since its introduction is worthy of attention, as it may hereafter form an important element in the material resources of Australia, already so rich in mineral, vegetable, and animal products.

The first vine was planted in the valley of the Murray by German settlers, who were struck by the resemblance

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in the locality to their own native Rhineland, and the success attending this first attempt led to the whole of the hills and slopes around being transformed from rough wild bush into blooming vineyards, orchards, and gardens. The example of the Germans was followed by British settlers in this part of the colony, and an industry unknown twenty years ago now extends over a distance of one hundred and fifty miles along the banks of the Murray River, yielding abundant crops, and producing various wines known in the market as "Murray wines." From this original stock cuttings were transferred to Victoria, whilst in South Australia certain other enterprising settlers were introducing the varieties of plants derived from the wine districts of Spain, Portugal, and France, accompanied by foreign labour to superintend their growth. Both as regards variety of stock and of locality the vine, therefore, has been tolerably widely diffused, and only awaits the encouragement of the public to make it a substantial and remunerative industry, as in every probability it will hereafter become. Under the disadvantages attached to a modern culture in an article that has been matured in the greatest possible perfection in Europe, even at the present time the wines of Australia, comparatively speaking, show much promise. In character some closely resemble the Rhenish, while others approximate more to the finer description of white Portugal, and the old wines of the Rhine. Amongst the grapes that have been found by experience to produce the best white wines are the Riesling, which, although not a large bearer, is always a hardy vine, and the fruit is less liable to damage from wet before vintage than other kinds. The Verdeilho that produces a fine bouquet, the Aucarot, the Chasselas, a hardy plant, and the Pedro Ximenes. Amongst the red varieties preference is given to the Shiraz, Maalbec, Carbinet, Burgundy, and Roussillon.

The difficulties attending the first cultivation of the vine were far greater than in the case of any other natural product. There were difficulties in the choice of the soil, the kind of grape, the mode of planting, the making of the wine, its treatment and transport; and it must be borne in mind that although the colonies possess every variety of climate and soil obtainable in any of the wine producing countries, yet they have not been fully tested or even reviewed as to their capabilities. The vines best suited to each locality are yet by no means clearly ascertained, and the system of making wine must for some time longer be experimental. The earliest introduction of the vine took place about the year 1850, and statistics show that South Australia in 1871 possessed 6,131 acres of well-established vineyards under culture, in which 5,783,674 vines were bearing and 385,084 unbearing, and from which 801,694 gallons of wine were produced, and 8,584 cwts. of grapes sold. Next in order was Victoria, which had in 1872 5,523 acres under cultivation, in which were planted 9,671,292 vines, producing 713,609 gallons of wine and 30,896 cwts. of grapes. In the same year New South Wales possessed 4,152 acres, producing 413,321 gallons and 508 tons of grapes sold, besides 607 acres of vines unproductive. The whole extent of land occupied by the vine exceeds therefore 16,000 acres, and the production nearly approaches two million gallons. At the outset the prejudice in Australia against the home-grown wines was very great; but the consumption, which is principally colonial, has increased to such an extent that the article has a prominent place in every household, and far exceeds the ordinary imported wine. By acting as a check upon the use of ardent spirits, perceptible effects have been produced upon the morality of the people, particularly amongst the rising generation. Before the introduction of Australian wines, the majority in the colonies, especially the working classes, drank nothing but strong rum or brandy of inferior quality, and the effects of the unrestricted consumption of these liquids had become most demoralising. But owing to the resources possessed by the manufacture from the pure juice of the grape, a very sensible change for the better has taken place in the habits of all classes. The labourers now prefer colonial wine, which can be procured at a cheap rate, instead of bad spirits. The decrease in the imports of foreign wines shows clearly that similar preference has been given over the stronger fortified wines imported from Europe. The vine may therefore be regarded as a salutary instrument to further the rural progress and consequent prosperity of the great island-continent of Australia.

It is to be hoped that when the Australian wines become better known and more generally used that they may commend themselves to the British public. There is said to be something new in their flavour, not to be found in the strongly fortified kinds of Spain and Portugal, and the purity for which they are now condemned may cause them hereafter to be liked and appreciated. The success of the *vignerons* will depend upon their own appreciative faculties, and the awards of jurors, so far satisfactory, must be followed by the verdict of the great body of the consuming public. The high rate of alcoholic properties produced by the climate are found to hinder their importation into this country under the lower scale of duties accorded to the French clarets, and we should gladly welcome any adjustment that would foster these distant efforts at viticulture; but at the same time much might be urged upon the Australian colonists upon the subject of reciprocity in commercial tariffs.

FARMERS' POLITICS IN SCOTLAND.

At the Tarland show dinner Mr. M'Combie, M.P., said: I am certain every one here has the interest of the tenant-farmers at heart, and, as I only wish to speak on their behalf, I am sure that even those gentlemen who are on the opposite side of politics will favour me with a fair hearing. I trust it may not be out of place in a meeting of farmers whose interests are identical to make a few observations with regard to the past, and our present and our future prospects. In the few observations I should wish to make, I will make no difference as to the Liberal or Conservative interest. Neither shall I speak on any subject that had not the concurrence of the Conservative candidates at the last election, and the concurrence of my honourable opponent at the late contested election in West Aberdeenshire. A great number of our large landed proprietors supported Mr. Edward Ross, and are compromised to his utterances. I should be sorry to say one word as to their consistency, but in speaking a few words as to our common interests, to which the Conservative members pledged themselves at the late election, and on questions where we all agree, I trust my remarks will not be offensive to any one. Now it cannot be denied, and it is deeply to be regretted, that the late Government did less than nothing for the tenant-farmers. There is no doubt we were deeply injured, for it was to the Scotch counties they mainly owed their majority. Now, what was the result? The farmers at the late election resented the injustice, turned out the Liberals, and put in the Conservatives. The old Liberal members of the Scotch and English counties had generally to give place to Conservative candidates. The Conservatives are now in power, with an overwhelming majority at their backs. How have they redeemed their pledges? The Scotch Conservatives who turned out the Liberal members pledged themselves to repeal the Law of Hypothec, virtually to repeal the Game-laws, to give compensation for unexhausted

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improvements, and to abolish the gun and shepherds' dog-tax. The English farmers were promised repeal of the Malt-tax, security of tenure, and compensation for improvements. How have these solemn pledges been fulfilled? Not one of these measures has even got a hearing. We have got no redress for our grievances. But an influential member of the Conservative side of the House, professing to be a tenant-farmer and the tenant-farmer's friend, introduced a bill—the Rabbit Bill. I had nearly forgotten about it. It was just a new Game-law in disguise. The members of his own side of the House were so much ashamed of it, that after the few remarks I made in proposing that the bill be read a second time that day three months, which was so ably seconded by my friend Sir George Balfour; without further discussion the bill was withdrawn. And this is the only measure that has been brought before the House by the Conservatives for our relief. Now, as to Mr. Vans Agnew's Hypothec Bill. From week to week we found it on the paper, but as the session advanced it was always further down, and the last time there were twelve important measures before it. To do Mr. Vans Agnew justice, I do believe he wished to pass his bill, and at the beginning of the session he had strong hopes of it being carried, but a great opposition arose against it by a few influential Conservative members, and their influence prevailed, and the bill never even got a hearing. I know more about the postponement of the bill than it would be prudent to mention. I was deeply interested on the subject, and I do not blame Mr. Vans Agnew; but this I may say, that it was shelved by a few noisy agitators, who wish to give no concession to the farmers. But the tenant-farmers will continue to press their questions, and if they are resolute and firm they will, I feel sure, obtain from the country the justice which is due to them. The tenant-farmers will, I believe, be offered a sop, viz., the repeal of the gun-tax and the shepherds' dogs tax next session. But will the tenant-farmers accept of this sop? No. We will only take it as an instalment, but we will support the repeal of all such obnoxious taxes. The tenant-farmers were indebted to the right hon. gentleman, Mr. Lowe, for the gun-tax, the shepherds' dogs-tax, and many other good actions during his imperious reign. But it is my belief that, except compelled, the majority of the Government are not particularly anxious to redress our main grievances. The truth is we have been completely sold by the late Government, and still more egregiously by the present, for they pledged themselves more deeply than the former. Now I should wish to put it to the tenant-farmers, "How long are you disposed to allow the present state of matters to go on? Are you to sit down and rest on your oars under such injustice staring you in the face? If you do not bring your members to book during the recess for the gross injustice you have received at their hands, you are not the men I believe you to be. You have the matter in your own hands, and you will have yourselves to blame if you do not assert the influence of your position." I can safely say, speaking for the tenant-farmers of Scotland, that if the present Conservative members don't redeem their pledges—"it is as sure as death"—that at the first opportunity their services will be dispensed with. It is but justice to say that the farmers have a few friends in the Government, but they are puzzled and overweighted by other members of the Government, but the great farce has been principally played out by the wirepullers behind the curtain, who are determined to give no concessions that they can prevent to the tenant-farmers.

The Marquis of Huntly said the suggestions of Mr. M'Combie were such as every landlord should take specially to heart. He wished to say upon his own behalf, and he was certain on behalf of most of the landlords upon Deeside, that they would certainly freely give to the tenants the right they claim, if they would show that they were right. He went a great length with Mr. M'Combie, and was clearly of opinion thrt there were some things which the Legislature would do well to set right. There were gentlemen who differed from him, and some in a way that sometimes amused him. Of this stamp was the writer of a letter in the *Aberdeen Journal*, signing himself "Donside," who made several pointed references to himself a splaying off serated politics in the north. Without taking further notice of "Donside," he advised him to make himself master of his subject before he commenced writing about it. The writer dealt out a good deal of abuse on him (the Marquis) for naming the Enclosure Commissioners as unpractical people, and was evidently unaware that this present moment no landlord could move hand or foot without the Enclosure Commissioners of the Court of Session. Landed proprietors under the Law of Entail, who wished to do anything on their property and to charge the property a reasonable rate for it, cannot do so without going to the Enclosure Commissioners or the Court of Session, necessitating a long and expensive process.

At the New Deer cattle show dinner, Provost Leslie, proprietor of Nethermuir, said the constituency of Aberdeenshire were favoured with two most excellent members, who stood true to their colours and faithfully performed the promises which they made. The present company were, doubtless, better acquainted with Mr. Fordyce than he was, and knew well the attention he paid to his duties, while his kindness and urbanity to every one was of the most laudable nature. On questions affecting agriculture, Mr. Fordyce was in Parliament always to be found on the side of progress, and the speeches made and measures produced there spoke more forcibly of his worth than he could. Mr. M'Combie was a tried man, who had done very much to raise the character of Agriculture in Aberdeenshire. His name was not only well-known in this district, but in England and abroad, as a successful rearer of cattle, and he had helped more than many to advance that great interest upon which so much depended in Aberdeenshire, namely, the rearing of fat stock, which brought so much revenue into the country. In all Mr. M'Combie had done he had shown himself to be a good man and a true. Mr. M'Combie did not speak often, but always spoke with effect on subjects which he understood, and when he did speak he was listened to with attention from both sides of the House.

Mr Fordyce, M.P., spoke in high terms of M'Combie's worth, both as a Member of Parliament and a colleague. The past session has been exceeding devoid of interest when looked at from an agricultural standpoint; and from his own experience of the present Parliament, he thought that the tenant farmers of Scotland had very little to expect from it. They might possibly find that collie dogs might be exempted from taxation, and that the occupiers of land would be allowed to destroy wood pigeons and crows free from the necessity of taking out the gun licence, but as for any thorough revision of the Game-laws and land-laws, he feared they would look in vain. For himself he expected more from the gradual formation of public opinion and its influences upon the minds of the landowners, apart from legislation. He had read with great interest the discussion in the Chamber of Agriculture, and the report upon leases of Patrick Murray, of Ochtertyre. It seemed to him that the terms of these leases furnished a good basis for securing the tenant farmers of Scotland in the benefit of the capital which they put into the soil, apart from legislation. He was of opinion that if this suggestion was carried out by the landowners, the land question would be practically settled. Unless the law of entail was abolished such form of lease would be inoperative in many cases, because many proprietors could not afford to pay large sums for improvement. He meant, however always to urge upon the members of the Government the necessity of having the law of entail abolished. The bill which he and Mr. M'Combie had brought before Parliament this year and which, like many more bills, had to be withdrawn, he had good reason to believe that if it had gone on he would have received the support of the majority of the Scotch members. It seemed surely a reasonable proposition, and very moderate, that where the tenant had to build additional houses for his accommodation, if he did not get compensation for them at the end of the lease, he should be allowed to remove the material; and that where labourers' cottages did not exist for every 100 acres of land cultivated, and where the tenant supplied the deficiency, he should be allowed for every cottage found suitable by the Sheriff of the county, £100 of compensation. These propositions were embodied in his bill, and he thought they were not only fair and just, but very moderate. If anyone cared to read the evidence of Mr. Caird he would find that that gentleman was much dissatisfied with the labourers' cottage accommodation, and brought forward the fact that on two-thirds of the farms in Scotland the working classes were living in houses deficient of the requisites of decency and comfort. Such statements were to a great extent the means of inducing him to bring in the bill, and he intended to pay away at it till he got it carried through. It had been said that when bills were first brought into Parliament they were laughed at, secondly they were abused, and thirdly carried. He thought his bill had passed the first stage at least.

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THE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF IRELAND, FOR 1874.

TO HIS GRACE JAMES, THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G., LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—I had the honour of submitting, on the 31st ultimo, a return by counties of the acreage under flax in the years 1873 and 1874, with the number of scutching mills in 1873. I now beg to submit the usual general abstracts, which give, as usual, by counties and provinces, the entire area under each description of crop; also the total number of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs, and their estimated value. The collection of the Agricultural Statistics, which commenced on the 1st of June, occupied about two months. The enumerators, of whom nearly 3,800 were employed, were selected from the Royal Irish Constabulary and Metropolitan Police, and, I need scarcely observe, discharged their duty with their usual efficiency. The various holdings, which amount in all to about 600,000, were visited by them, and the names of the several parties from whom the particulars of tillage and live stock for each holding were obtained, are noted on the returns, with a view to further inquiry in any case, should it be found necessary. Your Grace is aware that the information given to the enumerators is altogether voluntary; and I feel assured it will afford pleasure to your Grace to learn, as, I beg to say, it is most gratifying to have it in my power to state, that so far as I am informed by the officers who acted as superintendents of districts, the returns have been collected without difficulty—a fact highly creditable to the good feeling and intelligence of all ranks and classes connected with land in this country. In all Ireland there was this year only one refusal to give the required information reported by the enumerators; but on my writing to the party, and sending him blank forms for tillage and stock, as I have for many years been in the habit of doing in similar cases, I in a few days received the returns filled up, together with a very courteous reply. The abstracts have been carefully compiled from summaries made by the enumerators for their respective districts. They may differ in some degree from the revised figures which will be hereafter published; but I do not apprehend that any changes of importance will become necessary.

	Acres.
The total acreage under all crops this year was	5,267,839
Ditto in 1873 (revised numbers)	5,270,746
Showing a *decrease* in the extent under crops in 1874 of	2,907

The crops which *increased* in extent this year are—

		Acres.	Acres.
Cereals	Wheat	21,157	21,796
	Bere and rye	639	
Green crops	Mangel and beet-root	65	8,119
	Cabbage	4,930	
	Carrots, parsnips, and other green crops	3,124	
	Meadow and clover		67,835
	Total *increase* on the foregoing crops		97,750

The crops which *decreased* in acreage in 1874 are—

		Acres.	Acres.
Cereals	Oats	30,786	51,026
	Barley	18,769	
	Beans and peas	1,471	
Green crops	Potatoes	10,841	27,220
	Turnips	14,361	
	Vetches and rape	2,018	
	Total *decrease* in the foregoing crops		100,657
	Making a net *decrease* in the area under all crops of		2,907

It appears from the foregoing summaries that, compared with 1873, wheat shows an increase of 21,157 acres, bere and rye of 639 acres, mangel and beet-root of 65 acres, cabbage 4,930 acres, carrots, parsnips, and other green crops of 3,124 acres, and meadow and clover 67,835 acres.

In oats there is a decrease of 30,786 acres, barley of 18,769 acres, beans and peas of 1,471 acres, potatoes of 10,841 acres, turnips of 14,361 acres, vetches and rape of 2,018 acres, and flax of 22,411 acres.

ABSTRACT OF GREEN CROPS.

	1873.	1874.	Increase in 1874.	Decrease in 1874.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat	167,554	188,711	21,157	—
Oats	1,510,972	1,480,186	—	30,786
Barley	230,115	211,346	—	18,769
Bere and rye	9,224	9,863	639	—
Beans and peas	12,873	11,402	—	1,471
Total	1,930,738	1,901,508	—	29,230

Decrease in cereal crops in 1874 ..... 29,230 acres

ABSTRACT OF GREEN CROPS.

—	1873.	1874.	Increase in 1874.	Decrs. in 1874.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Potatoes	903,262	892,421	—	10,841
Turnips	347,848	333,487	—	14,361
Mangel Wurzel & Beet Root	38,231	38,296	65	—
Cabbage	28,115	33,045	4,930	—
Carrots, Parsnips, and other Green Crops	31,590	34,714	3,124	—
Vetches and Rape	23,417	21,399	—	2,018
Total	1,372,463	1,353,362	—	19,101

Decrease in Green Crops 1874.....19,101 Acres.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF CEREAL AND GREEN CROPS, &c.

Decrease in Cereal Crops	in 1874	29,230	70,742
Do. Green Crops	in do.	19,101	
Do. Flax	in do.	22,411	
Increase in Meadow and Clover	in do.		67,835
Total decrease in the extent of Land under Crops in 1874			2,907

The total extent under Crops, Grass, Fallow, Woods, and Plantations, and of Bog and Waste unoccupied, in 1873 and 1874, is given by Provinces in the following Table:

PROVINCES.		Extent under Crops.	Grass.	Fallow.	Woods and Plantations.	Bog and Waste unoccupied.	Total.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
LEINSTER	1873	1,471,860	2,637,235	5,756	101,128	621,942	4,837,921
	1874	1,466,316	2,636,474	4,409	101,142	629,580	
MUNSTER	1873	1,266,781	3,400,717	3,811	109,771	1,153,709	5,934,789
	1874	1,272,004	3,423,863	2,365	109,253	1,127,304	
ULSTER	1873	1,810,968	2,253,574	3,133	61,774	1,190,338	5,319,787
	1874	1,812,466	2,229,673	3,635	60,358	1,151,655	
CONNAUGHT	1873	721,137	2,122,464	754	50,983	1,337,858	4,233,196
	1874	717,053	2,120,151	1,778	52,132	1,342,082	
TOTAL	1873	5,270,746	10,413,990	13,454	323,656	4,303,847	20,325,693*
	1874	5,267,839	10,472,161	12,187	322,885	4,250,621	

* Exclusive of the larger Rivers, Lakes, and Tideways.

The acreage under the head of "Bog and Waste unoccupied," had not any Live Stock on it at the period of the enumeration.

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The area under the several Crops in each year from 1870 to 1874 inclusive was as under:

Crops.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat	259846	244451	225794	167554	188711
Oats	1650039	1636136	1624711	1510972	1480186
Barley	241285	220979	219013	230115	211346
Bere and Rye	11797	11555	9975	9224	9863
Beans and Peas	10689	10913	11821	12873	11402
Potatoes	1013583	1058434	991871	903262	892421
Turnips	339059	327035	346711	347848	333487
Mangel and Beet Root	25400	31921	34832	38231	38296
Cabbage	34979	33008	39452	28115	33045
Carrots, Parsnips, and other Green Crops	27712	29869	31196	31590	34714
Vetches and Rape	27990	31422	30172	23417	21399
Flax	194910	156670	121992	129297	106886
Meadow and Clover	1773851	1829044	1800273	1834248	1906083

Returns of Live Stock.

It appears from the following Table that the Returns of Live Stock for 1874 when compared with 1873 show a decrease in the number of Horses of 6,677, in Cattle of 28,989, and in Sheep of 46,907; and an increase of Pigs amounting to 52,040.

The following are the numbers of Live Stock for each year from 1864 to 1874, inclusive:

Years.	No. of horses.	No. of cattle.	No. of sheep.	No. of pigs.
1864	562,158	3,262,294	3,366,941	1,058,480
1865	548,339	3,497,548	3,694,356	1,305,953
1866	535,799	3,746,157	4,274,282	1,497,274
1867	524,180	3,707,803	4,835,519	1,235,191
1868	524,703	3,616,796	4,901,496	869,578
1869	528,201	3,733,675	4,651,195	1,062,224
1870	532,657	3,799,912	4,336,884	1,461,215
1871	538,095	3,976,372	4,233,435	1,621,423
1872	540,974	4,059,397	4,263,254	1,388,571
1873	532,447	4,147,102	4,484,520	1,044,454
1874	525,770	4,118,113	4,437,613	1,096,494
Difference in Numbers beetwen 1873 and 1874	Decrs. 6,677	Decrs. 28,989	Decrs. 46,907	Incrs. 52,040

The total estimated value of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs this year, is £37,225,887, being a decrease of £228,392 when compared with 1873, as appears from the following Table:

Estimated Value of Live Stock in Ireland in each Year from 1864 to 1874, inclusive, calculated according to the rates assumed by the Census Commissioners of 1841—viz.: For Horses, £8 each; Cattle, £6 10s.; Sheep, 22s.; and Pigs, 25s. each. [These rates have been retained since 1841, in order to facilitate a comparison of the value—one year with another. A per-centage may be added by any one at pleasure on account of the increased value of live stock since that period.]

Years.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£	£
1864	4497264	21204911	3703635	1323100	30728910
1865	4386712	22734062	4063792	1632441	32817007
1866	4286392	24350020	4701710	1871593	35157219
1867	4193440	24100719	5319071	1543989	34380416
1868	4197624	23704174	5361646	1086972	34380416
1869	4225608	24268888	5116314	1352780	34963590
1870	4261256	24699428	4770572	1826519	35557775
1871	4304760	25846418	4656779	2026779	36834736
1872	4327792	26386081	4689579	1735714	37139166
1873	4259576	26956163	4932972	1305568	37454279
1874	4206160	26767735	4891374	1370618	37225887
Difference in value between 1873 and 1874	Decrease. £53416	Dec. £188428	Dec. £51598	Inc. £65050	Dec. £228392

Scutching Mills.—The number of mills for scutching flax in each province, in 1873, was—In Ulster, 1,335; Leinster, 29; Munster, 33; Connaught, 30 making in all 1,427.

Emigration.—In the first six months of 1873 the returns of emigrants from the several ports of Ireland show that 60,140 persons left this country. The number for the same period in 1874 was 45,781, being a decrease of 14,359 persons in the first half of this year.

Number of Irish Emigrants from each Province during the first six months of 1873 and 1874, and the Increase or Decrease in the latter Year, compiled from Returns obtained by the Constabulary, who acted as Enumerators at the several Irish Ports.

Months.	Provinces. Leinster. 1873.	Leinster. 1874.	Leinster. Increase.	Leinster. Decrease.	Munster. 1873.	Munster. 1874.	Munster. Increase.	Munster. Decrease.	Ulster. 1873.	Ulster. 1874.	Ulster. Increase.	Ulster. Decrease.	Connaught. 1873.	Connaught. 1874.	Connaught. Increase.	Connaught. Decrease.	From what Province not stated. 1873.	From what Province not stated. 1874.	From what Province not stated. Increase.	From what Province not stated. Decrease.	Ireland. 1873.	Ireland. 1874.	Ireland. Increase.	Ireland. Decrease.
Jan.	300	217	...	83	339	380	41	...	1,477	1,981	504	...	152	151	...	1	1	3	2	...	2,269	2,732	463	...
Feb.	452	294	...	158	462	1,123	661	...	1,318	1,629	316	...	329	224	...	105	4	...	...	4	2,560	3,270	710	...
Mar.	1,610	755	...	855	1,626	1,532	...	94	3,077	2,435	...	642	1,578	740	...	838	6	...	...	6	7,897	5,462	...	2,435
Apr.	3,775	1,579	...	2,196	5,102	3,888	...	1,214	5,790	3,441	...	2,349	4,599	2,048	...	2,551	...	9	9	...	19,266	10,965	...	8,301
May	4,065	2,900	...	1,165	5,172	5,440	268	...	5,809	4,556	...	1,343	3,693	2,687	...	1,006	27	1	...	26	18,356	15,584	...	3,272
June	1,894	1,369	...	455	2,604	2,518	...	86	3,212	2,894	...	318	1,622	985	...	637	30	2	...	28	9,292	7,768	...	1,524
Total	13,086	7,114	...	4,012	15,305	14,881	...	424	20,768	16,936	...	3,832	11,973	6,835	...	5,138	68	15	...	53	60,140	45,781	...	14,359

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The entire number of emigrants *(Irish)* from Ireland, from 1st May, 1851—the period when the Enumeration commenced—to the 30th June last, was 2,298,526, of whom 1,228,863 were males, and 1,069,663 were females.

LABOURERS' DWELLINGS.—It is impossible, both on social and sanitary grounds, to exaggerate the importance of improving the dwellings of the labouring classes in Ireland; the Legislature has enabled the Treasury to grant loans for this most desirable object through the medium of the Board of Public Works, Dublin. According to the census of 1871, the number of fourth-class houses in Ireland, most of which had only one room for the entire family of every age and sex, was ascertained to be very considerable, and in these were living nearly half a million of persons.

WEEDS.—Although very great improvement in the breeds and value of every description of farm stock has been effected in Ireland, it must be admitted that a corresponding improvement has not taken place in the cultivation of the land. On several occasions I have felt it my duty to solicit public attention to the incalculable injury arising from the unchecked growth of weeds which is, unhappily, permitted in almost every part of the country, and also along the sides of roads, railways, and canals. On this subject I have now given extracts from former abstracts containing valuable information from the writings of Sir John Sinclair and other eminent persons, which I trust will prove useful to those engaged in the cultivation of land. I have also appended some extracts respecting the vast injury and great pecuniary loss (estimated at nearly two millions sterling) caused by weeds in Ireland from that valuable publication, the "Leisure Hour," in its number for May and June of last year, together with two articles on the subject which appeared in the "Freeman's Journal." At the annual meeting in 1872 of the Royal Agricultural Society in Belfast, the noble President, Lord Lurgan, K.P., referred to "the necessity of acting on the suggestions thrown out in the reports of the Registrar-General in relation to the extirpation of weeds. They did a deal of mischief, and he thought they should carry out the sentence which the old Scotch law pronounced, declaring anyone to be a traitor who poisoned the queen's land with weeds."

I again beg to repeat my respectful acknowledgments to the landed proprietors, tenant-farmers, the clergy of all denominations, and to the public press in Ireland, for a continuance of the same generous and valuable assistance which I have now for so many years experienced in connexion with these statistics. I have the honour to be your Grace's very faithful servant, WILLIAM DONNELLY, Registrar-General.

General Register Office, Charlemont House, Dublin, 14th August, 1874.

A HONEY YEAR.—1874 will be better for honey than any of the six preceding years. March and the first half of April were very unfavourable for bees in this part of the country; also the whole of May. This, together with the weak state of the hives, made swarming late generally. In June the weather took a more favourable turn for bees, which have been doing moderately well ever since. From a bee-keeping point of view, rain is much wanted in this locality; we have had one shower only for many months, and that shower did not penetrate more than three inches deep. Here we have a thin peaty soil resting on twelve or fifteen feet of white sand and gravel. Hence the fields are parched, and white clover is not yielding honey so plentifully as it usually does in similar hot weather. On heavier land, where clover is more plentiful, bees are doing better. Still, all are moving onwards; swarms are filling their hives, and old stocks that yielded them are now pretty well filled with honey. We have turned out a lot of ours from which we get about 20lbs. per hive of excellent honey. Though honey-dew appeared on sycamore and oak trees, the bees fortunately did not touch it this year. I am encouraged to believe that the honey harvest will generally be large throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Apiarians should take notes of observations and results, and send them to the editors. The practical work of the bee-master is now to prevent swarming, by giving his bees room enough in ekes, supers, and nadirs.—*Journal of Horticulture.*

THE GROWTH OF FLAX IN IRELAND.

RETURN, showing, in Statute Acres, the Extent under Flax in each County and Province in 1873 and 1874, compiled from Information obtained by the Royal Irish Constabulary and Metropolitan Police, who act as Enumerators; also the number of Scutching Mills in each County and Province in 1873.

COUNTIES AND PROVINCES.	Extent of Land under Flax.		Difference between 1873 and 1874.		Number of Scutching Mills in 1873.
	1873.	1874.	Increase.	Decrease.	
ULSTER.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Antrim	11,749	9,182	—	2,567	157
Armagh	9,692	7,907	—	1,785	123
Cavan	7,235	5,741	—	1,494	34
Donegal	14,496	11,417	—	3,079	273
Down	27,093	22,367	—	4,726	249
Fermanagh	3,454	2,526	—	928	28
Londonderry	18,769	17,366	—	1,403	197
Monaghan	11,557	8,691	—	2,866	65
Tyrone	19,270	17,592	—	1,678	209
Total of Ulster	123,315	102,789	Decrease, 20,526		1,335
MUNSTER.					
Clare	253	267	14	—	2
Cork	993	720	—	273	23
Kerry	296	246	—	50	2
Limerick	42	41	—	1	—
Tipperary	15	9	—	6	5
Waterford	3	1	—	2	1
Total of Munster	1,602	1,284	Decrease, 318		33
LEINSTER.					
Carlow	6	1	—	5	1
Dublin	—	—	—	—	—
Kildare	1	1	—	—	—
Kilkenny	5	4	—	1	—
King's	30	26	—	4	2
Longford	546	379	—	167	3
Louth	1,012	588	—	424	7
Meath	230	56	—	174	8
Queen's	1	1	—	—	2
Westmeath	54	43	—	11	2
Wexford	20	9	—	11	4
Wicklow	—	5	5	—	—
Total of Leinster	1,905	1,113	Decrease, 792		29
CONNAUGHT.					
Galway	103	44	—	59	4
Leitrim	460	382	—	78	6
Mayo	1,132	839	—	293	9
Roscommon	272	119	—	153	6
Sligo	508	316	—	192	5
Total of Connaught	2,475	1700	Decrease, 775		30

	1873. Acres.	1874. Acres.
Total Acreage under Flax in Ireland in 1873 and 1874	129,297	106,886
Total Decrease in 1874		22,411
Total number of Scutching Mills in Ireland in 1873		1,427

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Total Extent of Flax grown in Ireland in each of the following years:

	Acres.		Acres.
1851	140,536	1863	214,099
1852	137,008	1864	301,693
1853	174,579	1865	251,433
1854	151,403	1866	263,507
1855	97,075	1867	253,257
1856	106,311	1868	206,483
1857	97,721	1869	229,252
1858	91,646	1870	194,910
1859	136,282	1871	156,670
1860	128,595	1872	121,992
1861	147,957	1873	129,297
1862	150,070	1874	106,886

The foregoing Return—which exhibits a Decrease of 22,411 acres in the total area under Flax in Ireland in 1874, compared with 1873—is published, as in previous years, in anticipation of the General Abstracts of Tillage and Live Stock. In the Province of Ulster alone the decrease is 20,526 acres. Of the entire number (1,427) of Scutching Mills in 1873, 1,335 were in Ulster, 29 in Leinster, 33 in Munster, and 30 in Connaught. I do not apprehend that any important difference will be found in the acreage under Flax given above, and that which will appear in the Tables of the General Abstracts, which are now being compiled, and will soon be published; they will give the acreage under the various crops, and also the number of Live Stock, by Counties and Provinces.

General Register Office, Dublin, 31st July, 1874. WILLIAM DONNELLY, Registrar-General.

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY IN SCOTLAND.

A special meeting of the Local Authority for Aberdeenshire, under the Contagious Diseases Animals' Act, was held in Aberdeen, Sheriff Comrie Thomson, presiding.

The report from the Inspector of the County, with reference to the present state of pleuro-pneumonia, was read as follows:

Aberdeen, 12th August, 1874.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—Since my last detailed report on 10th April last, I regret to say that there has been 22 new outbreaks of pleuro-pneumonia. The following are the particulars of each of these outbreaks, so far as they are known to me: Pleure-pneumonia was declared to exist amongst the stock of Mrs. John Walker, Blackpots, Old Deer, on the 11th April. The stock consisted of 63 animals, 38 of which have become affected and been slaughtered. The last case occurred on 7th July, and the place has now been cleansed and disinfected. Mrs. Walker purchased a lot of Irish cattle in the month of January last, and there is little doubt but that they brought the disease along with them. That a great number of the animals on this farm became affected is to be attributed to the fact that a severe attack of foot-and-mouth disease broke out at the same time; free communication beween the byres also assisted to spread the disease. On 28th April, pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist amongst a lot of dairy cows belonging to Alex. Singer, South Denmore, Oldmachar. The stock consisted of 14 animals, 12 of which have become affected and been slaughtered. The last case occurred on 21st July. The owner purchased two cows from John Duncan, cattle salesman, Aberdeen, about the beginning of April, one of which became affected first. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared lo exist at North Murcar, Oldmachar, occupied by Mrs. Beattie, on 28th April. The stock consisted of 9 animals, 3 of which have been slaughtered. The last case occured on 16th July. The farm adjoins South Murcar where disease previously existed, and unless the animals on the two places came in contact, the cause of this outbreak is not apparent. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist amongst the stock of Robert Wilson, Lethenty, Tullynessle, on 23rd June. The stock consisted of 43 animals, 8 of which have become affected and been slaughtered. The last case occurred on 22nd July. Mr. Wilson purchased some English cattle from William Gordon, cattle dealer, Aberdeen, on 17th October last, and disease first showed itself in one of them. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist at Upper Cairnfield, Oldmachar, occupied by William Cruickshank, on 27th May. The whole of the animals (4 in number) have been slaughtered, and the place thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The owner purchased a cow from John Duncan, Aberdeen, on 4th April, which became first affected. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist amongst a lot of 6 one-year-old Irish stirks belonging to James Leys, South Meanecht, on 2nd June. Four animals have become affected, and been slaughtered. The owner purchased the cattle from John Duncan, Aberdeen, about 20th April, and they no doubt give rise to this outbreak. The last attack occurred on 16th July. James Hay, Little Ythsie, Tarves, purchased a cow from Wm. Wood, cattle dealer, Newmachar, on 28th May, which was killed and found to be affected, on the 3rd June. She had not mixed with the rest of the cattle, and no more cases occurred. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist amongst the stock of Alexander Murray, Nethermill, Cruden, on 4th June. There were 61 animals on the farm, six of which have been slaughtered. The last attack occurred on 29th June. Mr. Murray purchased seven Orkney cattle from John Duncan, Aberdeen, on 23nd April, and they have been the only animals affected. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist at Berryhill amongst a lot of twelve Irish cattle belonging to John Hunter, brewer, Peterhead, on 9th June. Mr. Hunter purchased the lot in an Ellon market on 2nd March. They were kept for some time at his farm of Damhead until put out to grass at Berryhill. Five of the animals have become affected and been slaughtered. The last attack occurred on the 11th July. The disease manifested itself at the same time in a cow belonging to William Alexander, Springhill, Peterhead, which had been brought from the farm of Damhead on the 28th of May, and had been in contact with the Irish cattle above alluded to. No more cases have occurred at Springhill. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist amongst the stock of Thomas Findlay, auctioneer and cattle dealer, Peterhead, on the 11th June. The owner had placed eight cattle on turnips at the farm of Annieswells, Old Deer, and had removed them on the 25th May to a grass field at Little Kirkhill, where they became affected. Two animals became affected, and have been slaughtered. The last attack occurred on 18th June. In consequence of disease appearing amongst Mr. Findlay's cattle, after having been removed so recently from Annieswells, I examined the stock on this farm, belonging to John Mitchell. I made a *post-mortem* examination of a calf which had died on the 26th of May, and found undoubted evidence of the disease. The owner states that he lost two calves in the end of April, both of which he is now convinced were affected with pleuro-pneumonia. Five animals have become affected, and been slaughtered. The last attack occurred on 7th July. Mr. Mitchell has lost a number of calves at intervals, and these were principally purchased from Mr. Anderson, Clochcan, Old Deer, who imports large numbers from the south. There is little doubt but that disease has been brought to this farm by one or other of those imported calves. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist among the stock of Charles Watt, Meikle, Balthangie, Monquhitter, on 23rd June. There were 28 animals. Five became affected, and have been slaughtered. The last attack occurred on 23rd July. The owner purchased an ox in Cuminestown fair about the 30th April from James Carmichael, cattle dealer, Keith. It died about the 6th of June. I examined the lungs, and found that the ox had been affected with the disease. One of two cows belonging to William M'William, crofter, Gethardams, Tullynessle, became affected on 24th June, and was slaughtered. The other cow and a calf, being the whole stock on the croft, remain healthy. The owner, who is grieve to Robert Wilson, Lethenty, had taken the cow from that farm about six weeks previous to the outbreak. The disease was declared to exist at Wester Kinglesser, Fraserburgh, occupied by John Oliphant, on 6th July. The stock consisted of 20 cattle, 4 of which have been slaughtered while suffering from the disease. The last attack occurred on 1st August. The owner purchased two cows at a sale of cattle belonging to John Smith, Fraserburgh, about 20th February; one of these cows was the first to become affected. I examined a cow belonging to George Elmslie, crofter, Hill of Cotburn, Turriff, on the 7th July, found her affected, and ordered her slaughter. James

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Carmichael, cattle dealer, Keith, sold an ox in a Turriff market, about 13th May, to Alex. Thom, crofter, Litterty, Monquhitter, who resold the animal on the 27th May to George Elmslie. The animal died, but the true nature of the disease was not ascertained till the cow became affected. A cow, the only animal on the place, belonging to James Henry, crofter, Davishill, Foveran, was found affected on 14th July, and was slaughtered. The cow was purchased from William Wood, cattle dealer, Newmachar, on the 1st May. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist among the stock of Andrew Cowieson, Millseat, King Edward, on the 17th July. He purchased an ox in a Turriff market about 13th May, from James Carmichael, cattle dealer, Keith, and there is little doubt the ox brought the disease to this farm. There were 27 animals on the farm, one of which has become affected and been slaughtered. Pleuro-pneumonia broke out among the stock of James M'Kessor, Percyhorner, Fraserburgh, on 18th July. The stock consisted of 25 animals, 4 of which have become affected and been slaughtered. The owner purchased a cow from John Mowatt, Moss of Cardno, Fraserburgh, on the 20th of April. Mowatt was a purchaser of cattle at the same sale of stock in Fraserburgh, at which John Oliphant, above mentioned, bought, and it is therefore not unlikely that the disease has been brought to this place by the cow. Pleuro-pneumonia was declared to exist at Braeside of Kinmundy, Skene, occupied by John Henderson, on 6th August. The stock numbers 34, one of which has become affected and been slaughtered. The owner had a calf which died on 15th July, and affected in the lungs. I have not yet ascertained the cause of this outbreak. I visited Abbotshaugh, parish of Monquhitter, occupied by Walter Allan, on the 19th instant, and found 2 cows affected. One calf, 7 months old, died about the end of May, and the owner is now convinced it also was affected with pleuro. I have not ascertained particulars as to the cause of this outbreak. Yesterday I examined 12 cattle belonging to James Carmichael, cattle dealer, Keith, which are in one of the Castle Parks at Huntley, and found one of them affected with pleuro. The owner had removed the animals about the middle of May from the farm of Colleonard, Banffshire, where disease was afterwards found to exist. I have before reported that I consider 30 days after the last case too limited a period during which an infected place should be under the restrictions of the Act. And you have more than once memorialised the Privy Council on the subject. I am still convinced that a considerable extension of the period is absolutely necessary before we can effectually deal with the disease; and I hope you will again urge upon the Privy Council the expediency of increasing it to 60 days at least. In many cases I find that cattle have been removed from an infected place shortly before the declaration of disease. I am of opinion that Local Authorities should be authorised, if the removal has taken place within 30 days prior to the discovery of disease, to put the places to which cattle have been removed also under restrictions.

I am, my lords and gentleman, your obedient servant,

JAMES THOMSON.

The following communication from the Clerk to the Banffshire Local Authority was read: In consequence of the prevalence of pleuro-pneumonia in this county, the Local Authority under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1869, met and passed an order prohibiting the holding of cattle markets within the county for the next month. And I was instructed to forward a copy thereof to you, in the hope that your Local Authority would issue an order to prohibit the holding cattle markets at Turriff, as disease exists in that district. I send herewith a print of the order. I also, by desire of the meeting, send you a copy of the memorial to the Privy Council, which explains itself; and will be glad to know if the Local Authority of your county will make any representation.

Mr. THOMSON, the Inspector, at the request of the Chairman, gave his opinion on the question of whether it was of much practical use to stop the cattle markets. As long as the sales of dealers were allowed to go on he did not see that the suspension of the ordinary markets would produce much good in the way of stopping the spread of the disease. It was well known that it was at these sales and auctions that the disease was spread, where parties could easily get their beasts put up for sale without their own names becoming known as the sellers.

Mr. BARCLAY, M.P.: I am sure we all sympathise very much with the Local Authority of Banffshire in their anxiety to take measures to limit and exterminate pleuro-pneumonia, which, I believe, in certain respects, is a more troublesome and dangerous disease to deal with than cattle plague. We are all very glad to see the vigilance which is being exercised by the people in Banffshire, for, although they have always been ready to deal vigorously in checking the disease, as much cannot be said for other Local Authorities elsewhere. We are also all very anxious, I am sure, as well on our own behalf as that of the people of Banffshire, to take any measure which promises to be effective in preventing the spread of disease; but I think it incumbent upon us, before taking steps which will certainly give inconvenience to many, to satisfy ourselves that the restrictions contemplated will really have a tendency, or are calculated to produce results preventing the spread of the disease. In our experience in Aberdeenshire, we have found, and I think the Inspector will bear me out in saying so, that the disease has been introduced into and spread in the county, not so much by local markets as by English or Irish cattle introduced directly to the county, or by the public sales of dealers which periodically take place in various districts. No doubt cattle imported into the county are exposed in the local markets, but to prevent the holding of these markets would be to encourage these local dealers' sales, which have been the great means of spreading the disease in this county. Were this a proposal to prohibit the import of cattle from the south—say Irish and English cattle—I am quite of opinion that such a measure would have great effect, coupled with a vigorous treatment of the existing cases within the county, in exterminating the disease, but I do not say that, looking to the very serious inconveniences that would arise, I am prepared to advocate or support such a proposal. Before the House of Commons' Committee last year, it was conclusively proved that pleuro-pneumonia could not be communicated by any external matter; that attempts to communicate the disease from one animal to another by inoculating with diseased lung—by introducing parts of the diseased lung into the nostrils—or by any other extreme measures that could be devised, had entirely failed. The only exception was the evidence of Mr. Gamgee, who stated that in one case he had succeeded in communicating the disease. But the Committee from the evidence laid before them by all the leading authorities arrived at the conclusion, without any doubt, that pleuro-pneumonia could only be communicated by the live animal to the live animal, and with the death of an animal affected with pleuro-pneumonia all risk of infection ceased. If, therefore, the Local Authority in Banffshire took care—and I have no doubt they will take care—to prevent animals being removed from farms where disease exists, that is, with the present powers which Local Authorities possessed, the only really effective measure which could be adopted. But I do not believe that the stoppage of the markets would produce any material result in the direction they hope, and would cause very serious inconvenience, not only to the cattle trade, but to other agricultural business. I think it would be unfortunate to cause inconvenience unless there was reason to believe that advantages would arise from the restrictions, because when the county was subjected to restrictions which were of no use, it made people impatient and unwilling to submit to such restrictions as the Local Authority might afterwards come to see would really be of benefit, and likely to prevent the further spread of the disease. I therefore propose that we should express our regret that we cannot comply with the request of the Local Authority for Banffshire, and that we do not see it expedient at present to prohibit Turriff markets.

Mr. H. L. L. MORRISON, of Blair, seconded.

The CHAIRMAN concurred entirely with what Mr. Barclay had said in regard to the matter. The Banffshire Local Authority had ever since the Act had been passed, been anxious to carry it out, and they had never had to complain of that Local Authority, as they had of others. He therefore came to the consideration of this memorial with the feeling that unless some good reason could be shown to the contrary they should accede to the suggestions it contained, and adopt the course they had taken in Banffshire. Although he had not the practical knowledge of some on this question, yet his own observation—and he had made it his business to observe the matter closely—concurred with the views of the inspector and Mr. Barclay, and he believed they need not at present take

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the very strong step of putting a stop to the ordinary local cattle markets.

The motion proposed by Mr. Barclay was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the reference in the memorial from Banffshire, and in their own report, of the extension of time from thirty days to sixty or ninety days. He had no hesitation in saying that they entirely concurred with the views of the Banffshire Local Authority on that subject. The Aberdeenshire Local Authority had for years repeatedly memorialised the Privy Council on the subject, and they could have no hesitation now in expressing concurrence with the Banffshire Local Authority; at the same time, however, bearing in mind that it was the House of Commons and the Government thay had to memorialise, and not the Privy Council, as the point involved an alteration in the Act of Parliament, and not a mere Order in Council.

Mr. BARCLAY: It occurs to me that the most direct way for the people of Banffshire to give effect to their views on the amendment of cattle legislation would be to submit their suggestion to the Duke of Richmond, who is a large landed proprietor in the county, and who is at the head of the veterinary department of the Government. Formerly the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Forster, had charge of this department, but when the subject was before the House of Commons, Lord Sandon, the present Vice-President of the Council, informed me that he did not know anything regarding the veterinary department, which the Duke of Richmond had taken under his control. If the local authority for Banffshire then can satisfy the Duke of Richmond as to the expediency of the change they suggest, that will be the direct way to the amendment of the law, for the Government would doubtless give effect to and support any measure which the Duke would recommend in a department under his own charge; and as regards the proposal to extend the period from thirty to sixty days during which cattle should not be removed from a place where pleuro-pneumonia existed, the committee of the House of Commons was unanimous in recommending that change.

On the suggestion of the chairman, a committee was appointed, consisting of the following gentlemen: Colonel Innes of Learney; Mr. Barclay, M.P.; Mr. Cochrane, Little Haddo; Mr. M'Combie, M.P.; and Mr. Scott, Glendronach; and Sheriff Thomson, to confer with the committees that might be appointed by the counties of Banff and Moray, for the purpose of making representations to the Duke of Richmond by deputation and otherwise.

A communication from the Elginshire local authority, in reference to a letter from the Queen's Remembrancer, requesting that payment be made of a moiety of the penalties that had been recovered in prosecutions under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1869, was read. The chairman pointed out that, according to this Act, one-half of the penalties recovered fell to the Crown, but hitherto this had not been paid. The Elginshire authority wished them to join in a representation that this claim might be departed from, as the counties had been at considerable expense with regard to the matter, and to this suggestion he supposed there would be no objection. From their own accounts, it appeared that £155 had been paid for the prosecutions, and only £61 penalties recovered. It was agreed to concur with the Elginshire authority in any action they might take on the matter.

SCOTCH GAME CASE.

In the Justice of Peace Court at Forfar—Bailie Grant on the bench—the case of Major Lyon, of Ballintore, Forfarshire, against James M'Nicoll, jun., farmer, Wester Ballintore, was disposed of. The question involved was, whether the son of a tenant-farmer can go upon the uncultivated portion of the land of which his father has the right of pasturage and shoot rabbits.

Wm. Lindsay, gamekeeper, Ballintore, said, on evidence, that three or four years ago respondent commenced to shoot rabbits, and three years ago went on to the muir. Latterly he went to the hill pasture. Witness found respondent's son there, with his gun and dog, and often remonstrated with him for disturbing the game. On 17th July last saw him on the hill in question, which did not form part of the arable land. There were rabbits there. He fired several shots. There were also hares and grouse there. He killed two rabbits. He did not see the dog on the first occasion. When witness remonstrated with him he said he was ordered to shoot rabbits by his father. His dog disturbed the game. There was a fence across the hill for the benefit of the tenant. William Dunn, game watcher, Ballintore, corroborated.

James M'Nicol, farmer, Ballintore, said his son was employed on the farm and managed it for him. He looked after the sheep on the hill. The rabbits had increased greatly since Mr. Austin became tenant of the shootings. Witness found it necessary to keep them down for the protection of his crops, and furnished his son with a gun licence for that purpose. His crops had been injured by the rabbits. They seldom saw any grouse on the ridge between the pasture and the arable land.

David Clarke, farmer, Clintlaw, Airlie, said the rabbits appeared to have damaged the crops to a greater extent than he had ever seen.

Peter Smith, Easter Coul, said the rabbits had increased to a great extent since Mr. Austin became tenant of the shootings.

Mr. Anderson, for the petitioner, maintained that, though it had been held by a narrow majority of the Court that a tenant cannot be said to trespass on his own farm yet that the son or brother of a tenant can be said to trespass in exactly the same way as it had been held that a farm-servant may be guilty of trespassing on the farm on which he is a servant, because he trespassed in pursuit of game. The tenant's copy of the lease was put in process, but Mr. Anderson, for the petitioner, held that that was not sufficient. However, even if it were sufficient, he maintained that he was entitled to a conviction in respect the tenant's right to the ground on which the trespass was alleged to have taken place was restricted to pasturage, the reason being, he understood, that the rent payable for the pasturage was so small compared with that given for the right of shooting. He had proved that the trespass took place not on the arable land, but on the pasturage.

Mr. Thornton, for respondent, maintained that, it had not been proved that the respondent shot at hares or grouse or other game. The point, therefore, was whether the tenant had a right to shoot rabbits. Now, rabbits were not reserved in the lease, and he quoted cases to show that an agricultural tenant was entitled to shoot rabbits if they were not reserved in the lease, and in this case the reservation in the lease was game only. This was the usual way in which farms were let, and the respondent was as much tenant of the hill as of the other portion of the farm. Were this low-lying country instead of hill, it would have been let as an agricultural subject. The hill could not be ploughed. Then a neighbouring farmer had told the Court that at the sheep-clipping, before there was any word of this action, the respondent had said that his reason for not trapping instead of shooting the rabbits was that he did not want to trap hares. This prosecution had been brought because, the year being so bad for grouse, the tenant of the shootings, Mr. Austin, wanted to get as much as possible out of the land.

The Justice, in giving judgment, said: It is not proved here that the respondent was in search of anything else than rabbits. There is no evidence to that effect. In point of fact, the gamekeeper spoke to the fact distinctly that he was only killing rabbits, and nothing else, and as they are vermin I hold it proved that he had authority from his father to kill them, and that his father had the right to grant him that authority, and he had an equal right to act upon it. I shall find that rabbits are vermin, that his father was tenant, and that he granted the right to his son, and dismiss the complaint. This finding does not in the slightest degree touch the civil case.

Mr. Thornton: I move for expenses in this case.

The Justice: Of course.

Mr. Anderson: I shall intimate an appeal in the usual way.

The expenses amounted to £3 7s. 6d.

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MANCHESTER.

To Manchester belongs the honour of having formed a distinctive school of public men in the Free Trade struggle; but Reform preceded, and was, indeed, the necessary forerunner of Free Trade. Like Birmingham, Leeds, and other large centres of industry, Manchester had been unrepresented in the House of Commons. The member given by Cromwell was of course taken away after the Restoration. The French War resulted in dear food, heavy taxes, and distress. The colliers dragged two cart-loads of coal from Bilston to Carlton House, the residence of the Prince Regent, in the hope that if they could bring their sufferings and want visibly before the actual head of the State he might put an end to them. A similar fancy took possession of the poor workmen of Manchester. In 1819, a year of fearful distress, they proposed to March to London and lay their complaints before the Regent. They proposed, of course, to walk all the way, to sleep under hedges or in barns at night, and the poor simple souls had provided themselves with blankets for that purpose. They were rather roughly treated by the not over-scrupulous authorities of the time. These eloquent though almost speechless proclaimers of the people's miseries were dispersed, imprisoned, and never allowed to reach the august presence of him whom they fondly hoped to move by their tale of woe. The remedy in which the people believed was Parliamentary Reform. Early in this memorable year of 1819 a great meeting was held at Manchester, and again the people resolved not to apply to Parliament but directly to the Prince Regent. Their profound disbelief in the want of sympathy between the Legislature and the people led to this infatuation. The year was destined not to pass without making wider the gulf between the rulers and the ruled, and the hatred of class against class, which had recently been of a grievously quick growth, was intensified by the shedding of innocent blood. This was the Peterloo massacre. The Government had published proclamations against "seditious meetings." The two "legislatorial attorneys and representatives for Birmingham" had been elected, and a proclamation against mock elections had also been issued. Nevertheless it was determined to hold a meeting in Manchester to petition the House of Commons for a reform of Parliament and the repeal of the Corn-laws. August 16 was the day fixed for the meeting, and a field near St. Peter's Church, called St. Peter's Field, the place. The people were assembled—60,000 in number—and the chairman, "Orator Hunt," was addressing them, when they were attacked by a body of yeomanry, who killed eight persons and wounded about 600 in the attempt to disperse the meeting and arrest its chairman. This attack of the yeomanry on the people has inspired several local ballads. I quote a verse from one of these broadsides as a specimen of the popular political muse of the time:

> Mr. Hunt neaw coom forrard an' spoke a few words,
> When the Peterloo cut-my-throats shaken'd th' swords;
> Aw thort sure enoof they were running ther rigs,
> Till aw seed morn nor twenty lay bleeding like pigs.

From this time the people of Manchester became bitterly earnest supporters of Parliamentary Reform, and when the time came rendered effective help in carrying the bill. It was here that in 1832, on the last defeat of the bill by the Lords, the advice was first given to "go for guld and stop the Duke." That this advice was given in earnest and with the intention of carrying it out to the fullest is proved by the fact that there was a run on the Manchester savings-banks, and no fewer than 620 depositors gave notice of withdrawals to the amount of upwards of £16,000. In a few graphic sentences Lord Macaulay has described the Manchester of 1685, when its population was under six thousand people. The Rev. W. N. Molesworth says that in 1830 "it was a political cypher, unrepresented in Parliament, and having the municipal institutions of a village." By 1846 it had grown to be "the metropolis of a great part of the northern and midland counties, and was more especially the centre of a district which was regarded as one that was emerging from barbarism, the inhabitants of which still used an uncouth dialect which provoked the derision of their southern countrymen, and which was chiefly known by its smoking chimneys, its perpetual rains, the length and severity of its winter, its almost sunless summer, as well as by a lawless turbulence which embarrassed the Government, perplexed the Legislature, and dismayed the inhabitants of the more favoured parts of the kingdom." But the day of Manchester's political greatness was approaching. The inventions of Arkwright and the application of steam had developed her old cotton trade into one of the most thriving industries of the kingdom. The passing of the Reform Bill gave two members to the constituency, and hastened on the agitation for the repeal of the Corn-Laws—an agitation which was organised and conducted mainly by Manchester men, and carried to a successful issue by Manchester influence. Free Trade had its birth and growth in this great town, and its victories are due to the skill, the indomitable energy, and the irresistible logic of the Manchester School. The first members returned for Manchester were Poulett Thompson, "afterwards Lord Sydenham, who at that time was the most conspicuous Free Trader in the kingdom, and Mr. Mark Phillips, well known as an ardent radical and a zealous Free Trader." Public opinion in the great towns was being educated by the teachings of these early advocates, by the stirring poems of Ebenezer Elliot, and by those still more effectual tutors—bad trade, low wages, high taxes, and empty stomachs. Manchester was by situation and by condition of the people admirably fitted to conduct such an agitation. She was the active and industrious centre of the rapidly increasing cotton trade, a trade largely depending on foreign markets, and the great mill owners and manufacturers found their energies crippled, their skill baffled, their resources jeopardised, and the industry and skill of their workpeople rendered of little avail by the influence of the Corn-Laws and the prevalence of protection. It was a question of life and death to the manufacturing interests, who entered on their Free Trade crusade with all the resolute calmness and unflinching courage of men who had calculated the strength of the enemy's entrenchments and were resolved to carry the position. The struggle cost ten years of sharp and unceasing agitation. The first Anti-Corn Law Association was organised in London in the year 1836, but it did little work, had comparatively no influence, and speedily died of inanition. It was in 1838 that the agitation became powerful, and it was then that an association was formed which was not dissolved until the work was done. The Anti-Corn Law League was founded in Manchester. When the time was ripe the man was ready. Richard Cobden came to the front, and with him were associated a bold array of able and earnest lieutenants: Poulett Thompson, Mark Phillips, Dr. Bowring, J. B. Smith, Milner Gibson, George Wilson, C. P. Villiers, and John Bright. Cobden and Bright were the Achates of the agitation. They were in some respects the antitheses of each other. Cobden was calm, logical, unimpulsive; strong in reasoning, powerful in figures, a perfect master of the subject, he exercised an enormous influence over hearers and readers. Bright was fervid, eloquent, "terribly in earnest," and denunciatory. The difficulties were increased by the course taken by a large portion of the working classes. The time of the Corn Law League was also the period of the Chartist agitation, and Feargus O'Connor and his forces were arrayed against those led by Richard Cobden. Free Trade meetings were disturbed by Chartists. Amendments were proposed, although rarely, if ever, carried; and the battle of Protection was fought by Protection's own victims. The Chartists contended that the shortest way to repeal the Corn-Laws was to pass the Charter. Yet the corn laws were repealed twenty-five years ago by the unreformed Parliament, the Charter is not yet the law of the land, and the second Household Suffrage Parliament is governed by the old Protectionist party. For six years the Anti-Corn Law League worked unceasingly. The Leaguers built a Free Trade Hall in Manchester, and when that was burnt down they erected another: "the largest room available" for such purposes "in the kingdom." Bazaars were held in support of the League, and at one of these the money realised amounted to £35,000. The money raised for this agitation was enormous. In a speech at Covent Garden Theatre on February 19th, 1845, Mr. Bright said: "In the year 1839 we first asked for subscriptions, and £5,000 was given. In 1840 we asked for

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more, and between £7,000 and £8,000 was subscribed. In 1841 we held the great conference at Manchester, at which upwards of 700 ministers attended. In 1842 we had our great bazaar in Manchester, from which £10,000 was realised. In 1843 we asked for £50,000, and got it. In 1844 we called for £100,000, and between £80,000 and £90,000 has been paid in, besides what will be received from the bazaar to be held in May. This year is yet young, but we have not been idle. We have asked our Free Trade friends in the northern counties to convert some of their property, so as to be able to defend their rights, and properties at the hustings. This has been done, and it now appears that, at the recommendation of the Council of the League, our friends in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire have invested a sum of not less than £250,000 in the purchase of county qualifications." But this was not enough. Another appeal was made to the Manchester free-traders. A meeting was held at the League offices on December 13, 1845, of seventy of the largest subscribers to the funds, and it was resolved to make appeal for £250,000. Another meeting for this purpose was held on the 23rd, at which in an hour and a-half upwards of sixty thousand pounds was subscribed. Such is provincial public spirit in England. London was little more than a spectator of this stupendous agitation. Manchester was the political capital for the time. Free-traders throughout the land fixed their eyes on Manchester and from Manchester took their cue. To the great cotton capital belong the chief honours of the campaign and the victory. Manchester converted Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington from the old dogma of Protection to the new creed of free-trade. The town, which was unrepresented in the House of Commons in 1830, in 1846 dictated to the British Parliament a policy which is revolutionising the commerce of the world. The bill was adopted by the House of Lords on the 25th of June, and on the 2nd of July the League was dissolved. Its last acts were to vote £10,000 to its chairman, Mr. Geo. Wilson, and to take steps to raise a fund sufficient to enable Mr. Cobden to devote himself to the public service. The public influence of Manchester culminated for the time in the success of this famous agitation. To-day the "Manchester School" is a phrase of history and not of current politics. But its work did not quite cease in 1846. The Manchester School was inspired by two leading principles: Free-trade and non-intervention in foreign affairs. Non-intervention is not now the badge of a political section or the motto of an agitation; but the theory has had an immense influence on British statesmanship, and Manchester may fairly lay claim to much of the honour of such incidents as the Geneva Arbitration and the French Treaty. But if non-intervention has set its mark pretty deeply on British Imperial policy, as a banner of agitation it almost extinguished the "Manchester School." Cobden defeated Lord Palmerston in 1857 on the Chinese question, but it was upon our policy in the Crimea rather than upon our acts in China that in the general election which followed the Manchester School was defeated along the whole line. Cobden lost his seat, and Manchester rejected both John Bright and Milner Gibson by large majorities. But the decadence of the direct influence of the Manchester School is not a measure of the fall of the city's political influence. The school dies, but Manchester lives, and presently, when the time comes for understanding the political developments through which we are now passing, it will perhaps be seen that the great town which was once the capital of the free-trade movement became the real centre of that "Conservative Reaction" which has had almost as potent an influence upon a period of Parliamentary history as had the Anti-Corn Law League of thirty years ago. It must not be forgotten that the Manchester School, or rather the great body of politicians identified with it, were early leaders in the agitation for national education. In 1849 the Lancashire Public School Association was formed for the purpose of obtaining a system of national education very like that now advocated by the League. In October, 1850, a conference on the subject was held at Manchester, at which it was resolved "That the Lancashire Public School Association be resolved into a society to be called the National Public School Association, for the establishment by law in England and Wales of a general system of secular instruction, to be maintained by local rates and under the management of local authorities specially elected by the ratepayers." Mr. Cobden was one of the most earnest supporters of this association, and at a public meeting of the National Association held also in Manchester on January 22, 1851, he moved a resolution and made one of his best speeches in support of the system proposed. The labours of this society prepared the way for future action on the education question; and although it failed in its direct object, it materially helped to form a healthy public opinion, to remove many prejudices, and to disseminate a large amount of information which has since been used with much practical effect. When this association failed it was speedily followed by the formation of an Education Aid Society, whose objects were to gather statistics, to create a demand for education, to inform and direct public opinion, and to pay the school fees, either in whole or part, of indigent parents. So useful was this society and so thoroughly praiseworthy its work that similar societies were formed in other large towns, and thus the way was prepared for the Government to deal with elementary education as a national question. In the formation of the National Education League Manchester took an early and somewhat influential part; but subsequently, in accordance with that turn of the great cotton capital towards Conservative reaction which began with the Crimean War and was strengthened by the course of the American War of Secession and its influence on Manchester manufacture, the chief educational influence of Manchester has been thrown into the scale of the rival society, the National Education Union, which has its head-quarters in that city. In fact, at the present moment Manchester is the greatest opponent of the doctrines of the National Education League; and if it is with any propriety that this last society is called the "Birmingham League" its formidable antagonist may with equal truth be described as the "Manchester Union." The town that accomplished free trade has done more than any other place in the country to prevent the repeal of the Twenty-fifth Section of the Education Act and to defend the denominational system of education from its enemies. The triumphs of Manchester are of various sorts, but they are triumphs none the less; and none can call in question the great influence of the famous metropolis of the North any more to-day than in 1846. In local matters the public spirit of Manchester has rarely been equalled and never surpassed. The wealthy have never failed in their duty. The public buildings which adorn the city are among the finest and most costly of modern structures. The Assize Courts, the Exchange, the new Free-Trade Hall, and the Town Hall are splendid examples of their kind. The charities are numerous, extensive, and munificently supported. Including the Peel Park at Salford, which is really a Manchester institution, there are four free parks, three of which were purchased by public subscription. To Manchester belongs the honour of establishing the first free library, in 1852, thanks to the unceasing exertions of Sir John Patten and Dr. John Watts. There are now one splendid Reference and six district Lending Libraries, each with a news-room attached. From the last published report (the twenty-first) I find that during the year 1872-3 "609,462 volumes were issued for home reading, 149,692 volumes were used by 137,728 readers in the branch reading-rooms, 92,852 volumes and 91,702 specifications of patents were issued in the principal or Reference Library to 54,172 and 984 readers respectively, being in the aggregate 948,708 issues to 703,300 readers." It is also stated that 1,741,960 persons have used the reading-rooms. "This, added to the number of borrowers and readers, makes an aggregate of 2,501,564 persons who have availed themselves of the free libraries" in one year. Every reader will remember the magnificent Art Treasures Exhibition which was opened in Manchester in 1857. In 1847 the town was created a see, and the Rev. Dr. James Prince Lee, then Head Master of King Edward VI.'s Free Grammar School at Birmingham, was appointed the first bishop; the second is the already famous Dr. Fraser. In the words of Mr. Disraeli, "What art was to the ancient world science is to the modern—the distinctive faculty. In the minds of men the useful has succeeded to the beautiful. Instead of the City of the Violet Crown, a Lancashire village has expanded into a mighty region of factories and warehouses. Yet, rightly understood, Manchester is as great a human exploit as Athens." It is, no doubt, to the doctrine of non-intervention, which was so conspicuous an article of the political creed of the Manchester School under Mr. Cobden's leadership, that is due in a great measure the change which has come over the course of Manchester politics. Free trade was thirty-five years ago a thing capable of realisation in the immediate future; non-intervention was a much more remote possibility. We are not

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yet so civilised as to listen with cool blood to the trumpet of battle. The Crimean War was one of the turning points in the history of Manchester influence, and the doctors of universal peace came for the time to be regarded less as politicians than as prophets of the time foreshadowed by the poet—

When the war-drum throbs no longer, and the battle-flags are furled
In the Parliament of man, the federation of the world.

There are other causes, however, for the more recent relations of Manchester towards the policy and progress of the nation. Apart from the Corn-laws, free trade was looked upon by the body of the working class rather as a manufacturer's than as a workman's question. No sooner was the Act passed abolishing the duty on corn than other social questions arose, in discussing which the Manchester School, true to its particular principles of political economy, was placed in direct antagonism to the tolerably well-understood wishes and wants of the working classes. They opposed all factory legislation, and in opposing the Factory Acts they committed a political blunder, from the effects of which they have never yet recovered. The Protectionists, smarting under their recent defeat, supported Mr. Fielden's Bill for shortening the hours of labour in factories. The Manchester School opposed these measures. This was free trade with a vengeance, and Manchester was defeated, and the School lost its hold upon the sympathies of the working classes. The great body of the people in Manchester are divided into two classes—the wealthy mill-owners and the operatives who depend upon their daily work for their daily bread. It is almost impossible to avoid a certain lack of social sympathy between the two classes. They are too widely separated from each other in habits, tastes, manners, modes of thought, and ways of living to produce that harmonious and organic whole which is required for joint action or for a deeply sympathetic pursuit of a common object and end. In this respect Manchester is in curious and not advantageous contrast with Birmingham. In the Midland capital, in consequence of the vast variety of industries and the small amount of capital needed to begin business in so many of them, the wealth of the place is more equally divided among its people, and there is consequently a closer union of interests, of tastes, and of common fellowship than perhaps under the circumstances is possible in Manchester. In Birmingham there are fewer millionaires and more well-to-do people in proportion to the population than in any other large town in the kingdom; in Manchester the case is reversed. Nevertheless in a city of upwards of half a million inhabitants, of almost exhaustless wealth, of great public spirit, of trained skill, of quick practical intelligence, the centre of one of the most important of the industries of the kingdom, it will always be comparatively easy so to awaken public interest and to excite public opinion as to give the city a powerful and for a time even a paramount influence in public affairs. That influence is less conspicuous to-day than at certain past periods in our political history. The school of politicians bearing the city's name on its banner, which passed laws and overturned ministries, has for all practical purposes ceased to exist. The work which has been done remains a great work in history; it has enriched our Statute Book, benefited the country, and earned and well deserved the thanks and gratitude of the nation; but the school is dead and its influence is gone, even before the departure of all those who took part in its creation. For such a city probably is reserved other and even nobler work in the future.—*The Gentleman's Magazine.*

THE ADULTERATION COMMITTEE REPORT.

The report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the operation of the Adulteration of Food Act, 1872, runs thus:

Your committee having held 14 meetings, and examined 57 witnesses, have arrived at the unanimous conclusion that the Act has done much good. It has at the same time, inflicted considerable injury, and imposed heavy and undeserved penalties upon some respectable tradesmen. This appears to have been owing mainly to the want of a clear understanding as to what *does* and what *does not* constitute adulteration; and in some cases to the conflicting decision and inexperience of the analysts. Your committee, however, are of opinion that the Act itself is defective, and needs amendment.

Tea.—It appears that, since the report of 1856, certain grossly prepared teas have been imported from China, some being largely mixed with exhausted leaves and ferruginous sand, and others much too highly faced or coloured; the ingredients used for colouring being chiefly Prussian blue or indigo, powered gypsum, and turmeric; but the total amount of such teas has been small, and is kept in check mainly by the low price of pure teas. The import of green teas has recently fallen considerably, in consequence, it is stated, of the operation of the act. Facing tea after the duty is paid was, prior to the Act of 1872, practised to a small extent in this country; but whether in China or at home, the evidence is conclusive that in colouring tea no deleterious matter is used to such an extent as to be absolutely injurious to health; at the same time facing may be employed to conceal tea of a bad quality. Your committee have reason to believe that very little adulteration of tea is practised in this country. They would further observe that defacing tea, or removing artificial colour, seems now much more common, but this process does not appear to extract the ingredients which form the base of the colouring matter; it simply removes the colour, leaving all the other materials on the tea. It is proved that the bright green teas of China are always faced, and that the natural green teas of Japan, India, &c., are frequently of a colour hardly distinguishable from some qualities of black tea. While condemning the practice of highly facing tea, your committee cannot recommend that fairly faced green tea should be condemned as an adulterated article. Suggestions have been made that a certain percentage should be allowed for colouring matters and other impurities in tea. But your committee consider that the limitation to a very small per-centage of foreign matter would exclude from the country some wholesome low-priced teas, which are largely consumed by the poor, and if a less stringent limit were adopted, it might have the effect of increasing the amount of facing laid upon the better descriptions of green teas. The Act has borne with considerable hardship upon the retail grocers, among others, from the following causes:—The evidence and samples being, in the first instance, entirely in the hands of the prosecution; the defendant being incapacitated as a witness; the sole employment of analysts, to the exclusion of practical judges of the article; the differences among analysts, and the magisterial decisions thereon; and the recent judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, that under this Act the faced tea known as green tea is adulterated; but more especially that the alleged adulteration has taken place before the tea reached the retailer, and that he is not responsible for the frauds and tricks of the Chinese manufacturer. It has been repeatedly suggested to your committee that an examination of tea, for the purpose of detecting impurities, should be undertaken on landing by the Customs, and that all tea found to be seriously adulterated should not be admitted for home consumption. The Chairman of the Customs admitted that such an inspection of tea in bond could be undertaken by the Custom House officers, and that the great bulk of the tea would require but a brief examination by good practical officials, while suspected samples could be analysed at the laboratory at Somerset House. Your committee recommend that this examination should be made, as they believe it would practically stop the sale in this country of tea adulterated abroad, and relieve the retail dealer from the hardship which now arises from his being held answerable for certain manipulations of which he may be wholly ignorant.

Milk.—The evidence before your committee points to the fact that previous to the passing of the Act of 1872, milk was very generally adulterated with water. It has since greatly improved in quality wherever the Act has been enforced, but the good results in improving the milk supply have not been attained without some serious case of injury and injustice to milk-sellers. Too high and rigid a standard has been fixed by some analysts, and no sufficient allowances have been made for the natural variations in milk. Ten per cent. of milk solids may be more difficult to obtain under certain unfavourable conditions than 12 or 14 under a more generous diet, a

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warmer atmosphere, and more comfortable lodging. Not only does the quality of milk vary with the food, the breed of cattle, the time of year, and treatment of the animals, but the milk of one cow of the same breed will differ greatly from that of another, managed under a precisely similar system; and further, the first and last pint of milk which a cow gives at the same milking will present all the difference between an extremely poor and an exceedingly rich milk. Allowances should therefore be made for these natural variations, which some purely scientific chemists seem to have occasionally overlooked. It has been argued that, notwithstanding all these discrepancies, a certain percentage of solids might be agreed upon below which no milk should be considered pure. If a low standard were fixed there would be a great inducement for the vendors of really rich milk to abstract a portion of the cream without reducing the milk below the recognised standard, and, on the other hand, it might offer a premium upon the production of a naturally poor class of milk. Your committee are decidedly of opinion that the fraudulent abstraction of cream should be punishable; at the same time they consider the sale of skim milk should be encouraged, as it is certainly a nutritious and valuable article of food; but your committee are unanimous that the sale of *skim* milk for *new* should decidedly be regarded as a punishable offence.

Butter.—Butter is often imperfectly made in the United Kingdom, and sometimes contains too much water, and now and then an unfair proportion of salt; beyond this, it does not appear that adulteration is much practised in this country. Certain foreign butters are mixed with lard and other fats, and there is reason to believe that salt and water, after the butter comes from the farmer, are added in some manufactories abroad. Attempts are being made in France and elsewhere to manufacture artificial butter, chiefly from the fat of animals; if these articles are composed of wholesome materials, and not sold as butter, your committee see no reason to forbid their sale. The slight colouring matter occasionally added to butter, cheese, &c, should not, in the opinion of your committee, be regarded as an adulteration.

Bread.—Bread, on the whole, appears to be fairly pure. Potatoes are used to help fermentation, and rice flour is employed in dusting the loaves. No doubt the chief adulteration is alum, and evidence was adduced showing the great difficulty which the best chemists experience in discovering minute quantities of alum in bread.

Mixtures.—Your committee have had under their consideration the sale of mixed articles of food and condiments; amongst them great prominence has been given to mustard and cocoa. The evidence tends to show that these articles have been sold pure, as well as mixed with other ingredients, to suit the requirements of consumers. And it has also been demonstrated to the satisfaction of your committee that the compounds are frequently made quite as much to suit the public taste as to increase the profit of the manufacturers, inasmuch as by using a lower quality of mustard seed or cocoa bean, a pure article may be made at a lower price than some of the mixtures. For this reason the statement of the proportion of each ingredient used could not be any real protection to the consumer, and should not be required. It is due to the manufacturer to record that mixed mustard and prepared cocoa are and have long been manufactured at the Deptford-yard for the supply of the navy. Your committee therefore come to the conclusion that the sale of such mixtures or compounds is allowable, and indeed needful to meet the public requirements, provided the fact of their being mixtures is plainly indicated to the purchaser by a legible label or notice conspicuously attached to the outside of each package in which, or vessel from which, such mixture is sold. A verbal declaration at the time of sale is impracticable, and if practicable would be unnecessary, when a proper label is used.

Corn Flour.—The attention of your committee has been called to the article known as corn flour, in reference to which important evidence as to its purity and its useful dietetic qualities has been given by some eminent medical and chemical authorities, which, however is denied by one witness. Your committee are fully convinced that the manufacture is quite legitimate, and that like arrowroot, sago, and other starch foods, corn flour is perfectly wholesome, but that it should not in any case be given to infants without a considerable admixture of milk.

Wines, Spirits, and Beer.—The adulteration of wines, spirits, and beer has not been extensively examined under the act of 1872. The Licensing Act, which was passed in the same year, contained special clauses against the adulteration of these articles. The evidence before your committee is of a negative character, and it may be that alcoholic drinks have slipped through between the two acts. The adulteration clauses in the Licensing Act are sought to be repealed by a bill that has just passed the House of Commons, and there appears to be no reason to doubt that if this act is amended as your committee suggest, it will contain ample powers for detecting the adulteration in drink as well as the food of the people. Witnesses have stated that spirits are largely diluted with water, but are rarely adulterated with sulphuric acid; that almost all wines are more or less "fortified" for the English market; and the water is often added by the publican to beer and porter (perhaps with an addition of salt or sugar), but few of those villanous compounds with which malt liquors were formerly much adulterated have been recently discovered by any analysts. There was a singularly unanimous expression of opinion from many scientific witnesses as to the baneful and maddening effects produced by the consumption of very new and roughly distilled spirits.

Several witnesses have complained to your committee of the manner in which the cases under this act have been tried before justices. They state that, in some instances, the magistrates, considering the prosecution to be a criminal one, would not allow the defendant to be examined. Your committee believe that, in all cases, this privilege should be accorded the accused and his wife. Your committee also think that when a retail dealer, charged with adulterating an article, shall produce evidence that he bought the article under guarantee from a wholesale dealer, and that he sold the article in the same state and condition as he received it from such wholesale dealers, it shall be lawful for the magistrate, upon the retail dealer giving security for costs, to summon the wholesale dealer, as well as the retailer. In some cases, magistrates have declined to allow any other analysis than that of the analyst appointed to act for the district to be taken as evidence. Your committee think that evidence from well-established analysts should be allowed to be produced for the defence, and they suggest that when cases of dispute arise between the chemical authorities, there should be some court of appeal to settle the disputed points. It has been suggested that such an authority might be easily established at the laboratory of Somerset House, and the official witness from that department gave your committee to understand that, with a little enlargement and assistance, the existing laboratory and staff could undertake these important duties. In the absence of further information as to any better appeal, your committee suggest that where the anyalsis of the chemist of the local authority is challenged, the sample which is the matter of dispute shall be analysed at the laboratory of Somerset House, and the decision arrived at there be regarded as final. It was stated to your committee that some justices would not accept the analysis of the chemist of the local authority without his presence in court; others insisted on his signature to his analysis being duly witnessed, and in all cases it appears that the inspector is bound himself to deliver the sample of goods to the analyst. This, besides taking the inspector for two days from his legitimate duties, entails considerable expense upon the local authority, in the case where the analyst resides outside the district, or where one gentleman holds several appointments. Your committee consider that if the sample is duly secured, and properly sealed, it may be sent by post, or by other safe means; and they are of opinion that the analysis of the chemist of the local authority should be received in evidence without his presence being necessary, unless the defendant should demand the personal attendance of such analyst. There does not seem to be much necessity for attestation of the analyst's signature, nor is it apparently required by existing acts, but in any case your committee consider that the practice that proper forms for the analysis of different articles should be issued by some central authority, so as to secure greater uniformity and more detail in these documents in all courts of justice. Many witnesses have declared that the failures and hardships in carrying out the act have been chiefly due to the incompetence and inexperience of the analysts. Your committee, whilst refraining from endorsing this wholesale condemnation, admit that some of these gentlemen appear to have evinced more zeal than discretion in carry-

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ng out their novel and difficult duties. In some cases indeed a decided want of chemical knowledge has been proved, but no more than was to be expected from the sudden call made for the services of adepts in a branch of chemistry which had not previously been very highly valued. Witnesses testified their belief that few really competent analysts were at present to be found in this country, and one eminent chemist stated he did not think more than "a dozen such men existed;" but, as chemical analysis will now be better taught and better understood, there seems to be no reason to doubt that in a few years there will be an abundant supply of reliable scientific analysts. In the meantime, it seems to your committee that small districts should be as much as possible consolidated; that, as a rule, the boroughs in a county should be united with the county for the purposes of appointing one analyst for the entire district, and that the only way of securing the services of really efficient analysts is to offer them a fair remuneration, which can hardly be done without the union of several local authorities in one appointment. To the Local Government Board has been confided the power of revoking or confirming the appointments of the analysts; but without any recognised authority to guide them (beyond the long list of testimonials which seem always forthcoming), the board have not the means of performing satisfactorily the task imposed upon them. Your committee think some practical test might reasonably be required from the analysts to prove their competency to perform the duties of their office. Evidence has been offered to your committee that the requisites for a thorough examination of the knowledge and skill of the analyst exist at the School of Chemisty at South Kensington; and they suggest that the local government board should have the option of calling upon the analyst for a certificate of having there passed such an examination. Complaints have been made by the metropolitan vestries that the fines inflicted under the act are paid to the General Police Fund. Your committee think that the act of 1860 intended that the fines should be paid to the vestries, and they are of opinion that it is only reasonable the fines should go to the local authority which has had the trouble and expense of enforcing the act. Your committee consider that inspectors, when traders refuse to sell them articles which are exposed for sale, should be empowered to take samples of goods they suspect to be adulterated, upon tendering payments of the full value of the article. That in all cases the inspector should leave with the trader a duplicate sample of the goods he intends to have analysed, properly securing and sealing the same in the presence of the vendor; and that in no case shall more than one month elapse before the result of the investigation is made known to the trader. Your committee suggests that the two acts to which this inquiry refers, viz., the Adulteration Acts of 1860 and 1872 (23 and 24 Vict. c. 84, and 35 and 36 Vict. c. 74), should be repealed, and another act, consolidating and amending these statutes, substituted for them. That in the new act besides the changes already recommended, it should be provided that the fraudulent abstraction of important properties of any commodity should be a punishable offence, but that a distinction should be drawn between this and the fraudulent or noxious addition of ingredients, which more strictly speaking constitutes adulteration; and that clause 9 of the act of 1872 should be so far modified as not to make it incumbent on the analyst to give a certificate, except when he finds the articles submitted to him to be adulterated or debased. They further recommend that the act should be made compulsory.

In conclusion, your committee believe it will afford some consolation to the public to know that in the matter of adulteration they are *cheated* rather than *poisoned*. Witnesses of the highest standing concur in stating that, in the numerous articles of food and drink which they have analysed, they have found scarcely anything absolutely injurious to health, and that if deleterious substances are occasionally employed for the purposes of adulteration they are used in such minute quantities as to be comparatively harmless. Your committee believe that it is the intention of Parliament that consumers should be protected from frauds, and that they should be enabled to procure the articles they ask for and require. But your committee do not consider that parliament desires needlessly to hamper or fetter trade, still less to interfere between the buyer and seller with the view of regulating prices, or attempting to assit the consumer in ascertaining the real money value of any marketable commodity.

THE POTATO BUG.

The potato bug—the veritable Colorado potato beetle—is in our midst. Charles H. Moore, of Washington Mills, brought to us in a bottle on Saturday a handsome beetle which Roswell T. Eastman had caught upon the farm of Andrew J. Green, in the town of Paris, just over the New Hartford line. Our correspondents in the neighbouring counties report the approach of the beetle; and in order that our readers may know how to recognise the wandering insect and give him a warm reception, we enter into a brief review of his character and prospects, and of the materials which bring ruin upon his constitution. The Colorado beetle is an insect built something upon the "lady bug" model, but several times larger. He is striped after the cucumber bug style. An observing writer describes the insect as follows: "Imagine a grain of coffee, pulled up on the convex side, widened considerably, covered with a tough, shiny, yellow skin, with a row of black spots on either side; a small head, armed with strong claws, stuck on one end just behind: and underneath it the strong, short legs that drag the ponderous, humped body; and you cannot fail to know the hateful creature at sight."

Concerning the history of the Colorado bug, Walsh, the State-entomologist of Illinois, has written: "The Colorado potato beetle has been known to exist for nearly fifty years in canons of the Rocky Mountains, feeding upon a wild species of potato peculiar to that region. When civilisation marched up to the Rocky Mountains, and potatoes began to be grown in that region, it gradually acquired the habit of feeding upon the cultivated potato. In 1859, spreading eastward from potato-patch to potato-patch, it reached a point one hundred miles west of Omaha. In 1861 it invaded Iowa, gradually in the next three or four years spreading eastward over that state. In 1864 and 1865 it crossed the Mississippi. In 1868 it reached Danville, Indiana; thus passing eastwardly at the rate of about sixty miles a year. In 1869 it reached Ohio. In 1871 it made its appearance at Marietta." Since this date the insect has moved gradually eastward, and this summer finds it in our midst. In this section it comes late, and can probably do little damage this season; but if measures are not promptly taken, next spring will find the vines covered and the crop ruined.

Concerning the speed with which the insect produces its kind, Walsh says, "There are three broods of larvæ every year, each of which goes under-ground to pass into the pupa state, the two first broods coming out of the ground in the beetle state, about ten or twelve days afterwards, while the last one stays under-ground all winter, and only emerges in the beetle state in the following spring, just in time to lay its eggs upon the young potato-leaves." Mr. Walsh was the first person in the United States to breed the Colorado bug from the egg to the beetle, and found that it required less than a month to pass through its changes. The lateness of the appearance of the bug in this vicinity would lead to the inference that it will devote the time to a brood which will be ready for business early next spring. Next spring we may expect to see what an Illinois gentleman describes as follows: "They were found all over the county by the 10th of May, 1872, so numerous as to attract the attention of persons to whom the beetle was unknown. Its yellow eggs, in patches from twenty to forty, were soon found on the under-side of potato-leaves. By the 26th of May the larvæ were coming forth, and at this date the potato-fields were covered with the filthy, slimy-looking vermin." It is the larvæ that are the most greedy eaters, and from them comes the greatest injury to the vines. Although there is a probability that this year's crop will not be materially affected, a moment should not be lost in crushing out everything that promises next spring's growth. Fowls and birds will not touch the grubs; but it

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has foes, and of these Walsh says: "Over twenty might be named. In the egg state the Colorado potato bug is preyed upon by no less than four distinct species of lady bug. The eggs of lady bugs greatly resemble those of Colorado potato bugs, and scarcely distinguishable except by a smaller number being usually collected together in a single group. As these eggs are often laid in the same situation as those of the potato-feeding insect, care must be taken by persons who undertake to destroy the latter, not to confound those of their best friends with those of their bitterest enemies." But the greatest reliance must be placed upon the war which the potato-grower is able to wage upon the insect with pressure and poison. The Western farmers have given much attention to this matter. One of them sends to the Germantown *Telegraph* his "remedies," as follows:

1st. Have rich soil, well prepared.

2nd. Plant early varieties only, in March, and thus have to fight but one generation.

3rd. Pick off and destroy beetles and eggs every day.

4th. Use Paris green, one teaspoonful to a common wooden bucketful of water, sprinkled on the tops as soon as the larvæ begin to hatch.

Another Western potato-grower furnishes the same journal his method, as follows: "I use plaster, or gypsum, and mix about one part Paris green to twenty parts plaster, and sprinkle or dust it over the vines just as soon as the bugs appear. If there is no dew or rain, I sprinkle the vines with a watering-pot, and then dust on the mixture. I claim that in this way the old beetles may be killed and the depositing of the eggs prevented. This is on the principle that prevention is better than a cure. As they travel constantly and are continually putting in their appearance, so must the poison be on the vines constantly, as long as any of the enemy is to be found. The plaster is an excellent fertiliser for the potato, and the poison is no injury to the plant or tubers. Good, clean ventilation is indispensable; for these vermin will deposit their eggs on weeds, grass, or anything they happen to fasten to. I have picked them six or seven years, and know all about the trouble it is; and my experience is practical, sharp, and sure, and the least trouble and expense of anything I have heard of. Don't wait to see the bunches of orange-coloured eggs, but don't let any be laid; and don't plant any more potatoes than you can keep free from these very unpleasant visitors."

We cannot urge too strongly upon potato-growers the necessity for close observation of their vines, and immediate war upon the bugs, if any be found. In this way next spring's danger may be lessened, and every bug killed this summer will be a marked decrease of next season's supply.—*The Utica Herald.*

A DISBANDED GRANGE.

The Good Hope grange of McDonough county, Illinois, on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, have just held a meeting, and almost unanimously resolved to disband, surrender its charter and dissolve all its relations, social, business or political, with the State and national grange organisations. The Good Hope grange has been one of the largest and most promising in the country. It has not voted itself out of existence without substantial reasons. These reasons were clearly stated in a series of resolutions:—

1. That the original principles for which the organization was instituted have been entirely overlooked and ignored, in that the officers have assumed powers that are tyrannical, arbitrary, and entirely subversive of good order in the lodge and in the community; that the officers composing our grand or State organisation are not the true representatives of the members of the order selected for that purpose, being ex-officio members of the same; and also, that the officers of the national grange have arrogated to themselves—and that, too, under the workings of the order—unwarranted and systematic autocratic authority, ruling as with a rod of iron, from whose edicts there is no appeal.

2. That large sums of money have been (and now, and in time to come) collected by the several State granges and the national grange, for which no adequate return has ever been realised by the individual members of the order.

3. And further, there has been, from time to time, through the State and other officers of the order, a disposition to change the organization from its original plan of mutual benefits to the members thereof, to that of a political party, thereby injuring and destroying all that was calculated to unite and elevate the community it was designed to benefit.

4. It is burdensome and expensive to the members of the order, without adequate compensation for money expenses; that it is now engendering a spirit of class legislation, mutual distrust between the agricultural and commercial intercourse of the land, thereby demoralising and debasing the standard of relations the community bears to each other. And further, that the order, as ruled by designing men connected therewith, has been entirely prostituted from its original purpose and brought into subjection to further their personal and political interests—to all of which we do most sincerely and emphatically protest.

The dissatisfaction expressed in the foregoing resolutions is not of a local or of a temporary character. The grange which passed them, has thus early had an experience which accords most strikingly with the predictions which were generally made regarding this organisation of the farmers in the early stages of the movement. Undoubtedly the rank and file of the grange enrolled their name upon its books and took its oath of secrecy in the utmost good faith, and with the sincerest convictions as to the benefits that would accrue to them in their social and business relations. The members of the Good Hope Grange discover from experience, that these benefits are of a fictitious and impracticable character. We learn from various sources that one of the avowed objects of the grange—the securing of a uniform market for farmers' produce and the purchasing of their supplies through agencies at reduced rates—is found in many localities to be productive of more trouble than profit, to be prolific of dishonest practices, and to be wholly unsuccessful in accomplishing its object. But the chief complaint of these ex-grangers is, that the officers of the organisation are men with personal and political objects to serve, and bent upon changing the character of the organisation from its original plan to that of a political party. They well say that this has a tendency to injure and to destroy; to demoralise and debase the standard of relations in a community; to engender the mischievous practice of class legislation; and to breed a mutual and suicidal distrust between the agricultural and commercial interests of the country. They seem to have become fully cognizant of the unnumbered evils that must grow out of such a condition of things. Differences grow up between people, wholly unlike political differences. One class is arraigned against another in actual hostility. One class seeks to grasp another by the throat. Pure selfishness is at the bottom of such differences. Discord and strife are their inevitable fruit. The dwellers in one community work against each other, not only in political matters, but in all that relates to society, to business, to law, and to general prosperity. The material progress of a community can receive no greater check than that growing out of such antagonisms. The grange may not yet have brought any such unfortunate development in any community. But the tendency in that direction has been plain and progressive in many quarters. In some sections it has already taken the shape of a war to the knife against the railroads. If this war is persisted in in the spirit which has thus far controlled it, it can have but one termination. That termination will be the utter prostration of the railroads. The legislative body of a State is arrayed against these corporations. The executive is arrayed against them. The courts are arrayed against them. A large class of the people are arrayed against them. Instead of being in a condition to extort and to overcharge, the railroads are unable to obtain justice; are oppressed by an organised hostility which kills their business, destroys their profits, and will inevitably lead, if persited in, to their temporary abandonment. Such a result as this would work more evil to the people than ever accrued to them from the extortion and monopoly of the railroads. They seek to remedy one evil by creating another and a greater evil. The remedy they have devised will, in the end, work

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them infinitely more harm than the injury they would correct. This has been one of the extreme consequences of the organization and misdirection of the grange. There are other consequences equally unfortunate, of which the Good Hope disbanded grange complains. The workings of the order destroy all personal independence in political matters. This is a consequence which the originators of the movement hoped to avoid. But it has come about in almost every locality where the grange has obtained a flourishing footing. It is useless to say that there is nothing of a political character in its constitution and laws. This is probably the fact. But this does not affect the result. The farmers who belong to the grange have been drawn together into a solid, recognised, definite, political movement. Adhesion to this movement is made the test of their fidelity to the grange. The Good Hope grange deplores this political combination as a great calamity, fraught with bad results, the beginning of which we have hardly yet seen. They see no way of withdrawing themselves from an unfortunate political movement save by separation from the grange itself. We have no doubt, that as the tendencies and consequences of this political misdirection of a great class organisation become more evident, other granges will follow the example of the Good Hope. The farmers are a class of men too intelligent and too independent to long consent to bind themselves by iron-clad covenants to political movements which do not accord with their own convictions. They esteem good citizenship above all else. They pride themselves upon the high reputation which the farmer has always borne as a citizen and as a patriot. They will be found in the end to be unwilling to sacrifice or hazard that reputation, by committing themselves in favour of political action which is in its very nature unpatriotic, because it is unindependent—because it makes the greatest good of the greatest number and of the nation, secondary and subservient to good of one class alone. We say nothing against the grange as it was originally devised. We say nothing against the good objects which it was originally intended to secure to the farmer. Those objects were legitimate and proper. But they have been lost sight of. Or their attainment has been sought in ways most improper and unfortunate. When the grange becomes a political institution managed by politicians for political ends, then it ceases to be a benefit and becomes only an injury to the farmers. Then it becomes an unfortunate and a dangerous organisation, based wholly upon class distinctions. It is because they saw this tendency so clearly outlined that the farmers who composed the Good Hope lodge have surrendered their charter and resumed their political independence.—*The Utica Herald.*

POOR-LAW CONFERENCE IN THE NORTH.

At the annual conference of members of Poor-law Unions in the counties of Durham, Northumberland, Westmoreland, and Cumberland, at the Central Station Hotel, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Lord Ealington, M.P., the president of the conference, was in the chair. There was a large attendance.

The President said they were met, in pursuance of that which he was very glad to observe had become an annual custom, to discuss various matters of a particular character and of vital interest and importance to the most dependent classes of the community. It was a very high function, and he was very glad to see a very considerable assembly of, he believed, thoroughly practical men, who were prepared to bring to bear their knowledge and experience upon the discussion of that great crop of questions which might be summarised under the head of Poor-law administration. He attached the greatest possible value to these conferences, because they were the means of bringing together thoroughly experienced and practical men who came to compare notes, and, if he might speak in Parliamentary fashion, report progress on the various matters which he believed they were prepared to discuss. He wished to express his thorough concurrence in their utility and value. He thought it was of more importance now than usually that this conference and others throughout the country should be held to discuss some of the questions which bear on our paupers, and there were essential reasons which he, coming fresh from Parliament, would, with their permission, shortly lay before them, why this was an opportune time for a conference of this nature. Since they had met, some very important, and he might say large, steps had been taken by Parliament, steps with which he might be supposed to be more or less acquainted, in promoting the great objects that they had in view; and he would very briefly allude to them, in order that they might be *au fait* to what had been passing in the Imperial Parliament on these subjects. First of all, since last they met, a very important Commission, very ably composed, which sat for three years, had presented a report—namely, the Friendly Societies Commission. That was one of the subjects in which, he knew, they all took a very deep interest. The report was of a very lengthy, most able, and exhaustive character; and it required a very strong digestion indeed to digest all the matters contained in it. He had had an opportunity of only cursorily examining it. He might remind them that a bill embodying the main recommendations in that report was presented to Parliament, and the main provisions of the bill were to this effect: To strengthen and improve central machinery. It proposed to divide the country into forty or fifty registration districts, and to appoint in each district deputy-registrars. It proposed, too, this very important feature—a recommendation to publish correct tables of "premiums" and "benefits" based upon reliable statistics and calculations, for the use of industrial and provident societies, charitable societies, scientific and literary associations, trades unions, and loan societies; to encourage and as far as possible enforce a system of periodical valuations at least once in five years; to promote an effective audit and appoint a competent staff of auditors; and last, but certainly not least, to consolidate in one bill the existing statutes regulating those most valuable institutions. There was only one clause to which he wished to make a short allusion. There were clauses in the bill which he confessed he viewed with the greatest possible dislike—those which proposed to prohibit the insurance of any payment on the death of a child under three years of age. Now, it struck him, when first he looked at the bill, that this clause contained a very unwise and certainly a very unmerited stigma upon the working classes of this country. He might be single in the opinion, but he certainly should feel it his duty to oppose any such provision as that in any future bill; for he believed, as he had said, that it contained a stigma certainly not intended, but certainly not deserved. He believed a very unfavourable impression had been created in the minds of the industrial classes of this country by that clause. There would be strong and good reasons given for excluding or limiting to some extent the assurance of young lives, but to prohibit it absolutely altogether would be an injustice, and, as he had said, un unmerited reproach to these classes. That bill was very wisely withdrawn by the Government. In the first place, there was not time for its consideration, and it was felt that a report of so exhaustive a character ought to be thoroughly understood and digested by the country before legislation was proceeded with, and he thought, as this matter had been relegated to another Session, it was most important that at this and similar conferences the subject should be most thoroughly discussed. To go on to what had occurred in Parliament this year, they had passed—and it would be law in two or three days—the Sanitary Laws Amendment Bill, which was also a subject deeply interesting to most of them. That bill was chiefly a bill of detail for explaining, amending, and extending the Public Health Act of 1872, and there were one or two very important clauses in it. The 20th clause was a most important one, because it empowered the Local Government Board to enforce any order of their own against a defaulting sanitary authority by writ of *mandamus*. Clause 21 was also an important clause, because it compelled the urban sanitary authorities to cleanse their streets, ash-pits, privies, &c., under heavy penalties upon the neglect of such duties. Clause 22 and some of the following clauses were still more important, and better understood by them than by him, for he was sorry to say that it was a subject with which he was very imperfectly acquainted. They were clauses to regulate the constitution and election of the Local Boards. They would

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see by this short allusion that it was mainly a bill of detail, intended to carry forward the work of the great sanitary legislation of which we had heard so much, and it was chiefly important because it was, as described by its promoters, a consolidation of the Public Health Acts and sanitary laws, and he was sure he should receive the assent of every member of this conference when he said that such consolidation was very much needed indeed; for he believed the whole of our sanitary laws were in a condition of very great confusion, and extremely perplexing from that very fact. They wanted codification for those who had to administer them in the country. There were two very important subjects which had been dealt with already in the present Session of Parliament, and only on Thursday last the Home Secretary proposed to the House of Commons—and he was happy to say it was unanimously agreed to—such alterations in their standing orders as should require the promoters of railway bills and other great public works to furnish the committees of Parliament precise information as to the number of dwellings of the poor removed by such operations, and as to the facilities for providing accommodation elsewhere, and giving to such committees the discretion to provide such accommodation. He looked upon that as a very important step now taken by Parliament. It had reference chiefly to London and other large towns. He always had believed that there was no greater injustice under the guise of promoting public welfare than that enterprises of this kind, which were intended to benefit the wealthy and the great trading communities—shopkeepers, &c.—should be made at the expense of the poor, and that they should be dispossessed wholesale under these great Improvement Acts. He had always thought it a grievous injustice, and he knew it had been so felt, and now Parliament had taken an important preliminary step to take care that ample accommodation should be provided for the poorer classes if their dwellings were removed. He passed on to another great branch of their subject, namely, local finances, and here an important step had been taken in a late Session of Parliament. They had heard of, he would not call it a new Rating Bill, for it was a very old one, though it had never passed into law until now, and it was perhaps more accurate to define it as the Exemption Removal Bill. He looked upon it as in the right direction, for it was hardly necessary to remind them that all exemptions were necessarily unjust, inasmuch as the exemption of one class of property meant the increase of taxation to another class. If you increased the area of assessment, you naturally and necessarily relieved *pro tanto* the individual ratepayers, whereas by exempting property you increased the burden that ought to be borne by the ratepayers. Therefore, the Exemption Removal Bill, expressly for the purpose of removing the exemptions, was, to his mind, a step entirely in the right direction. Another and still more important step had been taken with reference to the great question of local taxation by the present Parliament, for the budget of the present year contained proposals to apply annually a sum of £1,200,000 in aid of local taxation, and a portion of it had been expended in increasing the grant voted for the maintenance of the police, and another portion was to be devoted in aid of the maintenance of lunatics. There was also a considerable amount of contribution to local rates in respect to Government property, amounting in the whole to £170,000, under the budget of this year, in addition to the £80,000 which had been vested in previous years in respect to Crown property in aid of local rates. £1,200,000 to local taxation seemed a very trivial sum, and was in itself a very trivial sum; but the principle involved in this was a most important one, because this was the first time that Parliament had thoroughly recognised the principle of imperial aid to local taxation raised for national purposes. That was a great principle for which many of them had contended in Parliament for several years. The principle was capable of extension in the future, and he hailed it as an imperial step in advance as a matter of justice, namely, that the imperial funds should contribute, in part at any rate, in aid of local taxation raised for national purposes. He would, with their kind permission, make a very few observations more in reference to the general question of poor-law administration. The remarks he had made hitherto had been to point out that Parliament had not been altogether careless of the local interests of the country during the present session, and, as he had already explained to them, some very important steps had been taken in reference to many of the matters which would occupy their attention. In regard to the general subject, he took it that the objects sought to be attained by a proper administration of the poor laws were mainly three. First of all, how best they could check pauperism; secondly, how best they could relieve want; and thirdly, how best they could promote thrift. He took it these were the three great objects to be attained, and in dealing with them it appeared to him necessary that they should draw in their own minds a very clear distinction between pauperism and poverty; for they appeared to him to be two totally different things. Pauperism was a weed—if he might use a strong expression, and there was no expression too strong—a weed of noxious growth which flaunts itself in our very faces, in our streets, in our highways, in every sort of obtrusive form. He thought they should devise stringent and—he would go a step farther—stern measures to repress it. But poverty was a very different thing. Poverty was a visitation of the Almighty, which he thought they were bound to deal with kindly, gently, and mercifully. Poverty was a silent, patient thing, and a suffering thing, and it was to be sought out in secret places. It was too often unknown to the relieving officers, and it was to be sought out in secret places by agencies beyond and outside the expensive Poor-law machinery; and it had always appeared to him, looking at it in this light—and he thought they would admit that there was justice in the comparison—looking at it in this light, he had never been able to see good reasons why the Charity Organisation societies, and the Charitable Aid societies, which were doing and working so well in all parts of the Metropolis, to his knowledge, should not, with advantage, be brought into co-operation with those who administered the Poor-law. He did not think there would be any jealousy between them, for he believed they might serve one common purpose. He had endeavoured to describe, under these two heads, the checking of pauperism on the one hand, and the relief of poverty on the other. But these were all questions for their consideration; he merely threw them out as suggestions for discussion. Well, then, they came to the next head, how best to relieve want. Now, it appeared to him that if they were to deal with poverty in a kind and lenient manner, that there was considerable necessity for an alteration in the system of the workhouse itself, and, therefore, he noticed with great satisfaction that on the paper that was one of the subjects put down for discussion. He thought that a somewhat different classification from that which had as yet existed was necessary within the workhouse itself for its members, and there was only one thing he should like to allude to, and that was a rule which he hoped did not exist in all workhouses, but which he knew existed in some—and it appeared to him to be a most arbitrary and cruel rule—that the aged and infirm married couples were *ipso facto* separated from each other after living together perhaps 50 years. He did trust that, under an improved system of workhouse accommodation, they would have an improved classification of its inmates into what they might call two parts—they might have that which would be a penal department, and a department which would render the workhouse no longer an object of dislike to deserving and aged poor, but an asylum of comfort in their latter days. He thought that that was a very necessary change, and these were all matters that they would discuss. In regard to the whole question of relief, he was perfectly convinced that it was impossible to lay down a hard and fast rule. He believed the cases were so different, and the circumstances surrounding them so various, and beyond the control even of the best-intentioned men, that a discretion must be left to the guardians themselves to deal with each individual case; but one thing he would say, that in order to repress pauperism it was absolutely necessary that each case should be considered strictly on its own merits, and with a view of doing this he could conceive no economy more mistaken and mischievous than that which would seek to starve the relieving staff in any Union, more especially in urban or crowded places. It was necessary to have a strict investigation into each individual case. He would only say this much with a view to the efficiency of the workhouse itself, which was really the only true check, with careful investigation, that they could place on the growth of pauperism. He had seen some remarkable instances of late. He would tell them one, and that was that, at a meeting of St. Pancras Guardians only last week or the week before, out of 174 applications for relief, the workhouse being made the test, only 18, or less than one-ninth of the whole number, accepted the workhouse as a condition of relief. That to his

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mind was a very startling proof of the efficacy of the workhouse test when applied, as it ought to be, in the case of every able-bodied pauper. He might be told that, after all, these sentiments of his were mere truisms; that they all knew that, and that they were the principles on which they tried to act. But if they were truisms, how came it that they were collected there to discuss the various means and resolutions which their knowledge and experience suggested to their minds for the improvement of our Poor-law administration? He believed that that system was very far from being perfect at the present moment, and it was only by bringing different minds and different experiences upon these subjects that that improved administration could be reached, and therefore it was that he laid such value upon this conference. There was one more head—how best to encourage thrift. He knew that there was a scheme which had been very often advocated at their own conference (where it had been ably urged by his friend Mr. Wallace) and elsewhere by very influential persons. The scheme simply was to create a great national provident fund. Now, he was bound to say, fairly and openly, that it would take a great deal more discussion, much more careful consideration than this scheme had ever yet received, and much weightier arguments must be adduced before he personally should be prepared to throw in his adhesion to any such scheme. For what was the fact now in regard to these friendly societies? It was estimated that there were no less than 32,000 societies of this nature. There were four million members enrolled, and four millions more in the shape of widows and children, and the female relatives more or less intimately connected with this vast organisation, which was based on the highest principles which could actuate a people, viz., independence and self-reliance. He thought that Government interference should be a minimum and not a maximum in regard to those valuable associations. In addition to the eight millions of persons more or less intimately connected either as members or recipients with the funds of these associations there were no less than eleven millions of money subscribed. If a great central fund were to be established as proposed, it must be under the guarantee of the State, and under the management of Government officers; and if Government management was to supersede local management, they would open the way to a considerable amount of fraud, possibly, at any rate to a considerable amount of waste. He did not believe that it would be possible by any Government machinery that they could invent a substitute for that close supervision which every one could exercise over his neighbour in a locality. He believed that was of essential importance, and he was extremely loth and most unwilling to sacrifice the amount of independent feeling which they created and fostered among the working classes; and last, but not least, that which was a very important feature in these organisations, namely, the self-education which they furnished to the humbler classes of the country. And all this would inevitably be in very great danger if they substituted central and Government machinery for the local management which now conducted them. He was quite willing that Government should go this far—that they should increase, or rather extend, the system of life assurance, and facilitate the creation of life annuities among the industrial classes of this country. He was quite willing that Government should go this length, and even anxious that it should go a step further; and he believed, from the best information which he could obtain, that Government were prepared to move in that direction, namely, to facilitate the obtaining of Consols by dividing one hundred into small sums. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had expressed himself in favour of this scheme. But he was opposed to the Government mixing itself up with what was called sick and burial business, which local societies provided for. He was quite ready that Government should extend the system of life insurances, and extend and facilitate the obtaining of deferred annuities or small sums in the Consols by the working classes. And why did he say this? Because it appeared to him to be the highest stroke of public policy to extend through the whole body corporate an interest in the stability of the public funds of this country. He believed that to be more worthy of the highest statesmanship, because it would give to every man in the country, from the highest to the lowest, a stake in the country, and give the greatest amount of security that could be given to its interests. These were his views, and he was very thankful for the patience with which they had listened to him. He had expressed himself strongly upon one or two points of general principle, but had not attempted to deal with detail; but they were perfectly competent to deal with it, and to give the result of their experience and practice in the administration of the Poor-law. He had merely thrown out certain points, which he trusted might commend themselves to their consideration, and receive at their hands some discussion.

Mr. James Cropper (Kendal Union) read a paper on "What accommodation is essential in a workhouse to enable guardians to carry out an efficient administration of the Poor-law, and to meet the present requirements of the Local Government Board." A long discussion took place, in which the Secretary (the Rev. J. Elphinstone Elliot), Mr. Heatley (Alnwick), Mr. Thompson (Berwick), Archdeacon Hamilton, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Hedley (Inspector), the Rev. Dr. Simpson (Kendal), Captain Johnson (Brompton), the Rev. W. L. J. Cooley (Alnwick Union), Mr. Dods (Hexham Union), Mr. Ridley (Hexham), and other gentlemen took part. The principal points discussed related to the separation in the workhouse of aged married couples, which was generally condemned; the education of pauper children, several of the gentlemen stating that in their union the children were sent to the national or other schools with no distinctive clothing; the use of wine and spirits, which, contrary to general wish, the medical officers usually recommended for pauper patients instead of medicine, the medical chests being suggested as means of remedying the evil; the place for pauper lunatics—the workhouse in preference to the lunatic asylum being disapproved of; the treatment, and, as Archdeacon Hamilton termed it, the "sorting" of vagrants; and generally the material and out-door or labour arrangements of the workhouse.

The President, in some observations at the close of the discussion, said that with their permission he would read them a passage which would interest them when they knew the source from whence it came. It was a short passage with reference to the relief of a famine, and if they would kindly follow him they would see that the principles laid down were the soundest and justest principles for workhouse administration which they could follow. It was written in reference to the relief of a famine in India: "The principle of the mode I propose to relieve the distresses of the inhabitants is not to give grain or money in charity. Those who suffer from famine may properly be divided into two classes—those who can, and those who cannot work. In the latter class may be included old persons, children, and the sick women. The former—viz., those of both sexes who can work—ought to be employed by the public; those who cannot ought to be taken into an hospital and fed, receive medical aid and medicines at the public expense; suitable buildings to be provided for this purpose. According to this plan subsistence will be provided for all. The public will receive some benefit from the expense incurred, and, above all, it will be certain that no able-bodied person will apply for relief unless he shall be willing to work for his subsistence; that none will apply who are able to work, and who are not real objects of charity; and none would come for the purpose of partaking of the food which must be procured by their labour, or to obtain which they must submit to the restraint of an hospital." These words were written seventy years ago in Bengal by no less a man than the Duke of Wellington. He had ventured to quote them because, *mutatis mutandis* they contained the principle of workhouse administration they had been discussing. They were interesting from the source from which they came, and instructive for the valuable principles they contained.

Mr. B. C. Brown read a paper on "Self-help and Poor Relief," which gave rise to a discussion as to the best means of encouraging provident habits among the artisan and agricultural classes, and as to the mode of dealing with those applicants for relief who were reduced to poverty in spite of industry and prudence.

The conference then adjourned until the following day, when the sitting was resumed.

Mr. R. Burdon Sanderson read a paper on "The Engineering Necessities created under the operation of the Public Health Act." Recent legislation, in imposing upon boards of guardians under the new name of Rural Sanitary Authorities the charge of the public health of their unions, had rendered it their duty to pay attention to and provide for the following matters: The removal of refuse, solid and liquid, injurious to health in such a way as to be innocous, and the provision of proper water supply where it did not exist, with the supervision of that at present in use. To these must

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undoubtedly very soon be added some control over the erection of human habitations so as to secure proper dryness and foundations and adequate ventilation, for which urban authorities already possess large powers. The construction of sewers, the dealing with sewage, and the providing of water seemed pretty fully provided for under the powers of the very numerous Acts embodied in the Sanitary Act of 1872. But it seemed to him that that Act contained one very great omission, which it was the purpose of his paper to discuss, in not providing for an officer in whose hands alone these matters could safely be left, and by whose advice the authority could only satisfactorily act. Two executive officers were provided for—the medical officer and the inspector of nuisances. In the hands of neither of these could the construction of the works he had mentioned be placed, nor did it fall to either of their provinces to say what were the proper means of construction to ensure the qualifications in a dwelling-house which the medical officer would state to be necessary. The laws that governed the proper arrangement of sewers and house drainage were so much more complicated than many uninformed persons suppose, that they taxed even the best-educated and most experienced engineer to arrange them satisfactorily to himself and his employer. What hope, then, had they of any success if these works were placed in the hands of men of the class of most of the sanitary inspectors, who, however worthy and painstaking, had neither the education nor the means of obtaining information requisite. To show the necessity of proper professional experience being at the command of the sanitary authority, Mr. Sanderson referred to the condition of sewers, the removal of sewage, and the water supply. On the latter point, and speaking of wells, he said these receptacles of underground waste when in the neighbourhood of houses or farmsteads required the very greatest vigilance. Unknown drains or porous subsoils caused impure water and other matters from the house or farmstead to find their way into them, and without in the slightest degree affecting either the taste or brightness of the water. And what was very important to remember was this—that a well which for years had provided a wholesome water, might suddenly, either from an exceptionally wet season or drought, or from some change in the upper drainage, alter the character of its supply and become a source of incalculable mischief. Mr. Sanderson concluded by moving, "That this Conference is of opinion that the Sanitary Acts are deficient, in not providing, in the person of a special officer for efficient engineering advice, for the guidance of rural sanitary authorities in the various matters now placed under their control and imperatively requiring such advice."

Mr. Cropper (Kendal Union) was much obliged to Mr. Sanderson for the remarks he had made as to the economising of water, and, with regard to the pollution of wells, his own experience was very much the same as Mr. Sanderson's. Until the present Act they could not close those wells which were pollated; and, even now, he believed they could be closed only by substituting some other source of water supply. They had to find out whether the sources of water supply must be equally near the population, and whether any one could stop a well without providing another. He did not intend that a sanitary authority was to encourage or go into any system for bringing the water from a distance. He did not think that that was contemplated by the Act; but he thought they were rather intended to obviate difficulties, and to meet immediate simple interests rather than to provide the means for a large outlay.

Mr. Forster (Chester-le-Street) spoke of the importance of utilising colliery water by filtering beds, and suggested the employment of scavengers in colliery villages.

The President asked, if in the event of a colliery or coal company in the course of their mining operations depriving a district of its water supply, there was any power by law by which the company could be compelled to give a supply.

Mr. Ridley (Hexham): No, my Lord.

The President: I think there is no power at law.

Mr. Ridley: There is not, my Lord. I have examined it closely.

The Rev. John Bigge (Stamfordham) said he had himself lost a very valuable spring by the Whittle Dene Water Company. He took counsel's opinion upon the manner, and he was told that they could not legislate upon what went underground. There was an enormous quantity of water taken underground by the collieries and wasted, while it might be put into the reservoirs and supply the whole of the district. A very eminent architect in Newcastle told him that he considered that every house ought to supply itself with water for domestic purposes from the roof, while the water for drinking could be obtained from other sources. He knew that in one or two houses enormous tanks were placed under the kitchen, and these houses were never without water.

Captain Johnstone (Brampton) said that as far as his experience went it certainly tended to show that they could not trust such important matters as the management and engineering of water supply, which might involve considerable expense and perhaps risk of failure, to ignorant persons. But he thought the manner in which it had been met, as far as the rural districts were concerned, quite met their wants in that respect. In the event of any parish wishing to raise money on loan for the purpose of sewage or water, they were required to send in a plan designed by a competent architect, and unless the Local Government Board were satisfied of the competence of the person, they did not grant the money. That appeared to him to give them the protection which the resolution asked. He quite agreed with Mr. Cropper as to his remarks on the supplying of water, and said that in his union they were carrying out the plan of bringing the water to villages and collections of houses, and making a charge not exceeding 2d. per week.

The Secretary (the Rev. J. Elphinstone Elliot) made some remarks on the waste of water and pollution of springs by collieries.

A long discussion followed, the general opinion being against the appointment of a third officer under the Sanitary Authority; more especially as the Local Government would make inquiries, and, if necessary, inspect, when any important works were proposed to be constructed. The gentlemen who took part in the discussion were—Mr. Culley, inspector; the Rev. W. L. J. Cooley, Alnwick Union; Mr. Ridley, Hexham; the Rev. Dr. Simpson, Kendal; Mr. Heatly, Alnwick; Mr. Proctor, Tynemouth; the Rev. G. F. Weston, and Mr. T. P. Dods.

The President, in closing the discussion, said he thought they could all perceive from the course the discussion had taken, that they were in the infancy of this legislation, and that the subject was so large and the Acts of Parliament so intricate and in such a confused condition, that the first necessity which was incumbent on the Legislature was to press absolutely for the consolidation of the laws; that he believed to be the most important step that could be taken in order to enable those who had to administer the law really to understand in what position they stood. That appeared to him to be the essential duty which devolved on the Local Government of this country. They were told that the Sanitary Laws Amendment Act was a step in the right direction, but it would be the duty of members of Parliament, in the forthcoming session, to press for the consolidation of these laws. He was sorry, indeed, if he should appear in any way to differ from Mr. Sanderson, because he felt that his experience deserved great weight, and he (his Lordship) professed to have very little. He must remind them that Mr. Sanderson's experience was very different from that of most others. If Mr. Sanderson had exalted notions, they were derived from his large connection in a great town. But they had to deal with simple rural districts, and he confessed it seemed to him absolutely impossible to call upon a rural union to employ a permanent engineer for the sake of his advice, and for this reason—it would necessitate the employment of at least three distinct officers. And depend upon it if they once appointed a permanent engineer his business would be to create work for himself, and that was what they must guard against. If they took good advice at first, and constructed work which would last a long time, it would be worth while to pay a competent man. But he took objection to the appointment of a permanent officer. If the law did not give them the power, they must press for an alteration in this respect. [Mr. Culley: It does.] His Lordship concluded by thanking Mr. Sanderson for his paper.

Mr. Sanderson withdrew his motion, and substituted the following, which was carried unanimously: "That this conference is of opinion that in cases where mines or other works by their operations, can be reasonably believed to have deprived a district of its existing water supply, it should be made incumbent on the owners of these mines and other works to make good the deficiency so created."

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Mr. T. P. Dods read a paper on "The Working of the Assessment Committees," as a supplement to his paper on "Local Taxation," read before the Farmers' Club some months since. He concluded by proposing a series of six resolutions. The first resolution was "That only one-third of the Assessment Committee (who may be eligible for re-election) retire in each year."

In answer to an objection that the Boards of Guardians appointed their committees annually, and that there was no guarantee that every member of the Assessment Committee would be returned,

Dr. Simpson said there was no reason why the Assessment Committee should be members of the Board of Guardians at all, and the Board of Guardians might be permitted to elect the Assessment Committee from outside of their own body. By the motion they would only express an opinion: let the Legislature discover the mode of carrying it out.

The resolution was, after a discussion, carried unanimously.

Mr. Dods next moved, "That the qualification of members of Assessment Committees be considerably raised."

The motion was generally opposed, and was ultimately negatived.

CARMARTHENSHIRE FARMERS' CLUB.

TENANT-RIGHT.

At the quarterly meeting Mr. J. Buckley, Penfai, Llanelly, president, was in the chair.

Dinner was provided at one o'clock, and after the removal of the cloth the following articles were disposed of by lot: Horse-rake, winner to pay £4 to the fund of the Club, Mr. E. Humphreys, Trelimsi; sack-lifter, Mr. R. Thomas, Woodbine Cottage; stubble-rake, Mr. J. Jones, ironmonger; clipping machine, Mr. J. Thomas, Penlan; knife stand, Mr. J. Buckley, Castle Gorfod; cart rope, Mr. Harris, Pilroth; dung-fork, Mr. H. Morgan, Llwyn; dung-fork, Mr. W. Jones, Llwynygroes; dung-fork, Mr. W. Lawrence; hay-fork, Mr. J. Lewis, Gurrey; hay-fork, Mr. H. Thomas, Pante; hay-fork, Mr. Philip Lewis, Carmarthen; hay-fork, Mr. Lockyer, Carmarthen; hay-fork, Mr. T. Davies, Wernddu; hay-fork, Mr. T. Rees, Llaithdy.

The Chairman then introduced the subject for discussion, viz., "The Landlord and Tenant Compensation Bill," continued from the last meeting. He said the Landlord and Tenant Compensation Bill was taken into Parliament by Mr. James Howard and Mr. Clare S. Read, and contained some 34 clauses and schedules, and it had been largely discussed at this Club, as well as, he might say, every other agricultural club in the country. On a former occasion he stated that in the main he quite agreed with the object of this bill—the protection of tenants; for it was only right and just that the tenant should have compensation for what he left behind him in the land, and termed in this bill unexhausted improvements. He believed that if the measure was passed what was stated in the preamble would in time become a consequence, viz., the increased production of food for the outgoing tenant would not attempt to exhaust the land. It would be to his advantage, in order to secure proper valuation, not to do so, and as a result the incoming tenant would enter the farm in its full state of production, paying for what the outgoing tenant had left unexhausted. He was, however, inclined to the opinion that this bill would be far too cumbrous to effect the objects stated, and that it would be likely to entail too heavy a charge on the incoming tenant. In giving this opinion he only referred to the valuation clauses relating to corn and cake that had been consumed by stock during the last four years, and other clauses under the head of durable improvements. The 12th clause, again, which would make the Act universally binding, would, he felt sure, never be got through Parliament. Why should freedom of contract be taken from the farmer when such freedom was in the power of others? Still there were some good things in the bill, and if a simpler measure were drawn up, and introduced, providing, in all cases where there did not exist a full agreement between the landlord and tenant, that the tenant should have reasonable and substantial compensation for unexhausted improvements, such a bill might perhaps be passed, and become law. His idea was that all improvement should be classed under two heads—durable or permanent improvements, and temporary improvements, or such as the tenant would do to bring the farm into the best state of cultivation and such as, it would be to the advantage of the incoming tenant to take and to pay for. The permanent improvement, if done by the tenant, should be done with the landlord's consent in writing. The amount of compensation, too, he thought, should vary according to the party by whom notice to quit was given. If such notice was given by the landlord the compensation might be extended, if by the tenant it might be limited. He firmly believed the legislation in this respect would have the effect of raising the productiveness of some farms, and would in a few years be found to have considerably increased the produce of the country.

Mr. W. Jones (Llwyngroes) admitted that the subject had often been discussed during the last twelve months, and hoped the effect of all this ventilation would be a good bill in the end. He did not think farmers should be in a hurry to get a measure passed; it would be better to thoroughly discuss the matter, and then no doubt the resulting bill would be something worth having. He quite agreed with the remarks of Mr. Buckley with respect to varying the compensation according to which party gave the notice to quit. The tenants ought to have compensation for unexhausted improvement, and he could not imagine why they had remained quiet for so many years. The present was the strike epoch, and he wondered the farmers did not join together and strike. He hoped to see the day when a good Act would be passed to remedy the present state of things.

Mr. Davies (Cincoed) advocated arbitration as a means of settling the amount to be awarded to tenants.

Mr. Lewis (Gurrey) quoted some remarks lately made by Sir John Pakington, who held that it would be no use passing an Act giving the tenant the value of unexhausted improvements if the landlords were able to make contracts with their tenants. At the last meeting a charge was made, by a gentleman not present on this occasion, against a large landed proprietor in Wales, to the effect that a tenant of his who had made an outlay of two or three thousand pounds had been turned out of his farm without a penny compensation. He denied this statement altogether. He believed with the Chairman, that both landlords and tenants should be protected, and if a tenant left a farm in an exhausted condition he ought to pay for the exhaustion. Mr. Lewis concluded by saying that he believed the bill, if shorn of the 12th clause, would be useless. He hoped the tenant-farmers would not strike for the purpose of getting their rights, but should not be sorry to see them do so unless proper security was granted them.

The Chairman mentioned, in regard to the right of contract, that the Act under discussion was to come in where no agreement existed between landlord and tenant. The Act he had mentioned would, however, come into force in cases where there was no agreement, or in cases where there was an agreement which did not give the tenants substantial compensation.

Mr. Brodie thought they would admit that he had taken a full share in regard to this matter at previous meetings. He had often heard children say to one another "open your mouth, shut your eyes, and see what the king will send you," and he thought the farmers might now open their mouths, shut their eyes, and see what Mr. Disraeli would send them. Mr. Disraeli attended well to the wants of the British farmer, and it seemed to him (the speaker) that it would be well to let him have a swing at this matter. He hoped the coming bill would be for the good of the agriculturists, and for the benefit of the community at large; and that it would also emancipate the land from the many old-fashioned shackles which now existed, and prevented its improvement. He earnestly hoped that Mr. Disraeli would go boldly into the matter, and gain laurels for himself that would never fade.

Mr. Morgan (Llwyn) agreed with the Chairman that the bill under consideration was too cumbersome. There was no

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doubt it was advisable to get a better understanding between landlords and tenants, the only question was how to do that. Difference in the soil, climate, &c., made it almost impossible to legislate for the whole kingdom, but they would see what Mr. Disraeli could do in the matter.

Mr. Boardman (Llandilo) and Mr. James approved of the bill, both arguing strongly in favour of security being granted to tenants—a course which would benefit farmers and improve the land immensely.

Mr. Warren was then called upon, and in the course of his remarks said the question involved in the bill was a national one. There was no doubt but that insecurity of tenure paralysed the energies of any man, whether he was a farmer or not. He should like to see an Act passed providing security, and he almost believed that a bad Act would be better than no Act at all, because the effect of such an Act would be to draw the attention of the country to the matter, and the defect would be remedied. There were thousands of acres of land in this country in a most imperfect state of cultivation, which could by means of capital and energy be brought to profitable and advantageous condition.

Mr. Prosser, the secretary, being blessed with a good landlord, was not so much in favour of the bill. He knew, however, of farms in this county where four white crops had been taken from the land in succession, and the effect of the bill in such cases would be that landlords would claim compensation from tenants.

The Chairman, in closing the discussion, said if a good moderate bill was passed even then he did not believe it would suit all circumstances. He still thought that there should be freedom of contract between landlord and tenant, but that the tenant should have ample compensation for unexhausted improvements.

HORSE-BREEDING IN FRANCE.

The following correspondence respecting horse-breeding establishments in France has been published as a Parliamentary paper:

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.

Paris, June 2, 1874.

My Lord,—I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, the promulgation of the Law on "Haras" (horse-breeding establishments) and remounts in France.

I have, &c., (Signed) Lyons.

Law on Breeding and Remount Establishments.

The National Assembly has passed the Law of which the tenor is as follows:

Article 1. The chief managing body of the breeding establishment shall consist of a director-general, who shall be also the inspector-general; six inspectors-general; twenty-two managers of depôts; twenty-two assistant managers, and an efficient number of superintendents.

Art. 2. A committee for the management of breeding establishments shall be named by the President of the Republic for nine years. It shall consist of twenty-four members, and shall be renewed every three years, by a third of its members retiring, and shall represent the different classes. Members retiring are re-eligible. It shall hold at least two sittings a year. It shall report on the estimates of the breeding establishments, on the general regulations for exhibitions and race meetings, on the kind and amount of encouragement to be given for breeding and rearing, and on all questions which may be submitted to it by the Minister or, in his absence, by the Director-General of the Haras. The decisions of the Departmental Councils (Conseils-Généraux) as also their debates concerning the horse question shall be communicated to them. After each sitting a full and detailed report on its labours shall be drawn up, and this report shall be communicated to the National Assembly.

Art. 3. The school of the "Haras du Pin" shall be re-established. No one shall become an officer of the Haras unless he has received a diploma certifying that he has passed the final examinations of this school.

Art. 4. From the year 1875, the actual number of stallions kept by the managing body of the Haras shall be increased by 200 stallions each year, until the maximum of 2,500 shall be reached. These stallions shall be chosen from the different breeds, and there shall be as many thoroughbred stallions among them as possible.

Art. 5. Independently of the sums voted each year for race meetings, training schools, &c., the present grant of 683,000 fr. destined for prizes, shall in 1875 be increased to 800,00 fr., and after that by an annual increase of 100,000 fr. up to the sum of 1,500,000 fr., in order to provide prizes for—1. Stallions belonging to private individuals, clubs, or departments, that have been approved of by the managing body of the Haras; 2. Brood mares, fillies, and colts. A grant of 50,000 fr. shall be devoted to trials of Arabs and Anglo-Arabs.

Art. 6. The establishment for brood mares at Pompadour shall be re-established. It shall consist of sixty mares devoted exclusively to the breeding of Arab and Anglo-Arab horses.

Done in the public sitting at Versailles, of the 29th May, 1874. (Signed) L. Buffet, President.

(Signed) Felix Voisin,
Francisque Rive,
Viscount Blin de Bourdon,
Louis de Segur,
Secretaries.

The President of the Republic hereby promulgates this law.

(Signed) Marshal De Mac Mahon, Duc de Magenta.
(Countersigned) L. Grivart,
Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.

Paris, June 5, 1874.

My Lord,—I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch of this day's date from Colonel Conolly on horse-breeding establishments in France.

I have, &c., (Signed) Lyons.

Colonel Conolly to Lord Lyons.

Paris, June 5, 1874.

My Lord,—Seeing by the newspapers that the subject of "horses" is likely to come again soon before the British Parliament, I have the honour to inclose copy of a Law which has just been passed by the French National Assembly for the encouragement of horse-breeding in general, and upon establishments for remounting the army. I shall be in a position to give further information on this subject by the next messenger, and to forward additional documents.

I have, &c., (Signed) James Conolly.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.

Paris, June 9, 1874.

My Lord,—I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch from Colonel Conolly dated the 8th instant, on the subject of breeding horses for the French army. I have, &c., (Signed) Lyons.

Colonel Conolly to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,—With reference to my last two despatches on the subject of horses, I have the honour to forward the following additional documents: Law passed by the National Assembly upon breeding and remount establishments; Two days' debate on the above Law in the Chamber at Versailles; Observations on encouragement and improvement of the breed of horses in France. I now beg to offer the following remarks upon the whole question, which excites considerable attention in the French Government and throughout the country. The school of the Haras du Pin, in Normandy, re-established by Article 3 of the Law, is destined to give an education in the veterinary art, and in the judgment and management of horses, which will qualify young men who have diplomas from thence for the higher positions in Government "Haras." The utility of this school is contested by many who advocate, for such diplomas, a competitive examination open to all France. The establishment for brood-mares at Pompadour, in the Limousin, has many opponents, on the

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ground of its interfering with private enterprise. A late work by M. de Croix, principal veterinary surgeon to the army, gives the following census of horses, mules, and asses in France:

	Head.
Grand total in France	3,633,605
" " Algeria included	4,000,000
They are divided thus:	
Colts and fillies under three years	400,454
Entire horses	351,654
Geldings	872,911
Mares	1,257,853
Mules	299,129
Asses	450,625
Among them are—	
Covering stallions	12,000
Brood mares	600,000
Which produce annually—	
Colts and filly foals	300,000

The rise in the price of horses during the last three years has given a great impulse to the breeding of them by the populations of Algeria. The debate in the National Assembly at Versailles is worth reading *in extenso* by any one interested in horse-breeding or the mounting of an army. The pith of it, however, may be extracted from the speeches of M. Bocher, reporter of the Committee, and of M. de Carayon-Latour, who is a large landed proprietor, master of hounds, and a good judge of all classes of horses. M. de Carayon is for restricting to the utmost the action of Government in this direction, and insists that its stallions should not cover at a lower price than would remunerate a private proprietor. M. Bocher answers that this is all very well in England, but that, with the French system of subdivision of property, very few private individuals can stand the expenses of a well-found breeding establishment. All parties agree that Government should interfere to prevent a circulation through the country of unsound covering stallions. The best remedy for such an evil consists in a heavy duty upon this class of animals, which can be mitigated or remitted where certificates are held from a superintendent of "Haras." It is also advocated that prizes should be given at agricultural meetings, horse exhibitions, &c., for the best brood mares and foals. The speakers in the debate of the National Assembly were unanimous as to encouraging the breed of "Percherons" and "Limousins" that every good judge must have admired in the French diligences, omnibuses, and other heavy vehicles. It is seen by Article 4 of the Law that the number of Government covering stallions will eventually be raised to 2,500 instead of (as at present) 1,087; but that, by the introduction of judicious economies, the annual cost of each animal will be reduced from 2,018 fr. 90c. to 1,469 fr. 78c. The whole financial system of the bill is developed in the speeches of the Marquis de Dampriere, page 3567, and of M. Bocher, page 3572 of the Debate. The late horse exhibition (spring of this year) was decidedly inferior to that of 1873. I can strongly recommend the inclosure of my despatch, "Observations by the Society for Encouraging and Improving the Breed of Horses in France," to the perusal of all of my countrymen who take an interest in this important subject. It gives a carefully prepared history of thoroughbred stock and of racing in this country, and it combats the argument that an excessive number of handicaps and of two-year-old and short races have had a deteriorating effect (combined with inordinate betting) as well upon the breed of horses as on public morality. Many good sportsmen in England, with whom I agree, and who are of opinion that evils of this kind have ensued from the multiplication of small race meetings, will read with impartiality this defence of the French system, which is not yet nearly as far advanced in that direction as our own. The pamphlet in question is not published for the trade, and copies of it are difficult to be procured. The military considerations which influenced the Committee are fully explained by its reporter, pages 3571 and 3572 of the Debate. When the peace establishment of the army required 70,000 saddle horses, France had to import annually from 6,000 to 7,000; that establishment is now raised to 90,000. To pass from a peace to a war footing under the new military law demands 176,000 horses, and a large proportion of them of superior quality to what was formerly considered serviceable. The movements of field artillery are now so much accelerated that many of the draught horses of that arm must come from the same class as those for the cavalry.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES CONOLLY.

WILTSHIRE BACON.

We recently had occasion to visit a small Wiltshire town which has been for many years, and still is, the principal seat of bacon manufacture. There is nothing in the cleanly, quiet appearance of the town itself to indicate either the nature or the magnitude of the trade there carried on. Though our hotel was within a stone's throw of the principal slaughter-house, we were greeted with no shrill dissonant cries of pigs in distress, and protesting in their own way against having their throats cut. There were no open sewers flowing with blood and garbage, nor blackened slums reeking with the smoke of burnt straw and hair. All was clean and orderly, as if there was no such a thing as a pig within fifty miles. The only thing which struck us as unusual was the passage of several waggons laden with huge blocks of Norwegian ice, the summer supply of fifteen hundred tons being then about to be laid in. An uniform temperature is thus secured for the curing vaults, under a system patented by the proprietors, who are thus secured against heavy losses by unfavourable weather, and also enabled to meet the constant demand for their bacon, and send it out in a comparatively fresh condition all the year round. It stands by reason that if sufficient bacon were cured during the cold weather to last all the summer months, which was the old-fashioned plan, the present system of curing would not answer, as the bacon would not keep An immense stock must also be necessarily accumulated in the spring to meet the supply, and the consumption of the offal, instead of being equalised, as now throughout the year, would in some seasons be far in excess and in others far inadequate to the demand. Fifty thousand pigs per annum are slaughtered in this establishment, giving an average of about a thousand a week. Through the kindness of the proprietor I was enabled to see and make a note of the arrangements, notwithstanding the notice which met my eye at the entrance that there is "no admittance except on business." I use the word proprieto advisedly, for this is no joint-stock affair, but is conducted by the skill and capital of one man, or rather one family, alone. The business has been in existence for more than half a century, and had comparatively a very small beginning, but has grown to the present magnitude through the indefatigable efforts of managers to meet the taste and requirements of the times. At first I was conducted to the shed in which the live stock are temporarily housed to await operations. There they were, comfortably nestling in clean straw, and with but little of the usual odour of the stye, a number of fine, plump, medium-sized pigs, grunting, snuffing, or groaning contentedly, and happily unconscious of the fate which awaited them on the morrow. I had neither the opportunity nor desire to see them brought to the knife, but the *modus operandi* was lucidly explained to me by one of the operators. A chain is attached, by means of a noose, to one of the hind legs, and the animal is suddenly drawn up, head downwards, by means of a windlass. An incision is skilfully made in the throat. There is a muffled shriek, a copious discharge of blood from the orifice, a few convulsive kicks, and the sanguinary deed is completed. The carcase is then removed to the singeing furnaces, for Wiltshire bacon must not have its hair entirely removed by scalding, after the Yankee method, or it would lose one of its characteristic marks, and consequently much of its value in the market. The old-fashioned plan was to lay the carcase on the ground in the open air, cover it up with straw, which was then set fire to, and the process continued as long as necessary, perhaps ten minutes or a quarter of an hour to a pig. This consumption of time and straw would never do on an extensive scale. A furnace is therefore contrived with a fiery aperture, into which the carcase of the pig is lifted by an ingeniously contrived lever, is there denuded of hair, and removed in

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about half a minute. It is then washed and scraped clean, a gambrel is inserted under the tendons of the hind legs, and the carcase is suspended by an iron hook to a horizontal bar, which traverses the whole length of the slaughter-house, serving as a sort of tramway, having sidings and crossings, along which the carcase is easily slid from one operator to another, until it is finally cut asunder and taken down. The disembowelling process comes next, the viscera, being the butcher's perquisites if the animal be bought by weight, are entirely removed; the liver, heart, &c., forming a cheap and savoury dish for a poor man's table, find a ready sale to meat pedlars, who hawk them about the country, the overplus being sent to London or the neighbouring towns. The entrails are passed down a kind of funnel to the vaults below, where they are denuded of fat, and passed on to women, who wash and cleanse them for sausage skins and "chitlings." The old-fashioned hog's pudding, composed of the blood and fat of the animal, mixed with prepared oats and savoury herbs, stuffed into the entrails, a revolting looking mass, but when boiled and afterwards toasted, a dish for an epicure, is not in so much favour now as formerly; the blood is consequently sold and highly prized for manure. The pig may now be said to be killed and dressed by a series of operations which are performed, when "in full swing," at the rate of about ninety per hour. It is next weighed, and then slit down the middle; the lazarus, or back-bone, flake fat, head, and leg are removed, the sides neatly trimmed to shape, and they are then ready for salting. There is but little fresh meat taken from the pigs in this establishment; the spare rib is "spare" indeed, and seldom weighs more than one or two pounds. The griskin is a mere attenuated strip, composed mostly of short transverse pieces of bone. The whole side, consequently, from the abundance of lean meat in its constitution, partakes more or less of the character of delicately flavoured ham, whilst the difficulty of disposing of the enormous quantity of fresh meat which would accrue were the sides trimmed in the ordinary manner is done away with. In favourable weather the meat is cut into sausages and sent to London and other large towns, where they are readily disposed of in fresh and prime condition. At other times the meat is sold to the hawkers, or salted down to be consumed at leisure. I was next conducted to the curing department, which is vaulted over, and surmounted by the large quantity of fresh ice as before mentioned. Were it not for this contrivance, the system pursued here could not be properly carried out. Each side receives its just proportion of salt, and neither more nor less, the conditions being equalised throughout the year by an equalisation of temperature. As may be supposed, everything here is scrupulously clean. The flooring, which would otherwise be inevitably sloppy, is composed of a patent pavement, which forms a complete series of grooves and channels, and is so laid as to drain itself. Here were huge piles of hams, cheeks, and sides of bacon undergoing the curing process, which is performed with salt and finely-pulverised Bengal saltpetre alone, the use of sugar, which is only necessary to counteract excessive saltness, being here unnecessary. The different sized sides are all arranged in separate piles, as the heavy ones require a somewhat longer time than the light ones. From the curing vaults to the drying houses, where they are either white or smoke dried, to suit the tastes of the purchaser, and then to the consumer, averages about a month from the time the pig is taken alive into the establishment. About ten million pounds of first-class bacon are sent out yearly, most of it finding its way to London and other large towns, where good things will always command a good price. Our sister countries, Scotland and Ireland, notwithstanding their pride in native produce, are not insensible to the charms of Wiltshire bacon, and figure largely as customers. The proprietor is thus enabled to obtain the highest price of any other curer in the world, though he has no advantage such as a monopoly of the raw material or a secret in the mode of treatment would give him. The method is open to anyone who chooses to exercise it with the same care and discretion as are here observed. We must not forget the lard, which is run into bladders and shallow tin pans, and sold by the ton to large consumers. "This is our readin' room," said my guide, opening a door, and ushering me into a spacious and well-lighted apartment, well furnished with books, newspapers, and periodicals. Here the men who reside at a distance take their meals, and spend, if they are so minded, the intervals of labour. The literary character given to the apartment looks well, and shows that those who kill fat swine need not necessarily be swine themselves. The proprietor is, we hear, a disciple of John Bright, and conducts his establishment as far as possible on teetotal principles. There was, however, an unmistakable odour in the room of the weed which soothes and not inebriates, which showed some amount of toleration of the weaknesses of our fellow men, inasmuch as smoking was not strictly prohibited.—*Wilts Gazette.*

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1874.—By the Building Act of 1844 certain businesses were put under regulation as offensive or noxious, as they were then carried on in a manner injurious to health. Dwelling-houses were not to be built within 50ft. from any buildings in use for such a business. If the building was destroyed or pulled down it might be rebuilt, but no new business could be established at a less distance than 40ft. from a public way, or 50ft. from a dwelling-house, and if then carried on within such distances it was prohibited to be so carried on after 30 years from the 9th of August, 1844, unless means were used to mitigate the nuisance to the satisfaction of a jury at Quarter Sessions in Middlesex, which was declared to be the *venue* for the whole metropolis. Last year those concerned in the trade of slaughtering cattle became alarmed at the existence of these prohibitory enactments, and the penalty of £50 a day for infringing them; and an attempt was made to get a repealing Bill passed, but it was withdrawn, and a Select Committee substituted to take evidence regarding noxious businesses. Those concerned in most of the business were fully heard, and much useful information was recorded to show how much the practice was improved in each trade under the system of inspection prescribed by the Metropolis Local Management Acts and the Nuisance Laws, which are executed by the corporative Vestries and District Boards. The trades specified in 1844 were blood boiler, bone boiler, fellmonger, slaughterer of cattle, sheep, or horses, soap boiler, tallow melter, and tripe boiler. Those who promoted the agitation were the Butchers' Trade Society, as they were most numerous, and, although that trade had never been required to conform to the law, they yet feared the penal construction which might be put upon it at the end of the period of 30 years. It did not appear to be understood that the "business of a slaughterer of cattle, sheep, or horses" did not refer to the butcher who killed his own beasts, but applied to those who killed for other persons for hire, or kept knackers' yards, and the letter used to be the most offensive places. By the new Act the trades are divided into two classes. The blood boiler, bone boiler, manure manufacturer, soap boiler, tallow melter, and knacker are prohibited from anew establishing such businesses within the metropolis, subject to a penaly of £50 for establishing, and also a like penalty per day for carrying on the same. The word "anew" has a wide meaning as given in the statute. The other businesses of a fellmonger, tripe boiler, or slaughterer of cattle, and any other businesses declared to be offensive, are not to be established anew without the sanction of the local authority. That authority is to inspect and make orders and by-laws for the regulation of these trades after hearing all objections. The local authority for the metropolis (except the City of London) is the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the Commissioners of Sewers within the City. The Vestries and District Boards are to inspect as to nuisances, and the Privy Council inspectors can inspect as to disease in animals. The magistrates are to enforce the law under the Summary Jurisdiction Act, subject to appeal to Quarter Sessions. Justices at Special Sessions are to grant licences for slaughterhouses, as a matter of course, where the sanction of the local authority is obtained. A "slaughterer of cattle" means a person whose business it is to kill any description of cattle, including sheep, goats, or swine, killed for use as butchers' meat. A "knacker" means a person whose business it is to slaughter any horse, ass, or mule, or any cattle, &c., not for use as butchers' meat. One notion is put in print—that business premises may be extended anew "half an acre," whereas it was "half their original extent in area;" but that is now altered to an enlargement without the sanction of the local authority. Great exaggeration has also been used in reference to public slaughterhouses and the defects of pri-

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vate places, whereas the members of the committee who visited several of both kinds, found the latter greatly to be preferred to the former in regard to cleanliness. The butcher who slaughters can kill when it suits him and clean up, but the public slaughterer has to meet the demands of numerous persons at any time, and may be always in an untidy state, as was found at the slaughterhouses of the Metropolitan Cattle Market by the members of the committee who visited it.

HIGHWAY LEGISLATION.

At the quarterly meeting of the Notts Chamber of Agriculture, the minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Lord GALWAY, M.P., the Chairman, said the attendance was probably not so large as it would otherwise have been owing to the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society holding their show at Grantham that day. The subject put down for discussion was Highway Legislation. He was bound to say that he did not exactly know what that meant, because there was nothing before Parliament at the present moment which bore on that question. The subject, however, was influenced by that of local taxation, which might be discussed another session, and it was no doubt highly desirable that this Chamber should discuss the matter. It was a great satisfaction to their representatives in Parliament to know their opinions on matters of this kind. It was a sort of guide to them, and although luckily they were not delegates and did not quite do what people told them to do, they liked to know the opinions of their constituents before voting on questions in Parliament. He had now to ask Mr. Gilbert to read his paper on the subject of Highway Legislation.

Mr. HY. GILBERT, of Barnby-in-the-Willows, said it was perhaps presumptuous in him to have undertaken the task of introducing this question, but having been requested to do so by the Council of the Chamber, and believing it to be worthy of their attention, he would do his best to discharge the task he had undertaken. Mr. Gilbert then proceeded: Every public way which is a thoroughfare and common to all people is a highway, whether carriage ways, bridle, or foot ways. Some have become so by use, some by dedication, and some are awarded roads, and a few of these are repaired by private persons, but the greater part are now, and have been for a great length of time, repaired by the respective parishes in which they are situate. In 1285 an Act was passed enjoining the "lords of the soil" to enlarge those ways, where bushes, woods, and ditches were situated, in order to prevent robberies, clearly showing that the lands over which the public had a right of way belonged to the owners of the soil, which I believe is the case to this day, the public only having the right of way. An Act was passed in the reign of Philip and Mary enacting that two surveyors should be appointed annually, and the inhabitants of the parishes were obliged according to their respective ability to provide labourers, carriages, and tools, &c., to work on the roads four days in each year under the direction of the surveyor. In the reign of Charles II. power was given to raise an assessment and the power of levying a toll was first established. In the reign of William III. and following reigns turnpike Acts were passed, and commissioners appointed to carry them into execution, and in the reign of George II. turnpikes were distinguished from other highways. In the reign of George III. the turnpike Acts were consolidated. The highways were repaired at the expense of the parishes, and the turnpikes at the expense of the persons using them, tolls being collected, but if sufficient could not be collected then a portion of the cost was thrown upon the parishes. The Justices of the Peace had power to inflict a fine of £5 on any surveyor not doing his duty, or not keeping the roads in good repair, and in case of his neglect to put them in repair, then they had the power to fine him the full amount the road would cost, and also the expense of a person to superintend and put the road in good order. Notwithstanding these extraordinary powers which the magistrates still retain, our county magistrates have adopted the Permissive Act, and divided this county into highway districts—25 and 26 Victoria. The district we are now in—the Newark highway district—comprises 50 parishes, and 200 miles of road. There is one surveyor (and I must say the board are perfectly satisfied with him) to superintend it, and it is not competent for the board to appoint another, unless as a deputy under him. So he has to look over 200 miles, to see how the labour is performed, to set out the work and see it is properly done, keep books, &c. Why, the thing is perfectly impossible. Some may say, "Oh, the waywardens may look after the men;" but if so what use is the surveyor at all. But the waywardens have no authority or power except as the board may order. After giving a humorous instance of the difficulty of men working under two masters, the wayward en and the surveyor, he proceeded: I find that this district cost last year about £18 per mile, and the turnpike roads £32—altogether £4,849. The Clerk, Mr. Newbald, has kindly allowed me to look over the expenses incurred by the fifty parishes before they were formed into a district, and I find that in the two years 1863 and 1864 the cost was £6,730. In the two years ending Dec., 1873, £7,677, being an increase of £947, or £473 per year. Add to this the cost of turnpikes last year, £1,156, and we find £1,630 per annum in excess of the old system chargeable to this district. I attended by request a few months ago a meeting of the Central Chamber in London, and a discussion took place respecting highway legislation. The feeling was most decidedly against the highway district system. One gentleman from Lincolnshire stated that a deputation from the parishes had requested the justices not to form these districts, but to fine the overseers £5—they not having done their duty. The consequence is that the roads are better looked after and only three surveyors have been fined. Only one district has been formed in that county—Gainsborough, and the chairman, Sir C. Anderson, has expressed his regret that that should have been made, and the gentlemen said they had declined to appoint a surveyor in their district, the waywardens performing that duty and so rendering the Act inoperative. Another gentleman placed in my hands a printed statement of the working of the Act in Worcestershire, which county is divided into seven districts. In one district the expenses are 6½ per cent. less than in the other six districts. The expenses are increased 46¾ per cent. on the average. If the present Highway Boards thought the old system less expensive and preferable to the new, they should represent that to the magistrates who had still the power to deal with them. Should that be the case, and parish surveyors were appointed, they ought to be allowed a mileage to remunerate them for their trouble. He fully accorded with the abolition of toll-bars, believing that in many cases they were expensively managed. Having referred to the Worksop and Kelham turnpikes and Newark and Leadenham as examples, he concluded by moving the following resolutions: "That it is the opinion of this Chamber that the roads should be under parochial management subject to, the control and financial supervision of the justices or of a local or district board. That compelling the various parishes (in the highway district) to repair and maintain the abandoned turnpike roads is an act of great injustice, thereby relieving the public at the expense of the country ratepayers, and that Parliament should be requested to pay out of the public purse annually three-fourths of the expenses of repairing and maintaining such roads to such parishes or highway districts."

In reply to the Chairman, Mr. GILBERT said he would not press his resolution to a division, but he should be glad to hear the opinions of members upon it.

Mr. C. NEVILE (Thornley Hall) said the question of turnpikes and the maintainence of highways were matters that had not specially engaged his attention, but as a land owner and county magistrate he was compelled to have some general knowledge of these subjects. The difficulty seemed this, that assuming there was a grievance, what was the remedy? Now add to that he might say that some years ago a great statesman asked him his opinion on a matter of importance at that time. The statesman listened to him for a considerable time, and then asked what was his remedy? To that he (the speaker) replied that he was only a country squire, and that ministers were paid £5,000 a year to provide remedies. In the same way they should discuss matters of this kind, and their members of Parliament were the proper persons to provide

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remedies. Reverting to the question of highways, he thought it very hard that a small parish should be taxed for the maintenance of a turnpike which the inhabitants never went on a single foot. He also thought the system was bad of having one surveyor in large districts. Take his own parish of Thorney. They paid a gentleman for driving about in a gig. Why he would engage to do that work for half the money. And as to his superintending the whole of the roads, it was an impossibility. He suggested as he did at a meeting at which the late speaker attended, that the Highway Board should occupy the same position as the bench of magistrates, and that if complaints were made of a road being bad, the parish should be ordered to repair them. There was no occasion to pay a surveyor to look after them, because if there was an intelligent man in any parish he could see the work was done.

The CHAIRMAN: You have some bad roads at Thorney, have you not?

Mr. NEVILE: Very good, my lord. There is not a better parish going. He went on to say that every parish should be left to maintain its own roads. What with the poor-rate, highway-rate, and other burdens, local taxation was rapidly increasing, and whether it fell on landlord or tenant, they were both interested, and he thought no landlord ought to sit by and see his tenantry overburdened if he could help it.

Mr. CRIPWELL (Mansfield-Woodhouse) said he had had some experience in the questions raised by Mr. Gilbert. He was most familiar with the Mansfield district, the accounts of which he had now before him. He found that the Mansfield district compared favourably with the Newark, and that had led him to inquire the reasons why the Mansfield district did the work so much better. It seemed to him that there was something wrong in the system pursued in this locality, and that more money was spent than there was any good reason for. He made these remarks because Mr. Gilbert seemed to have based his observations on what was being done in the Newark district. With regard to the Mansfield district, they had 122 miles of road, whereas in Newark they had 201.

The CHAIRMAN: Newark is rather an awkwardly-fixed district.

Mr. CRIPWELL said the cost per mile for repairs only in the Manfield district was £9 7s. 6d., whilst at Newark it was £17 14s. The common charges for turnpike repairs in the Mansfield district were £2 per mile, whilst in the Newark district they were £5 15s. Probably, however, they had a larger proportion of turnpikes in the Newark district. With regard to salaries the Mansfield district paid £1 5s. per mile, and the Newark district only £1. They paid a lower salary per mile because the mileage was less. Their clerk's salary was £30, and the surveyor's £120; in the Newark district the clerk's salary was £40, and the surveyor's £175. For manual labour they paid in the Mansfield district £5 16s. 3d. per mile; in the Newark district it was £7 16s.; for daily labour they paid in the Mansfield district £1 2s. per mile, whilst in Newark they paid £2 12s. 8d.; for materials (and they were rather favourably fixed) the cost per mile in the Mansfield district was £1 12s. 10d., whilst in Newark it was £6; tradesmen's bills were 7s. per mile in the Mansfield district, and 13s. 8d. in this district. As far as the Mansfield district was concerned it was admitted by all, that under the new system the roads had very much improved, and that they were getting the improvements made at a less expense.

Mr. PINDER: What kind of material do you use?

Mr. CRIPWELL said they used the materials best adapted to the various districts. They had one surveyor who looked over the whole district, but the waywarden was expected to supervise him in his own parish, and if he had any fault to find, it was his duty to attend the Board and make a complaint. The surveyor in their district had shown the greatest readiness to listen to any suggestion made to him. He had thought it his duty to lay this fact before the meeting, as showing how the system worked in his district.

Mr. GODBER asked whether there was any desire in the Mansfield district to return to the old system?

Mr. CRIPWELL said they would be very sorry to do it. Their roads had very much improved, whilst it had cost them no more.

The SECRETARY, Mr. Browne, stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Walker, of Mattersea, in which he referred to the subject under discussion.

The CHAIRMAN proceeded to read the letter. Writing from Scarborough Mr. Walker said: "I see your subject for discussion is 'Highway Legislation.' Under the old system of tollbars the maintenance of the through roads was paid by those who used the roads and charged back on the consumer in the price of goods so carried. Now goods are carried by rail and the cross roads are eat up more than the through roads are. I have always held that all taxes gathered on horses, carriages, &c., should go towards the maintenance of through roads, the bye-roads being maintained by the farmers as theirs of right by usage. This is one thing to be brought forward in our Chambers, and is on the same principle as this, that all taxes should be paid by consumers either directly or indirectly, for all are consumers but all are not producers, and any tax which presses on the fully-manufactured article is a consumers' tax, but not unless. The incidence of taxation is the first thing to be considered, and is of much more consequence than some measures which, though good in principle, interfere with freedom of contract and drive the thin wedge into the rights of property. Conservatism should be to adopt what is right, root out what is wrong: let all the good we know of old be dovetailed with the new.

Mr. GODBER (Balderton) said in his opinion the whole subject seemed to resolve itself into two questions—efficiency and economy—how they could in the cheapest and most economical manner efficiently maintain the roads. He referred to the improvements which had taken place in the condition of the roads since the time when he was a boy, when it used to be said they were up to the axletree, and he observed that there had been a great improvement under the present system, not only with regard to the material used but in the securing a greater amount of uniformity. He wished to point out that here they were in a very bad condition as compared with the Mansfield district in point of material. It seemed that the question of material made up the whole of the difference between the two districts. The question was, could they mend themselves by going back to the old system? He was afraid not. He really thought that although the new system had cost a certain amount more money the increased cost would not continue. He maintained that their roads would not cost them so much henceforward as they had done in bringing them to the state they were in at the present time. The surveyors were not responsible for the size of the districts, and where a surveyor acted well with a waywarden they got on very well. In his own parish, where they had an efficient waywarden, they got on very well. He did not think so much cost would be required for years to come, and therefore he did not look upon this as money lost or thrown away. As to the turnpikes, it had been said that there was no agitation about them, that there was a great deal of dissatisfaction about it, and it was dissatisfaction that generally grew into agitation. The question arose, how would they remedy this real grievance? He believed the question would require a good deal of discussion before they could arrive at any satisfactory solution of it. During his last election Mr. Disraeli was asked by one of his constituents, "What about the turnpikes?" and his reply was that it was a mess. If they were a mess then, they were a mess now. It was for the agriculturists, however, to press their grievances, and to ask that some plan may be devised for relieving them of some of their heavy burdens. The education question, the sanitary regulations, and the turnpike question, had all come on during the last four years, and they had made a difference of 6d. in the pound. He pointed out that every man, woman, and child paid £1 per head to local charges throughout the country, quoting Mr. Goschen to the effect that the local taxation of the country amounts to 30 millions a year, and as agriculturists paid so much to imperial taxation, they ought to be relieved as much as possible of local taxation. He could not, however, bring his mind to vote for the old system of managing their highway, though he thought some more economical plan should be devised for dealing with the turnpike roads.

Mr. NEVILE asked whether the expenses of the new system were diminishing?

Mr. GODBER said they were, and would do so in time to come.

Lord GALWAY said he was much gratified at the tone the discussion had taken. Mr. Gilbert's resolution he thought, from the first, was rather too general and sweeping in its character to command universal approval, and therefore he thought that gentleman had acted very wisely in saying he would be satisfied if a discussion took place without taking the feeling

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of the meeting on the resolution. He thought they ought to return their thanks to Mr. Gilbert for bringing the subject forward. The more fu'ly these questions were discussed the better able they were to form a judgment on them. Now, Mr. Gilbert's resolution almost seemed to express that the existence of these highway roads was very unsatisfactory to the country generally. There were two sides to the question however, and he knew there were many who considered that their roads were in a much better state than before. The question of expense was of course one of great consideration, and it only showed the difficulty of the subject when they heard Mr. Gilbert's figures, and the figures given by Mr. Cripwell in his excellent speech, and stating the difference between the Mansfield and Newark districts. With regard to the surveyors, it was said that it was impossible for them to go over the whole of a large district, but he would remind them that they had to keep accounts.

Mr. CRIPWELL: Only his own, my lord, not the general account; they are kept by a clerk.

Lord GALWAY: Still he would have to keep small accounts, and they required a fairly educated man to do this. One observation struck him as perfectly true, that surveyors could not be expected to see every portion of the roads kept in good order, but he must say that, as far as his judgment went, the waywardens did not exert themselves sufficiently. He would suggest that they ought to have the power to give directions to those who were repairing the road. If they saw a man acting wrongly in his work they ought to send for the surveyor to attend to it. (Mr. Cripwell: They do so with us.) It struck him (the noble lord) that a great deal more might be done by the waywardens if they would take a little more trouble. There was no one more alive to the advantages of local management than he was. In some of these Acts of Parliament there was too great a tendency to centralise than to leave matters in the hands of gentlemen on the spot who are able to judge for themselves. With regard to local taxation, he reminded them that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had shown his good will to the country by putting £150,000 on one side for local expenses. That might be said to be a drop in a bucket, but still it was a step in the right direction. They were aware perhaps a new Valuation Bill had been introduced, bringing mines, plantations, and game into valuation. He told them fairly, however, that he did not see how game could be rated, except where it was let. He remarked that he had hitherto had his plantations rated as land in an uncultivated state, and if the Assessment Committee only used their common sense, and act fairly to the landowners and between themselves, there would be no difficulty about it, and it would be ten times better than going up to head-quarters to know how to do it. This proposal, however, would relieve the farmer of a small amount of rate, and he only mentioned it to show that it was a step in the right direction, and to express the hope that next session, if the present Government remained in power, of which he was glad to say there was very little doubt, something would be done to benefit the agricultural as well as the urban interests. The noble lord then remarked that he took great interest in the turnpike question, having been on a committee consisting of Lord Penrhyn, Lord G. Cavendish, Mr. Wyvill, &c., and said he thought they would be acting wisely in not committing themselves on this subject, inasmuch as some general Act would probably be introduced next session.

Mr. GILBERT, in reply, said he was perfectly satisfied with the discussion his paper had elicited, and now withdrew his resolution, and expressed his acknowledgments.

AGRICULTURAL GEOLOGY.

THE NORTHERN DIVISION.

At a meeting of the Institution of Surveyors, Mr. John Clutton in the chair, Mr. E. J. SMITH read the following paper:

In the discussion on Mr. Squarey's excellent paper on this subject [already given], I observed that the geological formations might be conveniently identified with the letters of the alphabet, and that whether we pass from hence to Cornwall, or to Wales, or to Cumberland, or to Scotland, we equally pass over a series of formations corresponding to the series of letters between V and A. The igneous rocks form part of the Scottish border, and the granitic rocks are the basis of the Cumberland mountains, and all the intermediate formations, except the old red sandstones, will be traversed between those rocks and the formations already described by Mr. Squarey. In the northern part of England, the formation which attains the greatest height and governs the climate and the directions of rivers and roads, and affected the course of traffic, is the great mountain limestone and Yoredale rock, corresponding to the letter E; the formation which is the most valuable is the coal formation identified by G; while the new red sandstone formation (marked K) is the most extensive; lying upon the rivers Tees, Trent, Severn, and Mersey, and touching the tidal waters of all the three seas which guard the English shores. This mountain limestone range forms the Penine change or backbone of England, the great watershed and high ground of the north with a length of 200 miles and an extreme elevation of 3,000 feet, whence the rivers fall rapidly westwards to the Irish Sea, and, by longer courses, eastwards to the German Ocean, whilst the ancient roads from south to north run along its eastern side, guided mainly by the facilities for passing each successive eastern river. Bounded to the westward by the igneous rocks which form the Cheviot hills, this mountain limestone range enters England on the Scottish border, and extending along the eastern coast for about thirty-five miles, strikes across the western sides of the counties of Northumberland and Durham to Crossfell, 3,000 feet above sea level, and thence enters Yorkshire above Barnard Castle. At Brough there is a remarkable depression of 1,000 feet, through which run the British and Roman roads from east to west, after which the range again rises to 2,400 feet, and throws a nothern arm westwards to Cockermouth on the Irish Sea. Brough is nearly the centre of the limestone range from north to south; from Brough to Clithero in Lancashire, it continues at its full width; and from Ingleborough, 2,360 feet high, a southern arm is thrown across Furness to the Irish Sea; the main body extending southwards to Ashbourne in Derbyshire, and reaching a height of 2,500 feet in that county. Detached portions of this range appear an the counties of Leicester, Gloucester, Somerset, Carmarthen, Brecon, and Monmouth, generally connected with coal fields; but these portions are comparatively insignificant in extent. This formation is of more value in a geological than in an agricultural point of view, and is chiefly in pasture; where there is sufficient soil and not too much height or exposure it is productive as arable, but this is upon only a small portion of the range. On the north side of Crossfell, at an elevation of 1,800 feet, land not worth one shilling per acre has been brought to ten times that value, by cutting surface drains to carry off the rain-water—some sixty inches of annual fall. At Alston, which is 900 feet above sea level, a very narrow strip of land on the South Tyne river may be worth £3 an acre, and this is surmounted by a zone of land worth 30s. to 20s. an acre, and then the hillside runs up to moorland very rapidly. Near here, at a level of 1,800 feet above the sea, the Gildersdale enclosure has remained unaffected for many years, because a recreation ground of 280 acres was considered indispensable. There is no house within two miles, and the nearest habitation is 800 feet below the common. Not far from Haydon Bridge, about 500 feet above sea level, Mr. Grey, the receiver for the Greenwich Hospital Estates, has also greatly improved a large extent of land. The sheltered lands along this part of the South Tyne, rising to a level of 700 feet, are now fair arable land, let at from 30s. to 20s. an acre. Lands let on lease at 30s. during the high prices of 1813, were in 1822 obliged to be reduced to 20s. on account of the fall in prices. The greater part of the lower land throughout Northumberland is on this formation, and has been brought into good cultivation, and is admirably farmed at rents

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averaging fully 30s. an acre. On that coast line are several remarkable peaks of igneous rocks (Bamborough Castle and the ruins of Dunstanborough Castle stand upon two of them), and where these igneous rocks form soil they are very good turnip land, worth 35s. to 40s. an acre. They are, however, of small extent. From Barnard Castle to Clithero, and, indeed, wherever the elevation of the limestone range exceeds 700 feet above the sea, this formation is almost wholly in pasture; but there are variations in its character. Near Skipton and throughout the Craven district, it carries very good grass, worth 30s. an acre on the high grounds, and 70s. in the dales, and generally along its eastern side, where it is at all sheltered, it is fair pasture if well cared for. The western side is exposed and precipitous. The northern arm to Cockermouth (crossed at Shap by the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway) being chiefly at a high level, and subject to great exposure is, perhaps, the portion least capable of improvement. The southern arm crossing Furness, where not too much exposed to the westerly winds, presents on the contrary, some of its most favourable cultivation, for the range falls rapidly to Morecambe Bay, and this portion is good land, chiefly under arable cultivation, at rents of fully 30s. an acre. As a general rule altitude and exposure have more to do with the unproductiveness of this formation than its natural character; for wherever limestone soil on any formation has depth, the grass is sweet and healthy, and sheep farming can be profitably undertaken. There is very little residential value attaching to any part of this range, except where mineral springs have brought a population for medicinal purposes. On its western side, at sea level, the rainfall ranges from 32 to 65 inches yearly; while on the eastern side, at sea level, the rainfall ranges from 20 to 40 inches yearly. The western side, therefore, is more suitable for the growth of grass, and the eastern side for the growth of corn. The Government returns of agricultural produce have for some years been divided into two parts, the one headed grazing, and the other corn; but the grazing division includes Northumberland, Durham, and the North and West Ridings of Yorkshire, on account of the large proportion of mountainous land within them—the elevation and latitude occasioning a climate ill suited to the growth of corn. As regards minerals, this mountain limestone range comprises at the Derbyshire end four limestone strata, 1,800 feet thick, with three layers of basalt, 360 feet thick, with some lead ore and zinc. But as the range continues northwards, the limestone strata part from each other, and the basalt wears out, until in the vicinity of the junction of the three counties of Durham, Cumberland, and Northumberland, the limestone strata lie apart in sixteen beds, with 700 feet of sand and shale between the highest and the lowest, while the basalt is confined to one bed, 120 feet thick. At this northern end are lead ore, zinc, and some copper, and the lead ore has been so largely recovered that one-fourth of the whole annual supply of English lead has come from it. At this point also large detached ranges of iron ore, better in character than the Cleveland ore but not equal to the hæmatite iron ore, are found. At this point also seams of coal put in as the limestone thins out, and one of the best house coals is found in part of this range, although at other points the seams contain comparatively inferior coal. I may add that the limestone strata continue to diminish after entering Scotland, and the coal strata to increase, so that in Scotland the greater part of the house coal is derived from this formation. These coal seams have nothing whatever to do with the Newcastle or with any other of the English coal fields, being part of a previous geological formation. Near the western extremities of both the arms of this range is found that most valuable iron ore called hæmatite. There are no certain surface indications, but pots or bowls of hæmatite iron ore, without connections with each other, or anything to indicate whether any one will prove to have only a trace of iron ore, or will extend to fifty or to any larger number of acres, are found and worked. This ore on the surface may be worth 30s. a ton, and by this iron ore has been raised the newly-erected borough of Barrow-in-Furness. It contained 200 inhabitants in 1851, and in 1871 returned to the census a population of 18,585 persons. In this borough a single order to build 1,000 new houses has been given, and each house has been occupied as soon as finished. Having taken as our central basis the great mountain limestone range passing down the centre of the North of England, we shall find on the western coast that many earlier formations are altogether absent, and on the eastern coast that three steps take us from the oolitic series marked N, to alluvial soil marked Z; an interval which, in the south-east of England, requires all the intervening letters of the alphabet. I will first remark upon the country westward of the range to the Irish Sea. There are three granite rocks in Cumberland (marked A), and at the central point where Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire meet, there is the green slate and porphyry rock (marked B), and this appears to be the centre of disturbance which brought upon the surface the Cumberland mountains and their accompanying lakes. Agriculturally, this area is of little value; but for residential purposes many sequestered nooks and sheltered lake-side spots are of a value dependant entirely on the enthusiastic temperament of the purchaser. Nothing is more thoroughly enjoyable than a well-selected residence in the lake district. On its northern side this green slate has the before-mentioned northern arm of the mountain limestone immediately upon it, and the coal measures (marked G) are immediately below the mountain limestone. The upper silurian, and the old red sandstone, and the millstone grit, above the coal, and the magnesian limestone below it (denoted by C, D, F, and I), are all certainly absent in this district. These coal measures were long used only for local consumption and for the supply of coal to Dublin. Some mines are 1,000 feet deep, and have, in part, been worked under the sea for many centuries, and at one point the workings extend nearly two miles from the shore. Occasionally the sea breaks in and drowns a colliery—the last instance was in 1837. The coals are now worked also further inland, as the facilities for railway carriage have rendered inland pits commercially practicable. The coal measures rest directly upon the conglomerate sandstone (marked H), and this upon the new red sandstone (marked K)—the rock which lies lowest between the sea and the Cumberland hills, and chiefly along the courses of the rivers. The Valley of the Eden contains as good land as any in the north, letting at from 70s. to 40s. an acre, and good feeding land is found along the rivers; but the greater part of the higher land of the district is arable, ranging from 10s. to 30s. an acre, surmounted by pasture land of little value, and by mountain moorland. There are many residential situations within this area, but they are not easily accessible from the great centres of wealth. Reverting to the before-mentioned central point, where Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire meet (marked B), and proceeding southwards instead of northwards, the green slate rock is followed by the upper silurian (marked C), which is entirely wanting on the northern side, and which is divided into four sections, and this rests upon the mountain limestone. The old red sandstone, and the millstone grit, and the coal measures, and the conglomerate sandstone, and the magnesian limestone (denoted by D, F, G, H, and I), are all absent, and the new red sandstone (marked K) rests directly upon the mountain limestone before referred to. This new red sandstone extends southwards over the western side of the whole county of Lancaster, and is low-lying (seldom more than 100 feet above sea level), fertile, sheltered from the east winds, and subject to much rain, and is specially fitted for market gardens. The district in Lancashire, called the "Filde," has for many generations been famed for its fertility; a great part is in pasture, and there are many portions possessing a high residential value, as well as the more immediate vicinities of the great towns and of the city of Manchester. This new red sandstone continues southwards from Lancashire through Cheshire to the tidal level on the Mersey. Cheshire is, as you are aware, the great dairy county. About four-fifths of the dairy farms are in grass, the other fifth providing the straw and the turnips, and a good dairy farm may average a rent of 38s. an acre. The land runs naturally to grass, so that a grass field, which if ploughed up in Yorkshire or Nottinghamshire would take twenty years to restore itself, would in Cheshire become, in four years' time, indistinguishable from old pasture. The new red sandstone continues to Staffordshire, and then sweeping round at the lowest level which would effectually create a watershed, unites with the Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Yorkshire red sandstone plain, which reaches the tidal level on the Trent, the Ouse, and the Tees, while another portion runs down southwards from Staffordshire to the tidal level of the river Severn. This formation is sometimes a thick sandstone, and there the land is sought after for building purposes, and is very costly. The millstone grit (marked F) appears on this western side, chiefly between Clithero and Preston, on the edge of the mountain limestone, and the conglomerate sandstone and the mag-

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nesian limestone (marked H and I) are, I believe, altogether absent. The coal field, which we shall presently find on the eastern side of the mountain limestone, seems to have been broken through by its upheaval, and is in full force on this Lancashire side. This Lancashire coal field still contains 5,000 millions of tons of coal, and if the coal in the whole of the seams existed under any one acre, and could be produced at the same moment on the surface, its value would exceed £4,000. Preston, Blackburn, Bolton, Bury, Rochdale, St. Helen's, Manchester, and the other western manufacturing towns owe their existence to this coal, and depend entirely upon its cheap production. I will now leave altogether the western side, and pass in review the formations to the eastward of the mountain limestone. The several formations, from the mountain limestone to the upper oolite, appear successively on the coast of the German Ocean, and extend in a south-westerly direction, as does also the chalk formation. The millstone grit (marked F) fails to proceed further southward than Derbyshire; the coal (marked G) extends with intervals as far as the Bristol Channel; the conglomerate sandstone (marked H) exists as far as the magnesian limestone extends, and both fail to appear further south than Nottinghamshire. The rest of the formations run through from the German Ocean to the Dorsetshire coast. Along the east side of the mountain limestone, from the German Ocean to Derbyshire, lies the millstone grit (marked F). Three miles, perhaps, in width from the coast at its northern extremity, it rises to an elevation of 1,800 feet, not far from Brough, about twenty miles south of the highest elevation of the mountain limestone at Crossfell, and forms the eastern side of the Yorkshire hills, by Hawes, Middlesham, and Halifax; one portion crops out under the limestone near Chesterfield, and another east of Macclesfield, near Cheadle. In Lancashire it is found, as before stated, from Clithero to Preston, and it runs up again to Ingleton, where a little detached plot of coal is found above it. There is little agricultural produce upon it, and in many parts there is peat moss, which may become valuable when our coal is exhausted, but not till then, and a part of the range is valuable only for grouse. From want of staple and its poor character, the arable and pasture land of this formation is far less improvable, agriculturally, than those of the greater part of the mountain limestone, but lying at a lower level it is more sheltered. Nor are there any mineral treasures within it. The portion immediately to the south of the Tees is, however, full of residential mansions of great antiquity, lying between the Roman roads, which passed from Catterick to Wallsend at the eastern and to Carlisle at the western end of the Roman wall Next to this formation follow the coal measures (marked G). to which we owe our commercial prosperity for the last 100 years. The certain exhaustion of our coal in a very few years, in consequence of the enormous consumption to be occasioned by the use of steam-engines, was one of the griefs of the author of the Agricultural Survey of Lancashire, in 1793. But the use of these steam-engines enabled the recovery of thousands of acres of deep coal, and added fuel for 400 years. This formation contains little land of much agricultural value, its general characteristic being a cold, poor, wettish clay; when in pasture, full of earnation grass; and when in arable, expensive to cultivate. Lime is the only alternative calculated to render it productive, and is generally to be obtained at a moderate cost. Well limed, well drained, and well farmed, the soil is remunerative, and as soon as the tenant saves money he invests it in coal mines and gives up farming. The high price of labour, consequent on the contiguity of the coal mines, is met by the ready sale of the produce when the land lies among the collieries; but the cost of labour, at a slight distance from the collieries, has long been to northern agriculturists an item of more importance than it has been, even during the late scarcity of labour, in the southern counties. The leading coal fields, within my limits, are those of Cumberland and Lancashire before mentioned, of Durham, of Yorkshire and Derbyshire, of Staffordshire, and of Leicestershire, in addition to the first-mentioned Northumberland coal field on the mountain limestone. There are reasons for believing that all these (except the last) once formed one continuous coal field. The Durham coal field was certainly worked 700 years since for the London market. It comprises about 1,000 miles square, with two remarkable arms: one less than half a mile broad running due west, near the South Tyne, for thirty miles; and the other extending along the coast of Northumberland due north from the main field for a distance of twenty miles, with an average width of eight miles. The main body of the Durham coal crops out on the western surface, against the millstone grit, reaching its most distant point from the sea in the neighbourhood of Raby Castle, and gradually falls to a level of 1,500 feet below the surface of the land under the sea coast at Sunderland. It contains about 5,500 millions of tons of unexhausted coal, and the present rate of yearly consumption is about 28 millions of tons. The coal measures have been washed out from beneath the southern part of Durham and the northern part of Yorkshire, so that there is a distance of sixty miles between the southern end of the Durham coal field and the northern end of the Yorkshire coal field, which also crops out on the millstone grit, and falls eastwards, and there is no coal-pit east of Rotherham. But there is no geological reason why the coal should not be found further eastwards. The Yorkshire and Derbyshire coal field is one continuous range, extending eighty miles in length, and containing 1,800 square miles. Its unexhausted contents would be moderately estimated at 25,000 millions of tons, and the present consumption is about 25 millions of tons yearly. The Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire portion has only been largely developed since railways afforded facilities for the sale of its coal, and of the produce of its iron furnaces. New pits are now in course of being won in these districts, equal to one-fourth of those in existence within them before the late coal famine. If the Shire Oak Colliery, 1,600 feet deep, lies in the centre of the Nottingham coal basin, and the seams rise (as is suggested) to the eastward, the whole of Nottinghamshire along the Trent, and of Lincolnshire nearly up to Lincoln, may contain workable coal. But this is very doubtful. The little but valuable North Staffordshire field lies thirty miles from the Lancashire and the Derbyshire coal fields, in a basin, with iron furnaces and the potteries upon it. This coal is chiefly used for manufacturing purposes, and no other article used in the manufactures for which the potteries are famous is found within the district. The china clay comes from Cornwall, and the pottery clay from the coast of Dorset. Separated from the North Staffordshire coal field by a distance of thirty miles, the South Staffordshire coal field, recently enlarged by the Cannock Chase district, is next to the southward. The distinguishing feature of this district is the ten-yard or thirty-foot coal, on which its prosperity was founded. This seam, which is now for the greater part exhausted, divides, as it passes to the north-east, into several seams. The coal was very shallow over a great part of this South Staffordshire district, and was, therefore, won very cheaply. The shale lies upon the surface for miles together, rendering the land incapable of cultivation. Many acres are in possession of tithe-owners, because the tithe rent-charges on them are not paid; but the possession is worthless, and the tithe rent-charge is irrecoverable. The land cannot be made available for any purpose. The Leicestershire coal field is deserving of special mention. Charnwood Forest is formed of the green slate and porphyries, which we met with in Cumberland (marked B). On each side of it is a small coal field, at Moira on the east and Coleorton on the west, identified like the other coal fields by the letter G, and the intervening portions of the series of formations between B and G are wanting, or are too insignificant to be recognised. The seams of coal are 50 feet thick at Moira and 40 feet at Coleorton. At Moira, at a depth of 600 feet, is a salt spring of a character very much resembling sea water, and it is raised and carried to the medicinal baths at Ashby-de-la-Zouche. The only other case of such a spring is in a coal seam under the bed of the sea on the Durham coast, and there, as here, the water, although as salt as sea water, is composed of different ingredients. The worst clay land I know is upon the Durham coal field. The consumption of produce by the towns of Newcastle, Shields, Sunderland, Durham, and Stockton, and by the masses of colliery population scattered about, keep the greater part of the district under arable cultivation, at rents of from 10s. to 30s. per acre. The same character pervades the other coal fields. Leeds, Wakefield, Sheffield, and the other manufacturing towns of Yorkshire keep up its rental value, and the masses of population congregated at the iron works of Derbyshire operate in like manner; but the shale and sandstone of the coal series are ungrateful to the agriculturist. Colliery sites pay at least double agricultural rents, frequently more; and when collieries require special accommodation, they have to pay accordingly. The conglomerate sandstone

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(marked H) is almost altogether absent on this side of the Penine range, and very difficult to distinguish when present. The magnesian limestone range (denoted by I) follows the coal series on its eastern side, from the sea coast at Sunderland to nearly the southern side of the county of Durham, where the limestone has been washed out together with the coal formation. Along the Tees the new red sandstone lies directly upon the millstone grit, from whence it is evident that the coal series and the magnesian limestone are at that point both absent. Borings have been recently made 3 miles north of Darlington to the depth of 600 feet, which have confirmed the expectation that the millstone grit underlies the new red sandstone at that point, and consequently that there is no coal there. The magnesian limestone is found again about 20 miles southwards at Bedale, and extends thence to Nottingham. On the eastern side of the part in the county of Durham this formation is covered with clay and is generally poor; but about Staindrop, and along the Tees Valley, and during the rest of its course it is good farming land, and well repays spirited cultivation, being worth sometimes 40s. an acre as arable land; but the value of this range may be taken as varying from 20s. to 30s. an acre, according to the depth of soil. It is a favourite residential soil, especially the eastern side, which overlooks the new red sandstone plain to the eastward. East of the magnesian limestone we return to the new red sandstone (denoted by K), which we found to a small extent in Cumberland and largely in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire. The portion adjacent to the magnesian limestone is residential in character, as well as those portions which attain a higher level in Nottinghamshire and other counties. This is attributable to the sandy nature of those parts of the formation, which otherwise is of a purely agricultural, although very various character. On the north side of the fertile valley of the Tees the calcareous particles having been washed into it, it is generally good; but, beyond the reach of ancient floods, it is very heavy clay, expensive to cultivate. On the southern side the bank of the Tees is less than 150 feet above the level of the sea, and the land falls continuously to tidal level at York. It is a cold clay soil throughout this range, better fitted for pasture than for arable on account of the cost of cultivation, but producing a poor thin herbage. The rents vary from 18s. to 30s. an acre. In the vicinity of towns and villages, where continuous management for centuries has to a certain extent modified its character, and in some other special situations the produce is good. Liming is indispensable, and thorough drainage relieves it of superfluous moisture, but it is very subject to the uncertainties of the seasons. In Nottinghamshire, on the forest, this formation is a light sand, very agreeable for residence and, cultivated by sheep-farming, ranging from 20s. to 30s. an acre, and in the plain it is generally a cold strong clay, chiefly in arable, worth on an average 24s. an acre. In Warwickshire it is in some parts perfect land for residence and for farming; and in others cold clay, and the same in Worcestershire. The rent on land on this formation, well farmed, should seldom be less than 18s. an acre, while £3 an acre may be regarded as the highest rent except in very exceptional cases. The mineral products of this formation are gypsum and salt. The former has been for many years worked in Cumberland and in Nottinghamshire, and the latter in Cheshire both as rock salt and brine springs. Attempts are now being made to discover it at the south-east corner of the county of Durham; the existence of a good salt bed at that point having been proved, and the question being only one of cost. The lias (marked L) commences at the east coast, at the northernmost point of Yorkshire, and extends, almost uninterruptedly, in a narrow band to the south coast at Lyme Regis, in Dorsetshire. It is, in the north, for the most part cold wet clay, with bands of limestone a few inches thick within it, and abounding in saurian remains, and is worth from 15s. to 25s. an acre to rent. The greater portion is in pasture, for which it is best adapted. Where the soil is immediately upon the stone, or where it is a loam rather than clay, it is productive, and such is its character in parts of Leicestershire and in the dairy districts of the West of England. The highest rent in proportion to the gross farming produce of land probably arises in the southern dairy districts on this soil. The lower oolite (marked M), the next in order to the south-east, is very various in its character between the coasts of Yorkshire and of Dorsetshire. It is in the centre and south, a brown dry soil through which the rain-water runs until it meets, and is thrown out by the lias clay below. It follows that the greater part is under arable cultivation, and that it affords fair and moderately certain returns. The rents vary from 25s. to 35s., or even 40s. an acre. Throughout its course there are ironstone beds. The great value of the iron ore near Middlesborough is due in part to the proximity of the Durham coal, and of the water carriage of the Tees, and in part to the quantity of the ironstone to be readily obtained by open working on the face of the hills or by drifts of moderate depth and extent. At this northern termination of this range the hills rise to an elevation of 1,500 feet abruptly from the valley of the Tees, and form a table land of the wildest kind, over the space of 300,000 acres, in the triangle between Whitby, Pickering, and Middlesborough. In other parts, the elevation of this range is inconsiderable. Middlesborough contained in 1831 481, and in 1871 39,415 inhabitants, and is to the east coast what Barrow is to the west coast. The intersection of Northamptonshire by railways has brought into value the ironstone long known to be present at that portion of the course of this formation, and there is no geological reason why this ironstone should not be found at the southern end of the formation, and carried to the coal of South Wales and of the Forest of Dean. In Yorkshire, the coral rag, and Oxford clay (marked N), are found, in the northern part of the North-Riding, only at the base of the Cleveland Hills; but they re-appear on the south of the Humber—and the whole of the fen country south of the Humber—across the Wash to Huntingdon and Ely, is based upon the Oxford clay. The value of the fen land is maintained by the occasional digging up of the Oxford clay beneath it, and its incorporation with the present soil—a process costing on an average about £4 an acre. The rental of fen land depends chiefly upon the outgoings for drainage rates, otherwise, from 40s. to 45s. an acre would be the average rental. In Yorkshire, also, the Kimmeridge clay (marked O) is found only along the rivers Rye and Derwent, above Malton. A very narrow bed crosses the Humber, and is a little more pronounced south-east of Horncastle; but, practically, this formation is absent until it reappears near Aylesbury. One of the distinguishing geological features of this Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coast is the total absence of the whole of these formations between the Kimmeridge clay and the chalk, which, in the South of England, lie south and east of the chalk, and constitute one of the leading fields for geological investigation and discussion. The Portland and the Purbeck limestones, the Weald clay, and the Hastings sands, even the lower green-sands and the gault, are all unknown beyond the Lincolnshire Wash, while the upper green-sand is a narrow band not always to be distinguished. The chalk (marked S) follows almost immediately on the Oxford clay (marked N), and constitutes one of the best cultivated and most profitable farming districts in England. From Filey to Burgh near Wainfleet, may be 160 miles, and the chalk range may average 10 miles wide, and it would be very difficult to find an ill-managed farm throughout the whole extent. Whether you think Yorkshire or Lincolnshire chalk farming the best, depends upon which side of the Humber you are born. You may take a hard day's ride on the one side or on the other without seeing any property which is otherwise than a credit to its owner and to its tenant. The rents range from 25s. to 40s. an acre. On leaving the chalk, the other distinquishing feature of the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coast presents itself. The whole of the formations which in the South of England, interpose between the chalk and the alluvium (markek Z)—the London clay, the Bagshot beds, the crag, and the drift—are all absent, and the alluvium rests directly upon the chalk. Originally extending much further into the present sea, opposite Easington in Yorkshire, this alluvial soil has been deposited at the foot of the chalk hills between them and the sea, and is called, in Yorkshire, Holderness, and in Lincolnshire, the Marsh. Some of these lands may hold their own against Somersetshire and Devonshire pastures; all maintain the proverbial fertility of alluvial soil. The last accretion is that of Sunk Island, one of the most valuable of the agricultural estates of the Crown. It comprises 6,600 acres on the north side of the Humber, and has been almost wholly recovered within the last 200 years. About 1660 it contained 12 acres; about 1740 it comprised 1,550 acres; about 1810 it contained 4,500 acres, and in 1854 about 6,600 acres. It has been under the charge of Mr. Higgins from that time to his recent decease, and is held in fourteen farms, with some small tenancies, at rents amounting to more than £12,000 a year. It was open to general inspection at the Royal Agri-

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cultural Society's Meeting at Hull this year; the buildings, cottages, roads, fences, and general arrangements having been made by Mr. Higgins after 1854, in the most perfect manner compatible with a proper return upon the capital expended. I shall have pleasure at any time in enabling any Member or Associate of the Institution to view this property. In conclusion, speaking however imperfectly on geology, I should neglect a duty if I failed to remind you that, since we listened to Mr. Squarey's paper, we have lost Professor Phillips, one of the most accomplished geologists, antiquarians and naturalists of the period. I would impress upon the younger Members of the Institution that, in the journeys which they necessarily take, any acquaintance with the geology, or the antiquities, or the flora of the districts, will add a charm to their professional labours, and, not unfrequently, be of great value to them in their professional career.

THE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF IRELAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—It is very natural that those who have hitherto governed in Ireland should take every opportunity of trying to prove that government a success. At every annual meeting of the Irish Royal Agricultural Improvement Society, accordingly, the country is treated by the Lord-Lieutenant for the time being to statistics, with this end in view. At the recent meeting of the Irish Royal Society at Wexford, this time-honoured custom was observed, and at the first blush the statistics then quoted by his Grace of Abercorn seem to be incontrovertible. A closer consideration of these, however, by those who know intimately the real circumstances of of Ireland, shows them to be in a great measure fallacious. It is indeed most amusing to read the Wexford speech of the Duke of Abercorn by the light of a thorough knowledge of the actual condition of the Irish people. By the speech in question it appears there is not at present a single hitch in connection with the social state and the Government of Ireland. Wealth is accumulating, on the authority of the statistics quoted by his Grace; emigration is stayed owing to the good government which is abroad; the able-bodied are leaving the workhouses, and crime is everywhere decreasing. Why then the necessity for a large standing army in the country, for a large force of armed constabulary, for a Peace Preservation Act, and for the suspension of the Constitution over a great portion of Ireland? it may be asked. When everything is so peaceful, so happy, and so prosperous, surely the surplus army, the armed police, and the extensive application of coersive conditions of Government are superfluous, and calculated to oppress, to irritate, and to insult.

But setting aside the inconsistency of governing so peaceful and prosperous a country at the point of the bayonet and by acts of coercion, and, turning to a narrow examination of the statistics quoted by the Lord-Lieutenant at Wexford, what conclusion is to be arrived at by those most conversant with Ireland? Simply that by these a most erroneous and mischievous impression is sought to be conveyed. What are the facts? Emigration is stayed because there is a monetary crisis in America, and, as the upshot, a cessation of public works and demand for labour there. The workhouses of Ireland are being emptied a very little of their able-bodied inmates, partly because of the extra British demand for labour, and partly because of the depopulation of the country and of the scarcity of labour, in consequence, at home. It is grass and stock farming in every direction, and stock have sold high, partly owing to rinderpest in England a few years ago, partly owing to inflated trade across the Channel, and to the high prices for beef and mutton there, as the result of that inflated trade. Irish rents have in consequence been pushing up gradually from 60 to 70 per cent., and greatly-increased grist has thereby been going into the landlord's mill. Banks have extended amazingly over Ireland within the last twenty years, and the old-fashioned system of hoarding money privately to a large extent thereby put an end to. Profitable grazing, increased rents, and less hoarding have contributed each its share to the purchases of Government stock and to the increased deposits in banks referred to by the Lord-Lieutenant. That is, the population of Ireland, to the extent of two and a-half millions or thereabout, has been shoved out since 1848, and the residue of the twenty-five millions worth or so which it annually took to support these has been successfully scrambled for by the landlords and the graziers and through these parties the funds, the banks, and the probate office have been in turn enriched. Adam Smith, in his Wealth of Nations, lays down the axiom that "labour is the only true source of national prosperity and wealth." The extraordinary thing, however, in connection with the Irish prosperity and increased wealth of which his Grace of Abercorn made so much at Wexford, is that labour has had little, comparatively speaking, to do with their production, for if Adam Smith is correct, the enrichment of the landlords and the graziers has been achieved at the expense of the social ruin of a nation, mainly owing to its misgovernment by an interested, shortsighted, and selfishly-calculating class.

> Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
> Where wealth accumulates and men decay.

A far surer indication of what is really the present social and internal condition of Ireland is to be found in the last years carrying statistics of the Irish Great Southern and Western Railway. A feather is said to show how the wind blows, and a falling off for the last year in the carrying trade of this extensive railway of £10,000, is of the weight of many feathers in demonstrating a falling off in the prosperity of the country—is of a weight, in fact, sufficient of itself to in a great measure invalidate the voluminous statistics of the Lord Lieutenant at Wexford, and at the same time to verify the saying that figures can be made to prove anything and everything almost but the truth.

Contemporaneously with the speech of the Lord-Lieutenant at Wexford there is reported the speech of the Earl of Erne to his tenants in the county of Donegal. Lord Erne has been in Belgium and in Switzerland, the lands of yeoman and peasant proprietors—one a Catholic and the other principally a Protestant community. In neither country have the people been shoved out that rents might be increased and landlords enriched; and what does Lord Erne state of those thickly-populated lands and of those owners of the soil they till? They are models, he tells his Donegal tenants, of industry, of clean and good cultivation, and of happiness, contentment, and prosperity; valuable and important and unimpeachable testimony to an altogether different state of things from that of Ireland, is this testimony of Lord Erne. The people of these countries, and not a class, get the benefit of the wealth which, by their industry, they pro-

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duce. How glad would his Grace of Abercorn have been if he had been able to show by statistics at Wexford, that the conditions of Belgium and Switzerland, as described by Lord Erne, were those of the "hewers of wood and carriers of water" of Ireland; but he could not. Under imperial and landlord rule, the thing has been hitherto, is now, and ever will be, impossible.

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS ROBERTSON.

Narraghmore, Athy, Ireland, 25th August.

WELSH CATTLE AND CATTLE SHOWS.

At the Tivyside Show Mr. GWYN, for the judges, said, I am agreeably surprised by what I have seen here to-day, by your show altogether, and particularly by those departments in which I shared with Mr. Pryse the honour of officiating as the judges. I was quite prepared, from my former acquaintance with it, to find a good show altogether; but I can and do assure you I did not expect to see so many good animals, first class animals, indeed, as I have done. In some cases they were very specially good, the merits were great and general. Mr. Pryse and myself, in many cases, had considerable trouble in coming to a conclusion. And I suppose that, even with all our trouble, there is no doubt we have made mistakes. I can mention one class—the yearling hacks—in which we had no easy work. There were 8 or 10 animals. We brought them down to five or six, and we were both quite puzzled as to which we should award the first prize. Now the colt that we both liked was a very poor one; and it may be some of you are dissatisfied. We believed her, however, to be the best-bred animal in her class, and that although not in good condition, she deserved the prize. The filly belongs to Mr. Blacker; and to him, as well as to some of the other exhibiters in that class, allow me to make one suggestion, that the feeding be a little more liberal. Depend upon it, Mr. Blacker, if you feed that filly better she will become a very fine mare. Then as to the pigs. We were asked to judge them (they were not originally in our department) when it was found that the other judges were not getting on so fast as had previously been expected. The pigs, I must tell you, were capital. They were not numerous, but I have never seen better. At Llanboidy, there were one or two pigs, perhaps, equal to some of those shown here to-day; but they were not, even at Llanboidy, better. The prize sow was a particularly fine animal. And now I come to a class with regard to which I would make the same suggestion that I made at Pembroke. I have been rather disappointed in not seeing a better class of good real brood mares. I would say this, gentlemen, that unless you breed from a good dam, in this class as in all others, it is true you cannot expect as good an animal. Breed from a good dam. With all humility, but still with all force, I would urge on you to get a better class of mares for your hackney classes. Of the mares which we had before us to-day, there were not over three or four good ones. We weeded them down to that, and it was with no great difficulty; so I think we may say there were not more really good mares. The mare we placed first struck us as being a remarkably good and useful animal; and if you had ten or a dozen like her in this neighbourhood, using the valuable sires you secure the services of, I believe you would have as fine a class of young hunters in this district as you could well wish for.

Mr. PROSSER said, I had the pleasure of being with you and occupying the same office some six or seven years ago, and can compare the present occasion favourably with that, so far as the class of the cattle and sheep shown is concerned. The coloured cattle shown here to-day beat anything in Carmarthen, I believe. The aged cattle are not to be easily excelled; I have not seen a better show in Carmarthen. Indeed from the excellent character of all the animals shown, I should have expected some trouble in coming to a decision in some of the classes; but I had Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Griffiths, two very excellent judges, with me, and we had not the trouble which might have been expected. In the matter of the prize for coloured cows perhaps some of you may blame us. We gave it to a small cow, but she was one of the finest and most perfect Ayrshires I have seen for a long time. I have not seen anything better in Carmarthen for some years. Some of the others were good cows, and well bred; but they were in poor condition. There was some very good stock in sheep, and I hope we shall see those who have been exhibitors here to-day at the Carmarthen Show.

Mr. GRIFFITHS said, I have been exceedingly pleased with the show in every way. I was very glad to find that black stock was so well represented. I was pleased to find so good black stock in the county. For my own part, I would like to see our position better with regard to the breeding of black cattle. I am exceedingly pleased on the whole. I was sorry to find the prizes so low for the blacks, and grieved that when we had a good animal before us we could not give him a prize. It may be that by another year, increased support being given to the Society, there may be no like regret. There was one thing with which I was disappointed. I was not pleased to find the cattle being turned out of the yard so soon. And, again, there was a good deal of the time spent, after the judging should have been commenced, in arranging the cattle.

Mr. BAGNELL, with regard to the butter, was sorry there was not a greater quantity shown. It was good butter, but rather highly salted. That was a fault common in that district; they were all given to salt their butter too highly. He was sorry there had been no cheese on which he could have passed an opinion. The dairy produce on the whole was good.

HORSE BREEDING BY FARMERS.—At the show of West Gloucester Farmers' Club, Colonel Kingscote, M.P., said as regarded the department which he came there to help to judge—he meant the horses—he saw a great improvement. They all knew the price of horse flesh had very much increased. Population increased, and more people got money, and those people required horses and liked to get the best. It had often puzzled him in former years where on earth the horses could be bred, and, what was more, how on earth they could be bred to any profit for the price given for them. He did not mean the best class of horses, but such as were used in the cavalry and artillery. The utmost price given for them at one time was £30. He asked practical men how they could breed a horse at a profit for £30? He had asked dealers how the farmers managed to do it, and they said the fact was they bred four or five, and if they got a little money out of one of them they thought they got money out of the lot, but they lost by all. However, the time had come when they could breed a horse to some profit. He knew more capital was required than to breed oxen and sheep, but, at the price horseflesh was now, if they used their judgment carefully he felt convinced that they could breed horses at a profit. At the Gloucestershire show he himself gave 150 guineas for a three-year-old that took the first prize, and although he did not know it at the time, it was bred five miles from his own place, from Badminton stock, and if anybody were to write him a check for £300 for the horse he thought he should look twice at it before he took it. With regard to the evidence he had given in the House of Lords, he thought the money given in Queen's plates might be usefully and properly given for the encouragement of people keeping horses in different districts of the country. He added that such a price was now given by the Government for cavalry and artillery horses as to make it worth a farmer's while to keep a mare or two.

REAPER TRIAL BY THE BANNFSHIRE FARMERS' CLUB.—This trial was the allotment half-an-acre to each reaper. The judges were: Messrs. Hay, Trochelhill, Fochabers; Hunter, Dipple, Fochabers; Fortune, Cullen, Banff; Turnbull, Smithston, Huntly; and the following the awards: Self-delivery reapers—1, A. Gray, Floors (Woods); 2, Auchinachie and Simpson, Keith (Wood's new); 3, Jack and Sons, Maybole (improved European self-acting); 4, Ben. Reid and Co., Aberdeen (Samuelson's). Manual reapers—1, A. Sim, Elgin (Jack and Sons); 2, Ben. Reid and Co., Aberdeen (Pickaley and Sims); 3, D. M. Osborne and Co., Liverpool (Kirby's combined mower and reaper). One-horse machines—1, J. Barclay, Huntly (Kemp, Murray, and Nicholson); 2, Auchinachie and Simpson, Keith (Wood's new).

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THE WORCESTERSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT DUDLEY.

Amongst the Shorthorns were the bulls Telemachus and Lord Irwin, the judges reversing the decision at Bedford by placing Telemachus first; he was also awarded the £25 for the best Shorthorn bull, and the Toddington Challenge Cup as the best specimen—male or female—of the breed. This champion prize had been previously carried off by both the bulls who disputed its possession on Tuesday; the owner of Telemachus having been the recipient of it at Malvern in 1871, and the owner of Lord Irwin at Stourbridge, in 1872, and at Evesham, in 1873. It must, however, be won three years in succession by the same exhibitor before it becomes his property. In the class of yearling bulls one of the sons of Telemachus came to the fore as an easy winner, and thus further proved his sire's worth as the best bull out. Next to him came Prince of the Blood Royal, a roan, the property of Mr. Akers; Mr. Hill's son of the Grand Duke of Kent being third; and Earl Beauchamp's Robin Adair the reserve. The cows in milk or in calf are a small collection, headed by Mr. Outhwaite's Vivandiere, who also obtained the £10 for the best cow or heifer upon the ground. In a small class of two-year-old heifers the first and second prizes were given to the Queen of the Georgians, sent by Mr. Akers, and Lord Beauchamp's Lady Adair; the third being withheld in consequence of there being less than six entries. The yearling heifers were so inferior that they were deemed unworthy of any of the prizes offered.

The Hereford bulls above two years old are only a trio, but two of them were the best of the aged bulls at Bedford. Their positions, however, are here reversed, Messrs. Fenn and Harding's Bachelor being accorded the precedence over Mr. Edwards's Winter-de-Cote, and the extra £20 for the best Hereford. The first of the yearling bulls is Mr. Taylor's Tredegar, and the second Mr. Edwards's Alfred. The cows are very good, and there was close competition between Mr. Taylor and Mr. Harding, who were respectively first and second. Only three appeared for the two-year-old heifer prizes, Mr. Edwards's Annie being the reserve for the extra £20 for the best of the Herefords. The first prize for pairs of dairy cows, in a class of four entries, was won by Earl Beauchamp. There is a moderate lot of Alderneys and Guernseys; three of the prizes going to Col. Barrows, and one to Mr. Henry Parkes.

The Shropshire sheep are not numerous. For pens of five breeding ewes Mrs. Beach is first, Mr. Baker second, and Mrs. Smith third. For theaves Mrs. Beach is first, Mr. Pulley second, and Mr. Firmstone third. Mr. Pulley takes all the prizes for shearling rams; those for older rams being divided between Mrs. Smith and Mr. Firmstone. The Southdowns are also but few, and the long-woolled classes consist mainly of Lincolns and Cotswolds.

The show of pigs is good, and some of the awards at Bedford reversed. The most successful exhibitors of the large white breeds, are Mr. Jacob Deve, Mr. John Wheeler, Mr. R. N. Clement, and Mr. R. E. Duckering; of the small breeds, Mr. Clement, who has the cup for the best white pig, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Duckering; of Berkshires, Mr. Heber Humfrey, who is first in all the classes, Mr. Spencer, and Mr. Matthew Walker.

Of horses, first came the agricultural stallions, of which there is a good entry; Mr. Statter's Young Champion, third at Bedford, being first; and Messrs. Yeoman's Pride of England, second. The other cart and dray horses are moderate. The thorough-bred stallions are limited to four entries, but they include Citadel and Laughing Stock, who again occupy the same positions as they did at Bingley Hall, at Bedford, and other places. Their companions are Thunderer, bred by Colonel Barlow, by Thunderbolt, and Mr. T. E. Walker's Jock of Oran, a son of Blair Athol, bred by the late Mr. Blenkiron. The class for thoroughbred stallions, "constitutionally sound," which have been used in Worcestershire during 1874, or certified to be used in the county during the next next season, brought only four entries, of which Mr. T. E. Walker's Statesman was selected for the Earl of Coventry's £20 prize. In the class of hunters above five years old, equal to 15 stone, Mr. Goodliff's Marshal M'Mahon was still the best; the second prize being conferred upon Mr. Hutton's Iron King; while in the class for hunters equal to twelve stone, Mr. Ashton's The Lancer was first, and Mr. Whitehe d's Rufus second. Two prizes offered by Mr. Amos, the master of the Worcestershire Hounds, for horses the property of tenant-farmers, resident in the county, were awarded, the first to Mr. Ockey, Suckley Court, and the second to Mr Cottrill, Temple Broughton, the only candidate. In a very meritorious lot of hunters under five years old, Mr. Goodliff's Lady Mary, second at Bingley Hall, last week, is first, and Mr. Hayward's Richelieu, highly commended on that occasion, second. Brood mares for breeding hunters are indifferent. The first prize for roadsters, not exceeding 15 hands 2 inches, was taken by Mr. Holmes, of Beverley; and the second by Mr. Westley. For hacks not exceeding 15 hands, Mr. Woodall is first with a black mare; and Colonel Barrows second. The ponies are few.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE: R. Doig, Lillingstone, Buckingham F. Evans, Bredwardine, Hereford; C. Randell, Chadbury, Evesham. SHEEP and PIGS: R. J. Newton, Campsfield Farm, Woodstock; R. H. Masfen, Pendeford, Wolverhampton; J. Dale, Spetchley, Worcester. HORSES: J. M. Richardson, Compton Verney, Warwick; H. Lowe, Comberford, Tamworth; T. H. D. Bayly, Edwinstowe, Ollerton, Notts. IMPLEMENTS: B. Bomford, Pitchill, Evesham. VETERINARY INSPECTORS: Perrins and Carlese, Worcester.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Best bull in Shorthorn classes.—Prize, £25, Marquis of Exeter (Telemachus).

Bulls above two years old.—First prize, £10, Marquis of Exeter, Burghley Park, Stamford (Telemachus); second, £5, R. Bruce, Newton-of-Struthers, Forres, N. B. (Lord Irwin). Highly commended: J. W. Wilson, Broadway, Worcestershire (Earl of Warwickshire III.). Commended: J. Outhwaite, Bainesse, Catterick.

Bulls, above one and under two years old.—First prize, £10, Marquis of Exeter (Telemachus 6th); second, £5, B. St. John Ackers, Prinknash Park, Painswick (Prince of the Blood); third, £2, A. S. Hill, Oxley Manor, Wolverhampton.

Cow, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £8, J. Outhwaite; second, £4, Marquis of Exeter (Moll Gwynne).

Two-year-old heifer, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £8, B. St. John Ackers (Queen of the Georgians); second, £4, Earl Beauchamp, Madresfield Court, Great Malvern (Lady Adair).

Yearling heifers.—First prize, £6; second, £4; third, £2. No award.

The Toddington Challenge Cup, value 50 guineas, presented by the Right Hon. Lord Studeley.—Awarded to the Marquis of Exeter's Telemachus.

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HEREFORDS.

Best animal in the Hereford classes.—Prize, £20, Mr. Fenn's aged bull.

Bulls above two years old.—First prize, £10, T. Fenn, Stouchook House, Ludlow, and J. Harding, The Green-house, Bridgnorth; second, £5, Mrs. Sarah Edwards, Wintercott, Leominster (Winter-de-cote).

Bulls, above one and under two years old.—First prize, £10, W. Taylor, Showle Court, Ledbury (Tredegar); second, £5, H. N. Edwards, Broadward, Leominster (Alfred); third, £2 J. Harding.

Cow, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £8, W. Taylor (Dainty); second, £4, J. Harding. Highly commended: T. Rogers, Coxall, Bucknell, Salop (Sunset). Commended: Mrs. Sarah Edwards (Young Mermaid 2nd).

Two-year-old heifers, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £8, H. N. Edwards (Annie 2nd); second, £4, J. Harding; third, £2, J. Morris, Madeley, Herefordshire.

Yearling heifers.—First prize, £6, H. N. Edwards (Cary); second, £4, W. Taylor; third, £2, J. Harding.

SHORTHORN DAIRY COWS.

Pair of cows, in milk, any breed.—First prize, £8, Earl Beauchamp, Great Malvern; second, £4, T. Kingsby, Boars Croft, Tring, Herts (Seraptriana).

Alderney or Guernsey bull.—First prize, a silver cup, value £5, Col. Barrows, Hagley, Stourbridge (Alderney); second, £2 10s., H. P. Parkes, Castlebourne, Belbroughton, Stourbridge (Royalty).

Alderney or Guernsey cow, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £5, Col. Barrows (Goldthorne); second, £2 10s., Col. Barrows (Madcap).

Best cow or heifer in the cattle classes.—Prize, a silver cup, value £10, Mr. Outhwaite's cow.

SHEEP.

SHROPSHIRES.

Five breeding ewes, having had lambs in 1874, and suckled them up to June 1st.—First prize, £5, Mrs. S. Beach; second, £3, W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone; third, Mrs. H. Smith, Satton Maddock, Shifnal. Commended: W. F. Firmstone, Rockingham Hall, Hagley, Stourbridge.

Five theaves.—First prize, £5, Mrs. S. Beach; second, £3, J. Pulley, Lower Eaton, Hereford; third, £2, W. F. Firmstone.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £5, second, £3, and third £2, J. Pulley.

Ram of any age.—First prize, £5, Mrs. H. Smith; second, £3, W. F. Firmstone.

SOUTH AND HAMPSHIRE DOWNS.

Five breeding ewes, having had lambs in 1874, and suckled them up to June 1st.—First prize, £4, and second, £2, H. Sydney Waller, Farmingham, Northleach (Southdowns).

Shearling ram.—First prize, £4, H. Sydney Waller (Southdown).

Ram of any age.—First prize, £4, H. Sydney Waller (Southdown).

LONGWOOLS.

Five breeding ewes, having had lambs in 1874, and suckled them up to June 1st.—First prize, £5, and second, £3, T. W. D. Harris, Wootton, Northampton.

Five theaves.—First prize, £5, T. W. D. Harris.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £5, and second, £3, R. Swanwick, Royal Agricultural College Farm, Cirencester (Cotswold).

Ram of any age.—First prize, £5, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipton-on-Stour (Cotswold); second, £2, R. Swanwick (Cotswold). Highly commended: T. W. D. Harris.

The best animal in the sheep classes.—Prize, a silver cup R. Swanwick.

PIGS.

The best pig of white breed.—Prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Pyke-house, Littleborough.

Boar pig of large breed.—First prize, £5, J. Dove, Hambrook (Lord Hambrook); second, £3, J. Dove (Sailor). Highly commended: J. Wheeler, Shipston-on-Stour. Commended: C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Breeding sow of large breed.—First prize, £5, J. Wheeler, second, £3, R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsey. Highly commended: C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Two hilts of large breed.—First prize, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, £3, J. Dove (Perfection Hilts). Highly commended: J. Dove (Roses).

Boar big of small breed.—First prize, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, £3, R. E. Duckering. Highly commended: G. M. Sexton, Wherstead-hall, Ipswich, Suffolk (Disturbance).

Breeding sow of small breed.—First prize, £5, J. Wheeler; second, £3, R. E. Duckering. The class commended.

Two hilts of small breed.—First prize, £5, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, £3, Ditto.

Boar pig of the Berkshire breed.—First prize, £5, H. Humfrey, Kingstone Farm; second, £3, J. Spencer, Villiers-hill, Kenilworth.

Breeding sow of the Berkshire breed.—First prize, £5, H. Humfrey; second, £3, M. Walker, Stockley-park, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent.

Two hilts of the Berkshire breed.—First prize, £5, H. Humfrey; second, £3, Ditto.

HORSES.

Stallion cart-horse for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £15, T. Statter, Stand Hall, Whitefield, Manchester (Young Champion); second, £10, Messrs. Yeomans, Pennymore Hay, Four Ashes, Wolverhampton (Pride of England).

Stallion cart colt, for agricultural purposes, not exceeding three years old.—Prize, £5, S. Davis, Wollas Hill, Pershore.

Cart gelding or mare, three years old or upwards, which has been regularly worked.—Prize, £5, T. E. Walker, Studley Castle, Warwickshire.

Cart mare and foal.—First prize, £5, G. Thompson, The Hill, Dudley; second, £3, T. E. Walker (Jewel). Commended: J. W. Webb, Cradley, Malvern (Frolic).

Cart filly or gelding, two and under three years old.—First prize, £5, S. Davis; second, £3, G. Thompson.

Dray horse, light-legged (gelding or mare), 16 hands, capable of trotting six miles an hour with a load of a ton weight.—First prize, £10, G. Groves, Crookberrow Farm, Whittington, Worcester; second, a silver cup value £5, J. Smith, Bank Farm, Pedmore, Stourbridge (Snip).

Thoroughbred stallion (open to all England).—First prize, £50, Lieut.-Col. Frederick Barlow, Hasketon, near Woodbridge, Suffolk (Citadel); second, £10, R. Hutton, Gloucester-place, Portman-square, London (Laughing Stock).

Thoroughbred stallion, constitutionally sound, that has served mares regularly in the county of Worcester during the season of 1874, or that is certified to serve mares in the county of Worcester in the season of 1875, and whose covering fee for half-bred mares has not exceeded the sum of five pounds.—Prize, £20, T. E. Walker (Statesman).

Hunter, above five years old, equal to 15 stone weight.—First prize, £25, J. Goodliff, Huntingdon (Marshal M'Mahon); second, £10, R. Hutton. Commended: W. Whitehead, Wollaston, Wellingborough; C. C. Hayward, Southill, Biggleswade (Paramour).

Hunter, equal to 12 stone weight.—First prize, £20, T. H. Ashton, Temple Laugherne, Worcester (The Lancer); second, £10, W. Whitehead.

Hunter, the property of tenant farmers resident in Worcestershire.—First prize, £10, W. Ockey, Suckley Court, near Worcester (The Lawyer); second, N. Cottrill, Temple Broughton, Droitwich (The Claimant).

Hunting mare or gelding, under five years old.—First prize, £10, J. Goodliff (Lady Mary); second, £5, C. C. Hayward (Richelieu).

Roadster, not exceeding fifteen hands two inches, over two years old.—First prize, £10, G. Holmes, Bar House, Beverley; second, £5, C. H. Westley, Queen's Cross, Dudley.

Hack, not exceeding fifteen hands.—First prize, £5 5s., S. Woodall, Netherton, near Dudley; second, £3, W. Barrows, Hagley, Stourbridge (The Pony).

Pony, under fourteen hands.—First prize, £5, G. Thompson; second, £3, J. Grove, Catshill, Bromsgrove (Quicksilver).

Brood mare, for producing hunters.—First prize, £10, F. Blakeway, Stourbridge (Ledbury Lass); second, £5, The Earl of Coventry, Croome Court, Worcester.

IMPLEMENTS.

The prizes in this department were awarded as follows:

Best general collection of implements.—£5 and silver medal, J. L. Larkworthy and Co., Worcester.

Best collection of implements manufactured by exhibitor.—£5 and silver medal, Hill and Smith, Brierley Hill.

Silver medals to the following: H. Webb and Co., Chemical Manure Works, Worcester; Corbett and Peele; R. A. Lister and Co.; Lewis and Co.; E. Humphries; Wallis and Ste-

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vens; Head, Wrightson, and Co.; G. Hathaway; E. Webb and Sons; J. Carter and Co.

At the dinner Lord DUDLEY, the chairman, firmly believed, and he thought he should be borne out by those who took upon themselves all the anxiety of keeping the society together, that, if the association had stopped in the capital of the county it would before this time have ceased to exist. It was a question however, how they could make the meeting even better than it was now. That they had found that its vitality consisted in moving it about instead of having one local habitation was something, but it seemed to him there was even more that might be done without adding very greatly to the work of those who were good enough through many years to watch over the success of the association. It must not be supposed that the visitors to the show came to look at the things that were presented to them without thinking that the arrangements involved much thought and trouble, and that honour was due to those who from one year to another were constantly studying how they could best secure the success of the society. But there was no doubt of one thing—and it was brought home to him more that day than ever before by casual remarks that were made—that the great object to be aimed at was this, that they should get such funds together as would make it worth while for the owners of the best animals to exhibit them, and at the same time would enable prizes to be given to local competitors who would not have the fear of having to pit their animals against those that were already marked with public approbation. It was not to be supposed that the two magnificent animals who were the prize-winners in the first class of beasts were brought as a mere matter of speculation; their pre-eminence had already been attested, although number one might become two, and two become one, according to different judgments. A great deal of love was doubtless embodied in such beasts, and it was natural there should be, if the prices now realised were any criterion of what a man felt towards the animal he bought. He remembered, at a sale of Lord Ducie's some years ago, £600 was thought to be an immense sum, but a friend of his had gone to America and brought a cow back to England at a cost of £6,000. If it were true that their love was where their treasure lay, then the man who gave £6,000 for a cow must have a certain love for it. After the birth of a calf from so valuable a mother, he must anxiously watch the development of it as to whether it was perfectly straight in its limbs and back, and whether it was capable of being made fat—because some had such natures that they could not fatten—and then he had to submit it to judges, some of whom might declare it to be number 1, while others might pronounce it number 2. Therefore, in such a society as theirs, they must see that they offered prizes worth competing for by the owners of such valuable animals, but at the same time gave something worth striving for by those living in the county who were likely to compete among themselves. He had regretted the fact that the farmers of the county did not take any very great interest in a show which was peculiarly their own. The reason, perhaps, was this, if a man had an animal which the judges would not think worthy of remark, and which, consequently, would be open to criticism, he was prevented from sending it, and the society lost the exhibition of it. Therefore he (Lord Dudley) urged that, if it were possible, they should so arrange the prizes as that they should attract competition from other counties, while they bore in mind that the society was among themselves and for themselves, and offered inducements to men living in the county to become careful breeders. It was surely not too much to offer a £10 prize to a breeder—not that the £10 was in itself any great consideration, but it made the exhibitor a marked man among his fellows as one who chose to invest more than they of time, trouble and money. In coming there that morning he had heard that there was a falling off in the numbers exhibited at that show, but when he came upon the ground and asked some questions—which they might suppose he did with interest, because he might be pardoned for wishing that if the society were successful anywhere it might be at Dudley—he was glad to find that, although what he had heard was to a certain extent true, the exhibition altogether was a good one. He would venture to assert that if the funds were forthcoming—and he firmly believed they would be, for the society had wanted support not among its friends but from exhibitors—and the prizes were so arranged that a man could feel that the best of what he could produce would have a fair chance of being a successful specimen, the society would be prosperous and long-lived. It was no longer a purely agricultural exhibition. There was introduced much that tickled the popular fancy, and the jumping contests especially had large numbers of admirers, but although that part of the show was good enough in its way, and although that part of the show was good enough in its way, and although horses, as a matter of course, formed a valuable part of any such exhibition, he trusted it would never be forgotten that the foremost object of such an association should be to improve the breeding of cattle, and next the breeding of that smaller, but equally profitable, class of animals, sheep.

Mr. W. E. DOWDESWELL, M.P., said when the society first left the cattle market at Worcester and went to Henwick it was really saved from ruin. There was still a large number of persons in the county who regretted that the society had an open show, and would like to have it confined to owners and occupiers resident within the county. More than one of the judges had recommended them to adopt a new policy. They pointed out that the animals which were exhibited here had previously been shown at the meetings of the Royal, the West of England, and other societies, and they suggested that those animals should be prohibited from being shown at the local meetings in the same year in which they were exhibited at the national and large district meetings. He could not think that the prohibition for one year would make any real difference in the shows. Very few animals were exhibited a second time at the Royal or Bath and West of England shows; after appearing there they went on a local tour—he believed with great advantage to the places were they were exhibited—and if the prohibition were adopted, it would only be postponing the present results for a year. He would wish, however, to say to the members of the society that, if they thought the present principle was not correct, and would communicate with the stewards or committee, the best attention would be given to their suggestions. He could not sit down without expressing another sentiment which had been in his mind ever since the migratory system was started, namely, that a plan which brought the agriculturists of the county every other year, and sometimes two years running, into an urban district—manufacturing, mining, or otherwise—must do a great deal to rub off those rough corners which once existed in the relations between town and country populations.

Lord HAMPTON offered his hearty congratulations to his brethren, members of the society, and to all who wished well to it, on the proof which that meeting afforded of the signal success of the migratory system. It was an excellent system, and gave a stimulus such as nothing else ever had done to their operations by calling into action not only the good feeling of those who were active members of the society and active agriculturists, but also the interest and good feeling of the several localities in which the meetings were held. He should like also to offer them one word of congratulation on those blessings for which they had all to be thankful in connection with the present year's harvest. As regarded the wheat crop, seldom, if ever, had Worcestershire seen a better. Barley was good, and beans were not bad, and they had been blessed with the finest possible weather for getting in this great harvest. There was one crop that had not been good, and he almost thought had never been worse, that was the crop of grass. He could not help hoping that this season might teach a lesson to those who might be disposed somewhat too hastily to be alarmed by difficulties respecting labour, or difficulties of any other kind, to say the time was come when they must get rid of all their arable land and become grass farmers. He was afraid the grass farmers in the present year had not found the pursuit so profitable as it sometimes was. He congratulated the agriculturists of the county on the show that was before them. He was glad to hear what fell from his noble friend in the chair, and from Mr. Dowdeswell. He thought they were right in inviting the owners of the best stock in the kingdom to come there and exhibit it; and although Worcestershire farmers might not be sanguine—he did not know any personal friend of his who was sanguine—of selling a cow for £6,000, still they might depend upon it that the exhibition of such animals as were in that show yard did act as a stimulus to making them anxious to get the best stock they could. There was one remark that he had not unfrequently made on such occasions, and after what he had seen that morning he could not help making it again. Whether

the idea was or was not welcome, he must say, as a matter of humanity, that he shrunk from looking at the unfortunate pigs that were brought together on those occasions. He hoped he should live to see the day when it would be one of the rules of those societies that no pig should be exhibited that was not able both to see and to stand.

The CHAIRMAN did not think it would be wise, in regard to those magnificent animals which were the pick of the whole country, to put them on one side for a year before being brought to the local meetings. In that year they might lose much of their character from diseases which occasionally visited our herds, and which no care on the part of the breeder could avert. He advocated the bringing such animals into competition with one another in a class of their own, and giving handsome prizes for them. They should not be brought into competition with animals whose owners did not pretend to be able to rival them, for if this were done an act of injustice was, perhaps unwittingly, committed. What they had at heart was to improve the prosperity of those among whom they lived, and the desire of many was that there should be a competition confined to the county. Local agriculture might be promoted in two ways—one was to encourage the agriculturists of the county in the breeding of stock, and the other was to put before them the best proofs of what could be done when capital and skill were combined. No president of an association, whether political or agricultural, or anything else, could do much good unless he was present in person and showed more than an indifferent feeling with regard to it. It was, therefore, with the greatest pleasure that he found himself able to occupy the chair that day.

AIREDALE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT BINGLEY.

The cattle, though not very numerous, were good, particularly the aged Shorthorn bulls and cows. In the first-class—bulls over twelve months—the first place was taken by Mr. Fox's Leeman; and the second was awarded to Lady Pigot's Rapid Rhone; Mr. Rocket's Speedwell being highly commended, and Oxford Cheerboy, third in his class at Bedford, passed over. In the competition for Shorthorn cows and heifers over twelve months, the entries included three from Mr. T. Statter; two from Mr. T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; two from Lady Pigot; and one from Mr. J. H. Rocket. The class was a very good one, and the prizes were awarded to Mr. Hutchinson's Dairy Girl and Lady Pigot's Victoria Victrix. A silver cup of the value of £12, for the best two Shorthorns of any age or sex, was gained by Lady Pigot, Mr. Hutchinson's pair standing second. Horses generally form an important feature at the Bingley show, and roadsters and agricultural horses were good classes. A silver cup of the value of £20, given for the best hunter, equal to not less than 15 stone, was awarded to Marmalade, with Mr. William Armstrong's Cashier second, and Mr. Brady Nicholson's bay horse Wallett third. In the second class for hunters, without condition as to weight, a silver cup of the value of £20 was also given; and here Mr. T. H. Hutchinson's Jester was first, Mr. John E. Ingham's chesnut Monarch second, and Mr. E. Charlesworth's bay Bank Note third. Sheep were generally good classes.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE AND SHEEP: R. Jefferson, Preston Hows, Whitehaven; G. Smart, Woodhouse Grange, near Abberford, South Milford. HORSES: J. Wilders, Croxton Kyriel, Grantham; E. Hird, Copeland-street, Manchester; and T. Smith, Holme, York. PIGS: J. Gledhill, Heckmondwike.

CATTLE

(Open).

Shorthorn bull, over twelve months.—First prize, G. Fox, Wilmslow; second, Lady Pigot, Newmarket.

Shorthorn bull calf, under twelve months.—First prize, T. Statter, Manchester; second, J. Coates, Cleckheaton.

Shorthorn cow or heifer, over twelve months.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; second, Lady Pigot.

Shorthorn heifer calf, under twelve months.—First prize, Lady Pigot; second, G. Fox.

Alderney or Guernsey cow or heifer.—First prize, E. Posselt, Shipley; second, H. Beldon, Bingley.

Two Shorthorns, any sex or age.—First prize, cup, Lady Pigot; second, T. H. Hutchinson.

(Open only to the district.)

Bull, over twelve months.—First prize, H. Moulding, Bingley; second, J. Horner, Bingley.

Bull, under twelve months.—First and second prize, J. Horner.

Cow for dairy purposes.—First prize, T. Wilkinson, Bingley; second, J. Robertshaw, Allerton Grange, near Bradford.

Heifer under two years.—First prize, M. Moulding, Gilstead, Bingley; second, J. Horner.

Heifer calf, under twelve months.—First prize, J. Horner; second, W. Whittingham, Cottingley.

HORSES

(Open).

Draught colt, gelding, or filly, one year.—First prize, J. H. Crowther, Knowl Grove, Mirfield; second, E. Haley, Deen Lane Head, Allerton.

Draught gelding or filly, two years.—First prize, M. Lassey, Mount Tabor, near Halifax; second, R. Hird, Shipley.

Roadster colt, gelding, or filly, one year.—First prize, J. W. Mills, Chevin Grange, Menston; second, L. Margerison, Bradford.

Roadster gelding or filly, two years.—First prize, J. F. Crowther; second, J. Clarke, Beeston, near Leeds.

Roadster gelding or filly, three years.—First prize, J. Robinson, Hull; second, R. Earnhill, Batley.

Draught mare or gelding.—First prize, T. Statter; second, M. Lassey.

Mare or gelding for agricultural or general purposes.—First prize, J. R. Armitage, Bradford; second, J. Robinson, Leiterdyke.

Mare or gelding for agricultural or general purposes, open to the district.—First and second prize, E. Townend.

Pony, in saddle, not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, T. Mitchell, Bradford; second, G. F. Fletcher, Sheffield.

Draught stallion.—First prize, J. Edmondson, Barnley; second, R. Marshall, Keyingham, near Hull.

Coaching stallion.—First prize, T. Long, Menston, near Guiseley; second, J. Morphet, Studfo, near Settle.

Roadster stallion.—First prize, W. Vary, Stamford Bridge, York; second, T. West, Wilberfoss, York.

Cob, not exceeding 15 hands.—First prize, W. Stephenson, Cottingham, near Hull; second, W. Sadler, Hyde-terrace, Leeds; third, W. H. Cranswick, Thornholme, near Burton Agnes.

Nag or roadster.—First prize, J. Robinson; second, W. Sadler, Vicar-lane, Leeds; third, S. Watkinson, Highgate House, Gargrave.

Pony, in single harness, not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, G. F. Fletcher; second, W. Thorpe, jun., Bingley.

Horse or mare, in single harness.—First prize, T. Statter; second, T. Marshall, Kirkgate, Bradford.

Ladies' hackney, mare or gelding.—First prize, J. Wellburn, Scackleton Grange, Hovingham; second, J. Terry, Bradford; third, W. McLauchlan, Ilkley.

Hunters (weight carriers), equal to not less than 15 stone.—First prize and cup, J. M. T. Musgrave, Beverley; second, W. Armstrong; third, B. Nicholson.

Hunters, without condition as to weight.—First prize and cup, T. H. Hutchinson; second, J. E. Ingham, Bradford; third, E. Charlesworth, Bradford.

Leaper.—First prize, J. Wellburn; second, W. T. Tilford, Micklefield; third, J. Scatcherd, Whirkirk.

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SHEEP.

LEICESTER OR OTHER LONG-WOOLLED

(Open to the district only).

Ram, one-shear or aged.—First prize, E. Holden, Bingley; second, F. H. Butterfield, Bingley.

Ram lamb.—First prize, E. Lund; second, T. Wilkinson, Bingley.

Ewe, one-shear, or aged.—First prize, E. Lund, Cullingworth; second, J. Smith.

Ewe lamb.—First prize, W. Anderton, Bingley; second, J. Wilkinson, Bingley.

LONKS

(Open to the district only).

Ram, one-shear or aged.—First and second prize, J. Smith.

Ram lamb.—First and second prize, J. Smith.

Ewe, one-shear or aged.—First and second prize, J. Smith.

Ewe lamb.—First and second prize, J. Smith.

Half-bred ewe, one-shear or aged.—First prize, W. Anderton; second, W. Greenwood.

Half-bred ewe lamb.—First and second prize, E. Lund.

PIGS

(Open to the district only).

Boar, any age.—First prize, W. Dracup, Saltaire; second, G. Hargreaves, Shipley.

Sow, middle breed.—First prize, N. Holmes, Bingley; second, W. Firth.

Sow, small breed.—First prize, G. Hargreaves; second, W. Firth.

Store, under nine months old.—First prize, W. Dracup; second, J. Leach, Bingley.

Fat or store pig, confined to the parish of Bingley, and to persons in receipt of weekly wages.—First prize and cup, W. Preston, Bingley; second, M. Thompson, Harden.

LYTHAM AND KIRKHAM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT LYTHAM.

The show, as a whole, was superior to any previously held by this Society, the total number of entries being 507, or 102 more than those of last year. The cattle were extremely good, particularly the bulls; and the horses, especially those for agricultural purposes, showed much improvement, but better mares are wanted. Sheep and pigs were but few.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—LIGHT HORSES: Mr. Atkinson, Barrowby Hall, Leeds, and Mr. Gray, Brampton. HEAVY HORSES: Mr. Brierley, Middleton, and Mr. Hutchinson, Catterick. CATTLE, SHEEP, AND PIGS: Mr. Dodds, Wakefield, and Mr. Ashburner, Ulverston.

CATTLE.

Bull, above three years.—Prize, R. Thomson, Mythop Lodge.

Bull, above two and under three years.—First prize, T. H. Clifton, Lytham; second, N. Cartmell, Westby.

Bull, above one and under two years.—First prize, T. Rigby, Carleton Lodge; second, J. Salthouse, Westby.

Bull-calf, under twelve months.—First prize, W. Porter, St. Michaels; second, R. Thomson.

Premium of £10 for the best bull, one year and upwards, the property of a tenant-farmer, and to serve in the district to the 24th June, 1875, subject to the rules of the Society.—Prize, T. Rigby.

Cow, in calf or milk, having had a calf, and above three years.—First prize, T. H. Miller, Singleton Park; second, R. Saul, Woodplumpton.

Heifer, above two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, T. H. Miller; second, R. Saul.

Heifer, above one and not exceeding two years.—First prize, Jas. Sykes, Breck House; second, R. C. Richards, Clifton Lodge.

Heifer-calf, not above one year.—First prize, T. H. Miller; second, J. T. Clifton.

Cow, in calf or milk.—Prize, R. C. Richards.

Three heifers, two years old.—Prize, R. C. Richards.

Three heifers, one year old.—Prize, R. C. Richards.

Three heifer-calves, one year old.—Prize, R. C. Richards.

Silver challenge cups, to be competed for by animals entered for the foregoing premiums, and for which first prizes have been awarded only:

Shorthorned male animal, of any age, the property of the exhibitor.—W. Porter.

Shorthorned female animal, of any age, the property of the exhibitor.—T. H. Miller.

Cottagers' cows.—First prize, J. Butler, Lytham; second, J. Riley, Wesham.

SHEEP.

Longwoolled ram, other than shearling.—First prize, Hon. J. B. Ogilvy, Westby; second, T. L. Birley, Kirkham.

Shearling longwoolled ram.—First prize, T. L. Birley; second, T. L. Birley.

Longwoolled ram lamb.—First prize, Hon. J. B. Ogilvy; second, Hon. J. B. Ogilvy.

Shortwoolled ram, other than shearling.—First prize, T. H. Miller; second, T. L. Birley.

Shearling shortwoolled ram.—First prize, W. Dodgson, Plumpton Hall; second, T. L. Birley.

Shortwoolled ram lamb.—First prize, W. Dodgson; second, T. H. Miller.

Three longwoolled ewes, any breed, to have been grazed in the district not less than three months, and to be kept for breeding.—First prize, J. T. Clifton; second, Hon. J. B. Ogilvy.

Three shortwoolled ditto.—First prize, T. L. Birley; second, T. L. Birley.

Three longwoolled gimmer lambs.—First prize, Hon. J. B. Ogilvy; second, T. L. Birley.

Three shortwoolled gimmer lambs.—First prize, T. H. Miller; second, W. Dodgson.

PIGS.

Boar of large breed.—Prize, H. Kirkham, Wrea Green.

Boar of small breed.—Prize, T. Crook, Inskip.

Sow of large breed.—Prize, J. Hall, Freckleton.

Sow of small breed.—Prize, J. Hall.

Cottagers' pig.—Prize, R. Fisher, Wrea Green.

HORSES.

Pair for agricultural purposes.—Prize, J. Parkinson, Lytham.

Brood mare for agricultural purposes.—Prize, J. Parkinson.

Three-year-old gelding or filly for agricultural purposes.—First prize, T. Cartmell, Clifton; second, W. Fisher, Lytham.

Two-year-old gelding or filly for agricultural purposes.—First prize, W. Shaw, jun., Thornton; second, R. C. Richards, Clifton Lodge.

Yearling gelding or filly for agricultural purposes.—First prize, G. Rea, Solwick; second, J. Marquis, Wesham Hall.

Colt or filly foal for agricultural purposes.—First prize, C. Fare, Clifton; second, T. Rigby, Carleton Lodge.

Brood mare in foal, or having had one in 1874, for hunting purposes.—First prize, T. H. Miller, Singleton Park; second, T. H. Miller.

Brood mare in foal, or having had one in 1874, for harness.—First prize, T. Fox, Singleton; second, W. Taylor, Hardhorn.

Gelding or mare, three or four years old, for hunting.—First prize, T. H. Miller; second, W. S. Hodgson, Kirkham.

Gelding or mare, three or four years old, for harness.—First prize, W. Cartmell, Morton; second, J. Nickson, Ballham.

Gelding or mare, three or four years old, for hackney purposes, exceeding 14 hands and not above 15 hands.—First prize, P. Catterall, Lytham; second, R. Hall, Thistleton.

Two-year-old gelding or filly for hunting.—First prize, T. H. Miller; second, W. Taylor.

Two-year-old gelding or filly for harness.—First prize, Warbrick, Lytham; second, E. Cartmell, Westby.

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Yearling gelding or filly for hunting.—First prize, T. H. Miller; second, H. Birley, Kirkham.

Yearling gelding or filly for harness.—First prize, T. Swarbrick, Lytham; second, G. H. Catterall, Lytham.

Colt or filly foal for hunting.—First prize, T. H. Miller; second, H. Birley.

Colt or filly foal for harness.—First prize, T. Fox; second, E. Billington, Myerscough.

Ponies, being 13, and not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, L. Uttley, Newsham Lodge; second, W. Birch, Blackpool.

Ponies under 13 hands.—First prize, R. C. Richards, Clifton Lodge, second, Miss E. J. Birley, Kirkham.

Cups, for foals got by the thorough-bred horse Carbineer, and by the draught horse Honest Tom.—Colt foal by Carbineer, T. Fox; filly foal by Carbineer, T. H. Miller; colt foal by Honest Tom, C. Fare; filly foal by ditto, J. T. Chorley.

Cup for best colt or filly foal by Honest Tom.—C. Fare.

Premiums to be competed for only by animals entered in the catalogue of the Lytham sale.—Gelding or filly in class 1, T. H. Miller; in class 2, T. Bradshaw, Pilling.

Hunters, open to general competition, to be ridden over hurdles not more than 4ft. high, fixed in a field.—First and second prize, R. M. Knowles, Ousel Nest, Bolton; third, Captain Fleming, 95th Regiment, Fulwood.

THE BURY (LANCASTER) AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT CHESHAM.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE: Rev. L. C. Woods, Kirkham, B. Baxter, Elslack Hall, Skipton. LIGHT HORSES: J. S. Wilson, Tattenhall, Chester; J. Boote, Weston Hall, Crewe; S. Leese, West Cliffe, Pendleton. HEAVY HORSES: J. Noden, Dunham Massey; Mr. Dodds, Mount Pleasant, Wakefield. SHEEP: W. Midgeley, Salesbury Old Hall. PIGS: P. Eden, Salford; S. Lord, Blue Pits.

CATTLE.

(Open).

Bull of any breed.—First prize, G. Fox, Harefield, Wilmslow; second, T. Statter, Whitefield.

Bull-calf, above one and under two years old.—Prize, T. Statter.

Bull-calf, under twelve months old.—First prize, T. Statter; second, Mrs. Atkinson, Ribchester.

Cow in calf or milk.—First and second prizes, T. Statter.

Heifer, not more than three years old.—Prize, T. Statter, and J. Thom, Chorley, were equal.

Heifer, not more than two years old.—First and second prizes, T. Statter.

Heifer-calf, under twelve months old.—First prize, C. W. Brierley, Rhodes; second, Mrs. Atkinson.

Ox, cow, or heifer, showing the most symmetry, fat, and weight.—First and second prizes, T. Statter.

Drove of milch cows, not less than six in number, exhibited by a cattle dealer.—First prize, P. Johnson, Great Lever; second, W. Green, Kersal Hall.

Dairy cow (special prizes).—First prize, Mrs. Atkinson; second, W. Green.

Bull of any breed, above two and under three years old (district competition for tenant farmers).—First prize, D. Partington, Unsworth; second, R. Alderson.

Bull of any breed, above one and under two years old (district competition for tenant farmers).—First prize, L. R. Duckworth, Bank-lane; second, L. Roston, Tottington.

Bull-calf, under twelve months old.—First prize, J. Altham, Summerseat; second, G. Partington, Middleton.

Cow for dairy purposes, in milk or calf.—First and second prizes, A. Wardle, Bury.

Heifer, of any breed, not more than two years old.—First prize, L. Hoyle, Heap; second, J. Morris, Heywood.

Geld cow, in milk.—First prize, A. Wardle; second, D. Fletcher, Heywood.

Heifer-calf, under twelve months old.—First prize, T. Taylor, Elton Farm; second, J. Haworth, Tottington.

Fat calf, under three months old.—First prize, J. Livesey, Bury; second, J. Smethurst, Bury.

Lot of not less than six milch cows.—First prize, J. Taylor, Bury; second, D. Fletcher.

Lot of not less than four calves, reared by exhibitor, and not more than twelve months old.—First prize, D. Fletcher; second, Houghton and Sons, Elton.

Collection of Shorthorns.—First prize, T. Statter; second, G. Fox, Wilmslow.

HORSES.

(Open).

Stallion, for agricultural or draught purposes.—First and second prizes, T. Statter.

Brood mare, for agricultural or draught purposes.—Prize, J. Thom.

Pair of horses, for agricultural or draught purposes, belonging to one party or firm.—Prize, C. W. Brierley.

Mare or gelding, over 16 hands, for agricultural or draught purposes.—Prize, C. W. Brierley.

Mare or gelding under 16 hands.—Prize, T. Warburton, Haslingden.

Three-year-old gelding or filly, for agricultural or draught purposes.—Prize, C. H. Cheetham, Middleton.

Two-year-old gelding or filly, for agricultural or draught purposes.—Prize, T. Seed, Clitheroe.

One-year-old gelding or filly, for agricultural or draught purposes.—Prize, T. Statter.

String of four horses.—Prize, T. Statter.

Thoroughbred stallion, for saddle and harness.—First prize, T. Statter; second, A. Land, Darcy Lever.

Brood mare, for road or field.—First prize, S. Kirby, City-road, Manchester; second, E. Fearnside, Wakefield.

Roadster stallion.—First prize, T. Statter; second, W. Varey, Buckthorpe.

Mare or gelding, over 15 hands.—First prize, W. Armstrong, Kendal; second, S. Wilkinson, York.

Three-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, W. Stephenson, Cottingham; second, T. Statter.

Two-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, J. F. Crowther Mirfield; second, E. Fearnside.

One-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, J. Nelson Broughton; second, W. Mills, Radcliffe.

Foal.—First prize, S. Kirby, Manchester; second, T. Statter.

Cobs and ponies, mare or gelding, not exceeding 15 hands.—First prize, A. Woodhead, Bowdon; second, W. Stephenson, Cottingham.

Pony, not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, R. Wright, Regent-road, Salford; second, J. M'Adam, Newton Vale.

Pony, not exceeding 13 hands.—First prize, L. Pilkington, Gateacre; second, T. Whitton, Tottington.

Pony, not exceeding 12 hands.—First prize, H. Marshall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy; second, J. Nelson, Broughton.

The prize offered by T. Statter for the best foal got by any of his entire horses was awarded to R. Chambers, Whitefield.

Brood mare, for agricultural or draught purposes (for tenant farmers' competition, in the district only).—First prize, D. Partington, Unsworth; second, L. Hoyle, Heap.

Pair of horses in regular work.—Prize, J. Partington, Heywood.

Mare or gelding over 16 hands.—First and second prizes, L. Hoyle.

Mare or gelding under 16 hands.—First prize, W. Lindsay, Roach Bank; second, J. Hulme, Heywood.

Three-year-old gelding or filly.—Prize, Captain Bridson, Outwood.

Two-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, T. Isherwood, Holcombe; second, D. Partington.

One-year-old gelding or filly.—Prize, P. Street, Radcliffe.

Foal.—First prize, D. Partington; second, L. Hoyle.

Hunters, mare or gelding, of any age (open).—First prize, W. Armstrong, Kendal; second, J. M. Tattersall, Beverley.

Cobs, not exceeding 15 hands.—First prize, T. H. Newton second, I. Hall, Lower Darwen.

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DISTRICT PRIZES.

Pair of horses in regular work, belonging to one party or firm.—Prize, R. Chambers, Whitefield.

Mare or gelding in regular work, over 16 hands.—Prize, Walker and Lomax, Bury.

Mare or gelding in regular work, under 16 hands.—Prize, T. L. Livesey, Hollins Vale.

TURN-OUTS (OPEN).

Two-wheeled conveyance, horse, and harness.—First prize, T. Statter; second, J. C. Rogerson, Oldham-street, Manchester.

Two-wheeled conveyance, with cob under 16 hands.—First prize, R. Wright, Salford; second, R. Smith, The Poplars, Manchester.

Four-wheeled conveyance, horse, and harness.—First prize, J. H. Openshaw, Stand; second, J. Wild, Stand.

Four-wheeled conveyance, pony and harness, under 14 hands.—First prize, T. Bullough, Bolton; second, H. Marshall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

PIGS.

(Open).

Boar, large breed.—Prize, H. Bolton, Churchtown, Rochdale.

Boar, middle breed.—First prize, and cup, Earl of Ellesmere.

Boar, small breed.—Prize, Earl of Ellesmere.

Breeding sow, large breed.—Prize, Earl of Ellesmere, who also obtained first prizes for middle and small breed. The second prize in the latter class was awarded to T. Statter.

Fat hog, gelt, or sow, of any breed.—Prize, T. Bolton, Rochdale.

Litter of pigs, any breed, not more than eight weeks old.—First prize, Earl of Ellesmere; second, T. Statter.

DISTRICT COMPETITION.

Boar, large breed.—Prize, S. Wilson, Ramsbottom.

Boar, middle breed.—First prize, and cup, S. Wilson.

Boar, small breed.—First and second prizes, S. Wilson.

Breeding sow, middle breed.—First prize, W. Handley, Bury; second, S. Wilson.

Boar, small breed.—First prize, S. Wilson; second, J. Halliwell, Bury.

Litter of pigs, any breed, not to exceed eight weeks old.—First prize, S. Wilson; second, W. Handley.

Fat pig, any breed, not more than eighteen months old.—Prize, J. Openshaw.

Pen of store pigs, not more than six months old.—First prize, J. Halliwell; second, W. Howarth.

Cottagers' pigs.—The best fat pig was shown by S. Yates, Huntley Brook; and the best breeding sow by J. Nuttall, Heywood.

SHEEP.

(Open).

Tup.—First prize, T. Brigg, Keighley; second, J. Pickup, Newchurch.

Tup hog.—First prize, G. Dewhurst, Rawtenstall; second, T. Brigg.

Tup lamb.—First prize, T. Brigg; second, J. Pickup.

Three ewes..—First and second prizes, T. Brigg.

Three shearling ewes.—First and second prizes, T. Brigg.

Three ewe lambs.—First prize, G. Dewhurst; second, T. Brigg.

Three fat wethers.—First and second prizes, T. Statter.

CRAVEN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SKIPTON.

Cattle have been more largely represented, but, as regards the quality of the stock, this show has never been surpassed. The herd of Lady Pigot had its representatives in nearly all the classes, and succeeded in carrying off the principal honours including the cup for the three best Shorthorns, the property of one exhibitor. In the class of best cow in calf or milk of any age, the judges reversed the decision given at the Bingley show by awarding the first position to Lady Pigot's Victoria Victrix, over Mr. T. H. Hutchinson's Dairy Girl. Mr. Hutchinson was more successful in the two-year-old heifer class, where he carried the prize with Lady Playful. In the classes of Shorthorned cattle, open to tenant-farmers only, Mr. B. Fletcher won the first place with a really handsome roan two-year-old bull. The silver cup for the best three Shorthorns in the tenant-farm classes was awarded to Mrs. Atkinson. Horses were an unusually large show. There was a good turn-out of stallions, thoroughbred, roadster and draught, but all the awards went to exhibitors from a distance. The leaping of the hunters formed as usual a great source of attraction; but this could not be said to have been very successful. Sheep were a good show in the majority of classes, but more particularly of half-breds. The leading honours were carried off by Mr. William Varley and Mr. John Markendale—the former for pens of black-faced Scotch ewes, and the latter for half-bred Cheviots, and Mr. Henry Nutter, of Aireville Grange, Skipton, was a very successful exhibitor of half-bred lonk ewes. In the class of mountain sheep (Scotch breed), several pens of fine wethers were shown, and the class fully merited the commendations bestowed on it by the judges. Pigs were largely represented, especially in the classes open to general competition.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE: H. Ambler, Watkinson Hall, Halifax; R. Jefferson, Preston Howe, Whitehaven. HORSES: Capt. Childers Thompson, The Mount, York; T. Gibbons, Burnfoot-on-Esk, Longtown, Carlisle; W. J. Robson, Ramshaw, Whixley, York. SHEEP: C. Fawcett, Swinnythwaite, Bedale; J. Nelson, Cockerham Hall, Lancaster; T. Dodds, Wakefield. PIGS: J. Culshaw, Towneley, Burnley; S. Barrett, Harewood. ROOTS, BUTTER, CHEESE, OATCAKE, IMPLEMENTS: J. Culshaw, Towneley; S. Barrett, Harewood.

SHORTHORNS.

Best bull, two years old and upwards.—First prize, G. Fox, Harefield, Wilmslow, Manchester; second, T. Statter, Stand, Whitefield, Manchester.

Yearling bull.—First and second prizes, Lady Pigot, Branches Park, Newmarket.

Bull calf under twelve months old.—First prize, T. Statter.

Cow in calf or milk of any age.—First prize, Lady Pigot; second, T. H. Hutchinson, Manor-house, Catterick.

Two-year-old heifer.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, Lady Pigot.

Yearling heifer.—First prize, T. Statter; second, Lady Pigot.

Heifer calf under twelve months old.—First prize, Lady Pigot; second, R. Lodge, Southport.

Collection of Shorthorns, of not less than three in number, the *bonâ fide* property of one exhibitor.—First prize (silver cup, value 20 guineas), Lady Pigot.

Bull, two years old and upwards (open to tenant-farmers in the district only).—First prize, B. Fletcher, Carlton, Yeadon, Leeds; second, Mrs. Atkinson, Dutton, Blackburn.

Yearling bull.—First prize, Micah Lamb, Cayley farm, Otley; second, R. Whittam, Mount Pleasant, Brierfield.

Bull-calf under twelve months old.—First prize, Mrs. Atkinson; second, Miss Hird, Smallhouse, Skipton.

Cow in calf or milk of any age.—First prize, J. Farrer, Thorneyholme, Burnley; second, Mrs. Atkinson.

Three years old heifer in calf or milk.—First prize, R. Birtwhistle, Skibeden, Skipton; second, T. Walker and Sons, Draughton, Skipton.

Two years old heifer in calf or milk.—First prize, Miss Hird; second, J. and M. A. Green, Healaker, Skipton.

Yearling heifer.—First prize, Mrs. Atkinson; second, R. Whittam.

Heifer-calf under twelve months old.—First prize, Mrs. Atkinson; second, Wm. Lawson, Beamsley, Skipton.

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Collection of Shorthorns, of not less than three in number, the *bona fide* property of one exhibitor.—First prize (silver cup value 10 guineas), Mrs. Atkinson.

CATTLE OF ANY BREED.

Fat cow.—First prize, T. Thornton, Bradley; second, Miss Hird.

Fat heifer.—First and second prizes, J. Wilkinson, Cookrise, Skipton.

Two store bullocks.—First prize, J. B. Beckwith, Winterburn, Gargrave; second, J. Harrison, Carleton, Skipton.

HORSES.

Thoroughbred stallion.—First prize, Robt. Hutton, Gloucester-place, Portman-square, London; second, J. Bawman, Masongill.

Roadster stallion.—First prize, W. Vary, Buckthorpe, York; second, T. West, Bishop Wilton, York.

Draught stallion.—First prize, T. Statter, Whitefield, Manchester; second, R. Marshall, Keyingham, near Hull.

Brood mare for hunters.—First prize, E. Fearnside, Wakefield; second, W. Wilkinson, Skipton.

Brood mare for coaching.—First prize, Col. G. Robinson, Skipton; second, W. H. Davis, Gargrave.

Brood mare for roadsters.—First prize, S. Jackson, Silsdon; second; B. B. Laycock, Rylstone.

Brood mare for draught.—First prize, J. W. Waterhouse, Apperley Bridge; second, J. Edmondson, Burnley.

One year old colt or gelding for hunters.—First prize, W. G. Perfect, Settle; second, R. H. Gill, Silsden.

One year old colt or gelding for roadsters.—First prize, O. Coates, Malham; second, W. Fort, Silsden.

One year old colt or filley for coaching.—First prize, G. Heyworth, Eastby; second, N. Hitching, Cracoe.

One year old colt or filly for draught.—First prize, J. Wittaker, Trawden; second, T. Thornton, Bradley.

One year old filly for hunters.—First prize, T. Green, Crosshills; second, W. Roberts, Burnley.

One year old filly for roadsters.—First prize, J. W. Yeadon, Fewston; second, H. Green, Glusburn.

Two years old gelding for hunters.—First prize, E. Fearnside, Wakefield; second, R. W. Edmondson, West Newton.

Two years old gelding for coaching.—First prize, H. Ward, Hazlewood; second, T. Brigg, Keighley.

Two years old gelding for roadsters.—First prize, G. Kayley, Sawley Bridge; second, J. B. Beckwith, Gargrave.

Two years old gelding or filly for draught.—First prize, T. Seed, Clitheroe; second, W. L. Chester, Bradley.

Two years old filly for hunters.—First prize, W. Roberts, Burnley; second, J. M. Wilson, Crosshills.

Two years old filly for coaching.—First prize, P. Parker, Crosshills; second, Mrs. Mason, Gargrave.

Two years old filly for roadsters.—First prize, G. Heyworth, Eastby; second, W. Beck, Cracoe.

Three years old gelding for hunters.—First prize, Col. G. Robinson, Skipton; second, J. Markendale, Gargrave.

Three years old gelding for coaching.—First prize, E. Airy's executors, Bel Busk; second, J. and M. A. Green, Skipton.

Three years old gelding for roadsters.—First prize, J. Ormrod, Embsay; second, J. Guy, Long Preston.

Three years old gelding or filly for draught.—First prize, B. Fletcher, Carlton, Yeadon; second, H. Nutter, Skipton.

Three years old filly for hunters.—First prize, Capt. T. W. Lawson, Pannal; second, J. Exley, Menston.

Three years old filly for coaching.—First prize, G. S. Taylor, Silsden; second, H. Ward, Hazlewood.

Three years old filly for roadsters.—Prize, L. Wrathall, Appletreewick.

Mare or gelding for roadsters of any age, to be ridden.—First prize, W. H. Cranswick, Burton Agnes; second, W. Stephenson, Cottenham.

Cob, not exceeding 14½ hands high, to be ridden.—First and second prizes, J. T. Butler, Burley.

Pony, under 13 hands high.—First prize, W. Morrison, Malham Tarn; second, W. H. Watson, Leeds.

Hunters of any age.—First prize, W. Armstrong, Kendal; second, J. Fearon, Corkicle, Whitehaven.

SHEEP.

LONGWOOLS.

(Open.)

Ram of any age.—First prize, J. and R. Earnshaw, Clitheroe; second, J. Styan, Bedale.

(Local.)

Ram of any age.—First prize, J. and R. Earnshaw; second, R. Surr, Ripley.

Shearling ram.—Prize, J. and R. Earnshaw.

Tup lamb.—First and second prizes, M. Lamb, Otley.

Pen of five ewes of any age.—Prize, M. Lamb.

Pen of five shearling gimmers.—Prize, M. Lamb.

Pen of five gimmer lambs.—Prize, M. Lamb.

MOUNTAINS (SCOTCH BREED).

(Local.)

Blackfaced ram.—First prize, T. Hudson, Hazlewood; second, H. Ward, Hazlewood.

Shearling ram.—First prize, T. Hudson; second, W. Young, Hazlewood.

Tup lamb.—Prize, W. Young.

Pen of five ewes.—Prize, W. Young.

Pen of five shearling gimmers.—First prize, T. Young, Barden; second, W. Robinson, Bedale.

Pen of five gimmer lambs.—First prize, T. Young; second, W. Young.

Pen of five wethers.—First prize, J. Metcalfe, Darnbrook, Arncliffe; second, W. Robinson.

LONKS.

(Local.)

Ram.—First prize, T. Brigg, Keighley; second, J. Pickup, Rose Cottage, Newchurch.

Shearling ram.—First prize, T. Brigg; second, J. Smith, Keighley.

Tup lamb.—First and second prizes, T. Brigg.

Pen of five ewes.—First and second prizes, T. Brigg.

Pen of five shearling gimmers.—First prize, T. Brigg; second, J. Smith.

Pen of five gimmer lambs.—First prize, T. Brigg; second, J. Smith.

HALF-BREDS.

(Local.)

Pen of five blackfaced Scotch ewes.—First and second prizes, W. Varley, Hetton.

Pen of five two-shear blackfaced Scotch ewes.—First prize, W. Varley; second, H. Nutter, Skipton.

Pen of five blackfaced shearling gimmers.—First prize, W. Varley; second, J. and M. A. Green, Healaker, Skipton.

Pen of five blackfaced gimmers.—First prize, A. Robinson, Skipton; second, W. Carliale, Skipton.

Pen of five two-shear Cheviot ewes.—First and second prizes, J. Markendale, Gargrave.

Pen of five shearling Cheviot gimmers.—First and second prizes, J. Markendale.

Pen of five Cheviot gimmer lambs.—First prize, J. Markendale; second, W. Wilkinson, Skipton.

Pen of five ewes.—First prize, J. Gill, Silsden; second, H. Nutter, Skipton.

Pen of five two-shear ewes.—First prize, J. Gill; second, H. Nutter.

Pen of five shearling gimmers.—First prize, H. Nutter; second, J. Gill.

Pen of five gimmer lambs.—First prize, J. Gill; second, F. Lund, Bingley.

PIGS.

(Open.)

Boar of the large breed.—Prize, W. Lister, Armley.

Boar of the middle breed.—Second prize, H. Bell, Nelson.

Boar of the small breed.—First prize, W. Hatton, Addingham; second, — Graham, Leeds.

Sow of the large breed.—First prize, — Graham; second, W. Birtwhistle, Bradley.

Sow of the middle breed.—First prize, W. Lister; second, T. Holmes, Keighley.

Sow of the small breed.—First prize, W. Lister; second, J. Speed, Bolton Bridge.

Boar of the large breed, under nine months.—First prize, J. Reeday, Keighley; second, J. Palmer, Skipton.

Boar of the middle breed, under nine months old.—First prize, W. Hatton; second, J. Reeday.

Boar of the small breed, under nine months old.—First prize, W. Hatton; second, W. Lister.

Gilt of the large breed, under nine months old, for breeding.—First prize, J. Reeday; second, J. Palmer.

Gilt of the middle breed, under nine months old, for breeding.—First and second prize, T. Phillip, Skipton.

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Gilt of the small breed, under nine months old, for breeding.—First and second prizes, H. Bell.

Store pig, under twelve months old.—First prize,—Graham; second, W. Hanson, Silsden Moor.

Store pig, above nine months old (open to local competition). First prize, R. Shuttleworth, Skipton; second, L. C. Jackson, Silsden.

Store pig, under nine months old.—First prize, L. C. Jackson; second, J. Fort, Cowing.

Gilt of the large breed, under nine months old.—First prize, J. Harrison, Cowing; second, M. Gill, Steeton.

Gilt of the middle breed, under nine months old.—First prize, T. Holmes; second, L. C. Jackson.

Gilt of the small breed, under nine months old.—First prize, J. Riley, Crosshills; second, T. Holmes.

Sow of the large breed.—First prize, T. Birtwhistle, Bradley; second, R. Shuttleworth.

Sow of the middle breed.—First prize, Driver Keighley, Keighley; second, C. Thompson, Skipton.

Sow of the small breed.—Prize, T. Holmes.

ROOTS.

Six swede turnips.—First prize, S. Redman, Farnhill; second, E. Fort, Hayhills, Silsden.

Six white turnips.—First prize, T. Throup, Silsden; second, J. Riley, Crosshills.

Six cabbages for cattle.—Prize, W. Lockwood, Skipton.

Six roots of long mangle wurtzel.—Prize, J. Kidd, Crosshills.

Six carrots.—First prize, W. Higson, Carleton; second, J. Riley.

Stone of round potatoes.—First prize, W. Thornton, Carleton; second, T. Eatangh, Clitheroe.

Stone of kidney potatoes.—First prize, T. Eatangh; second, C. Maud, Carleton.

Stone of fluke potatoes.—First prize, W. Lockwood, Skipton; second, E. Fort.

WHITBY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Whitby Society is one of the oldest in the county, having been established so far back as 1834. In the horse classes there was a very good entry, and the show of cattle was another meritorious feature, both numerically and as regards quality; while the sheep and pigs were rather above the average.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—Horses—Hunters, Roadsters, and Ponies: W. Annett, Ulgham, Morpeth, and A. Dunhill, Heslerton Grange, York.—Coaching and Agricultural: J. Kirby, Burton Fields, Stamford Bridge, and R. Hodgson, Langton Grange, Northallerton. Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs: J. Cattley, Stearsby, Easingwold, and G. Hamilton, Northallerton. Moor Sheep: G. Prodham, Harwood Dale, and I. Garbutt, Farndale.

HORSES.

Thoroughbred stallion.—Prize, P. Hogarth, Lythe.

Coaching stallion.—Prize, C. Walker, Stakesby Mill.

Agricultural stallion.—Prize, R. Marshall, Keyingham, Hull.

Coaching brood mare, with her foal or stinted.—First prize, J. Reader, Holme, York; second, F. Stainthorpe, Newton Mulgrave.

Coaching foal, colt or filly.—First prize, W. Ward, Aislaby; second, P. Campion, Overdale, Lythe.

Yearling coaching colt or gelding.—First prize, M. Wellburn, Fylingdales; second, T. Jackson, Barmby East.

Yearling coaching filly.—Prize, P. Campion.

Two years old coaching gelding.—First prize, M. Wellburn; second, J. Jackson, Goldsbro', Whitby.

Two years old coaching filly.—First prize, J. and J. Welford, Newton Mulgrave; second, W. Daniel, Greenhammerton, near York.

Three years old coaching gelding.—First prize, I. Scarth, West Rounton; second, W. S. Gray, Whitby.

Three years old coaching filly.—First prize, J. Burton, Thirsk; second, T. Dobson, Saltburn-by-the-Sea.

Cleveland bay brood mare, with her foal or stinted.—Special prize, a cup, F. Stainthorp; second, J. and J. Welford.

Agricultural brood mare, with her foal or stinted.—First prize, W. Burnett, Whitby; second, R. Dennison, Whitby.

Agricultural foal, colt or filly.—First and second prizes, R. Middleton, Hawsker.

Agricultural yearling, colt or filly.—First prize, T. Scoby, Kirbymooraside; second, J. Cross, Whitby.

Two years old agricultural filly or gelding.—First prize, R. P. Petch, Skelton; second, T. Newton, Easington.

Three years old agricultural filly or gelding.—First prize, R. Lee, Ferry Hill; second, W. S. Gray.

Pair of agricultural horses.—First prize, W. Burnett; second, R. Middleton.

Hunting brood mare, with her foal or stinted.—First prize, J. F. Leighton, Scarbro'; second, W. Muzeen, Slingsby.

Hunting foal, colt or filly.—First prize, W. Muzeen, South Holme; second, H. Ward, Whitby.

Hunting yearling, colt or filly.—First prize, W. Muzeen; second, J. Weighill, Whitby.

Two years old hunting gelding.—First prize, J. Sedman, Pickering; second, J. Cross.

Two years old hunting filly.—First prize, S. B. Robson, Ganton; second, J. Dowson, Danby Castle.

Three years old hunting gelding.—First prize, S. B. Robson; second, J. and J. Blackburn, Stokesley.

Three years old hunting filly.—First prize, A. Brigham, Malton; second, E. W. Chapman, Whitby.

Hunting mare or gelding.—First prize, T. Darrell, Scarbro'; second, W. S. W. Topham, Malton; third, F. J. Walker, York.

Special prize for leaping.—First, J. H. Peart, Malton; second, J. Cross.

Hunting mare or gelding.—First prize, H. A. H., Rastall, Ruswarp; second, P. Campion.

Gentlemen's hackney or roadster mare or gelding, over 14½ hands.—First prize, W. H. Cranswick, Burton Agnes; second, J. Robson, Malton; third, J. Snarry, Malton.

Lady's hackney mare or gelding.—First prize, J. Wellburn, Shackleton Grange; second, C. B. Musgrave, Whitby; third, Mrs. F. J. Walker, York.

Pony mare or gelding, over 12½ hands, and not over 14½ hands.—First prize, M. Wellburn; second, J. C. Hutchinson, Middlesbro'; third, D. Allison, Stainsacre.

Pony mare or gelding, not exceeding 12½ hands.—First prize, J. Wright, Guisbro'; second, G. Cummings, jun., Couldyke; third, J. Robson, Malton.

Donkeys in the district.—First prize, W. Blytheman, Aislaby; second, R. Jackson, Lythe; third, T. Richardson, Sandsend.

Special prize for the best foal by Ivory Black.—First and second, W. Ward, Aislaby.

CATTLE.

Bull calf, under 12 months old.—First prize, H. Clay, Northallerton; second, J. Wood, Spaunton, Pickering.

Yearling bull.—First prize, C. and J. Smith, Westerdale, Yarm; second, W. Harrison, Underpick.

Two years old bull.—First prize, J. G. S. Hebron, Westerdale; second, Jane Attlay, Whitby.

Heifer calf, under 12 months old.—First prize, J. Hebron, Castleton; second, C. and J. Smith.

Yearling heifer.—First prize, T. Strickland, Thirsk Junction; second, H. Clay.

Two years old heifer, in milk or calf.—First prize, T. Strickland; second, C. and J. Smith.

Cow in milk or calf.—First prize, W. Rivis, Castleton; second, C. and J. Smith.

District Prizes.

Bull calf.—First prize, G. D. Yeoman, Whitby; second, E. Corner, Sleights.

Yearling bull.—First prize, W. Harrison; second, G. D. Yeoman.

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Four store calves.—First prize, G. D. Yeoman; second, H. Ward, Whitby.

Four yearlings.—First prize, J. Weighill; second, E. Corner, Whitby.

Two years old heifer, in milk or calf.—First prize, C. and J. Smith; second, E. Corner.

SPECIAL PRIZE.

Pen of cattle, as follows: Cow in milk or calf, not under four years of age; cow or heifer in milk or calf, two or three years old; heifer or steer, one year old; calf, heifer, or steer, under one year.—First prize, a silver cup, value £7 7s., C. and J. Smith; second, £3, J. Kerr, Lythe Hall; third, £1, E. Corner.

Dairy cow.—First prize, E. Lamb, Yew Cote; second, J. Ward, Ruswarp; third, C. Walker, Whitby.

Cottager's cow of any breed, with special reference to milking, the owner not being occupier of more than three acres of land.—Prize, J. Richardson, Sandsend.

SHEEP.

LEICESTERS.

Two-shear or aged ram.—First prize, Messrs. Doveners, Bedale; second, R. Tarbottom, York.

Shearling ram.—First prize, Messrs. Doveners; second, R. Harrison.

Tup lamb.—First prize, W. S. Gray, Whitby; second, Messrs. Doveners; third, W. Ward, Aislaby.

Pen of five ewes, having reared lambs in 1874.—First prize, Messrs. Doveners; second, Jane Attlay.

Pen of five shearling gimmers.—First prize, R. Tarbottom; second, Messrs. Doveners.

Pen of five gimmer lambs.—First prize, R. Tarbottom; second, W. S. Gray.

DISTRICT PRIZE.

Three Leicester tup lambs, bred by exhibitor.—First and second prizes, W. S. Gray.

MOOR SHEEP.

Two-shear or aged tup.—Prize, J. Waind, Kirbymoorside.

Shearling tup.—First and second prizes, J. Waind.

Tup lamb.—First and second prizes, J. Waind.

Pen of five ewes, having reared lambs in 1874.—First prize, C. and J. Smith; second, J. Waind.

Pen of five shearling gimmers.—First prize, J. Waind; second, C. and J. Smith.

Pen of five wethers, two-shear or upwards, bred by the exhibitor.—First and second prizes, J. Waind.

PIGS.

Boar of any breed, under twelve months old.—First prize, W. Lister, Armley; second, J. Cole, Whitby.

Sow of any breed, under twelve months old.—First prize, W. Lister; second, T. Strickland, Thirsk.

Boar of any large breed, over twelve months old.—First prize, W. Lister; second, D. Shaw, Moorsholm.

Sow or gilt of any large breed, over twelve months old.—First prize, S. Graham, York-road, Leeds; second, J. Woodcock, Egton.

Boar of any small breed, over twelve months old.—First Prize, S. Graham; second, G. Chapman, Seamer.

Sow or gilt of any small breed, over twelve months old.—First prize, W. Lister; second, G. Chapman.

Cottager's pig.—First prize, J. Cole; second, T. Dickenson, Whitby.

At the luncheon Captain TURTON, the Chairman, said that free trade was as fixed as the sun, and that the prices of 1818 would never again be experienced in this country. In his opinion, butter in this country would soon become a luxury. Wool was very remunerative, and horses were fetching fabulous prices, which proved that grass paid better than arable land, and that butter was more profitable than wheat. He believed that they had far too many fields under the plough. He was glad that the ploughmen in this district had not been dictated to by demagogues, and were content with the fair day's wage for the fair day's work which the farmers were giving them. This had obviated ill-will between the farmers and their servants, and was a matter for congratulation.

WORSLEY AND SWINTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In the open competition for Shorthorns the prize for the best old bull was given to Mr. R. Bruce, Newton of Struthers, Forres, N.B., for Lord Irwin; Mr. George Fox, of Hare Field, Wilmslow, being second with Leeman. Mr. Fox also entered for heifer-calves, and was beaten by the Earl of Ellesmere, the only other exhibitor in the class. His lordship showed in several other open classes, and was placed second for one-year-old bulls, Mr. R. Thompson, Mythop, being first, and second in that for one-year-old heifers. Mr. Statter, of Whitefield, won several prizes; the first in the classes for bull-calves, two-year-old heifers, one-year-old, and first and second for three-year-old cows and Ayrshire cows. In the class for bull-calves Mr. Boddington won the second prize, and in that for cows of the Channel Islands breed Mr. H. Dunlop was first, and Mr. H. Neild second. Some special prizes were given to Mr. John Gardner for extra stock; and in the horse and sheep classes Mr. Gardner was awarded several special prizes for stock sent for show, but not entered for competition. Mr. Neild was a successful exhibitor in the cattle classes, open only to farmers residing within the district. There was a large show of horses, particularly in the open classes, and Mr. Statter won several prizes; the first for the draught stallions, and second as well in this class; the second for thoroughbred stallions, Mr. S. Norbury, Cheadle, being first; and the second in the class for mares or geldings shown in harness. The prize for the best hunter, able to carry 14 stone, went to Mr. H. Charlton, Mr. R. M. Knowles being second; that for the best hunter, up to 12 stone, to Mr. Thos. Newton, Altrincham, Mr. Charlton being second; that for the best mare or gelding, 15 hands high, in actual use as a roadster, to Mr. J. Robinson, Hull; Mr. E. M. Williams, London-road Mills, Manchester, being second; that for the best roadster under 15 hands, to Mr. T. D. Pritchard, Eccles; Mr. E. Armitage, Pendleton, being second; that for the best mare or gelding in actual use as a roadster, and under 14 hands, to Mr. R. Wright, Salford, Mr. C. L. Clare, Higher Broughton, being second; that for the best foals of 1874 got by the entire horse belonging to Mr. A. Land, Darcy Lever, to Mr. W. Smith, Prestwich; that for the best pony, mare or gelding, under 13 hands, to Mr. W. S. Armitage, Hereford, Mr. L. Pilkington, Gatesere, being second; that for the best pony, mare or gelding, under 12 hands, to Mr. H. Marshall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Mr. J. Statham, Salford, being second; that for the best draught horse or mare to the Earl of Ellesmere, Mr. C. W. Brierley, Middleton, being second; that for the best mare or gelding over 14 hands, and shown in harness, to Mr. J. C. Rogerson, Oldham-street, Manchester; and that for the best under 14 hands to Mr. R. Wright, Salford, Mr. H. Marshall being second. First prizes for sheep were taken by Mr. H. Neild, Mr. Thomas Harrison (Barton-upon-Irwell), the Earl of Ellesmere, and Mrs. Ellen Edge. In the pig classes the Earl of Ellesmere took the great majority of the prizes; but in the two classes in which his lordship did not enter first prizes were given to Mr. G. Holland (Worsley) and Mr. D. Ashcroft (Preston), and a special prize to Mr. H. Neild. Judges—Cattle, sheep, and pigs: Mr. J. Woodhouse, Scale Hall, Lancaster; Mr. T. Dodds, Mount Pleasant, Wakefield. Light horses: Mr. W. S. Atkinson, Barrowley Hall, Woodlesford, Leeds; Mr. J. Bromley, Lancaster. Heavy horses: Mr. W. Carter, Grosvenor-street, Manchester; Mr. D. Ashcroft, Haighton-house, Preston.

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EAST CHESHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT MACCLESFIELD.

The horses, on the whole, were an indifferent collection, and were considerably less in number than last year; but there were some roadsters and horses for agricultural purposes. Mr. C. W. Brierley, of Middleton, was placed first in the open classes for pairs of draught horses, mares, or geldings, and mare or gelding for draught purposes. The Stoneleigh Colliery Co., of Lawton, were first in the class for three-year-old mares or geldings for draught purposes, but the competition was limited in many of the classes. In the class for two-year-old colt or filly for draught purposes Mr. W. J. Legh, M.P., Lyme Park, won the first prize; and in the class for stallions for draught purposes the prize for the best animal was taken by Messrs. Jos. and Jas. Wylde Poynton; Mr. T. Statter, Stand Hall, Whitefield, near Manchester, being second. Prizes were given for the best hunter, mare, or gelding, carrying not less than 13 stone, to Mr. P. P. Brocklehurst, Macclesfield; light-weight hunter and hack roadster, mare, or gelding, about 15 hands, Mr. W. C. Brocklehurst, M.P., Butley Hall; cob, not to exceed 15 hands, Mr. E. M. Williams, London Road Mills, Manchester; pony not to exceed 13 hands, the Rev. B. Lowther, Shrigley Park. There were also district classes.

As with horses, the show of cattle was not so good as last year. The silver cup for the best bull in the yard was taken by Mr. G. Fox, for Leeman. Mr. W. J. Legh, M.P., was first in the open class for bulls under two years old, and second in the classes for pair of heifers under three years, ditto under two years, and pair of heifer-calves, Mr. George Fox being first in the three last-named classes. The Stoneclough Colliery Co. took the prize for the best bull calf, and Viscount Petersham that for the best Alderney or Guernsey cow. Of the sheep, the long-woolled classes were the best, the rams of all ages being of more than the average merit; but, on the whole, the show of sheep was an inferior one. Mr. J. Nixon, jun., Harrop, carried off all the first prizes for long-wools, with two exceptions, the prizes for the best pen of long-woolled ewes, and ditto one year old. In these classes, however, Mr. Nixon did not exhibit. In the classes for short wools, Mr. J. Hague, Gawsworth, won the prize for the best pen of five ewes; Mr. W. J. Legh, M.P., those for rams of any age, and tup lambs; the Rev. J. Thornycroft, Siddington, that for the best pen of five ewes, one year old: Mr. A. Gardiner, Rainow, that for the best pen of five ewe lambs; and Mr. William Thompstone, Siddington, that for the best pen of five ewe-lambs. The classes for pigs were open only to members residing in the district, and the silver cup for the best boar in the yard was awarded to Mr. D. Briscoe, of Stockport. The judges were—of cattle, Mr. Hornby, Minshull Vernon, Crewe; Mr. Balmer, Tattenhall; Mr. Gilbert Murray, Elvaston, Derby. Horses (heavy): Mr. Ballharry, St. Helens; Mr. Whitelegge, Ashton-on-Mersey. Horses (light): Mr. James Boote, Weston Hall, Crewe; Mr. Samuel Holmes, Grosvenor-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. Sheep and pigs: Mr. M. Walker, Stockley Park, Burton-on-Trent; Mr. William Smith, Top-o'th'-Lea, Shuttleworth.

THE HALIFAX AND CALDER VALE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

There were 99 entries of cattle, and Mr. Stephen Watkinson, Gargrave, and Mr. Thomas Wetherill, Durham, made the awards. Lord Irwin, brought his owner, Mr. R. Bruce, the cup for the best aged Shorthorn bull; Mr. Thomas Statter, Stand second. In the one-year-old Shorthorns Lady Pigot took the first and second prizes with Rapid Rhone and May King. Mr. Statter, with Hero, carried off the prize for the best bull-calf, and took one first prize and one second in Shorthorn cows with his Robin's Rose and Lady Graceful. Lady Pigot took the cup and several honours in the Shorthorn cow classes, showing the best three-year-old, Victoria Victrix; the best calf and the second best two-year-old. Mr. Hutchinson won the first prize for two-year-olds with Lady Playful, and the second for one-year-olds with Lady Alicia. Mr. Riley showed the best and second-best Ayrshire cow, the best and second-best dairy cow of any age, and the best and second-best in a class of miscellaneous breeds and cross breeds with a Highland Scot and a half-bred Angus and Shorthorn. Mr. Hall, Cleckheaton, showed the best Alderney, and Mr. Lewis, Halifax, the second, and was first in Guernsey cows, and Mr. E. Akroyd second. Mr. J. Wright, Warley, took a cup with three dairy cows; Mr. Nicholls, Luddendenfoot, second. Four of the cups were for competition by farmers in the parish of Halifax and adjoining townships only. The horse show was a large one, and the judges, Mr. J. J. Clark, Welton-le-Wold, South Lincolnshire, and Mr. W. F. Barwick, Nawton, York, made the awards for hunters and roadsters; and Mr. George Robson, Easingwold, and Mr. J. P. Edwards, Lytham, for coaching and draught horses. Mr. J. H. Wright won Mr. G. Davis' silver cup with Schuloff, the best thorough-bred stallion. For hunters the cup was won by Mr. W. Armstrong's Cashier; a second prize fell to Mr. Topham, and a high commendation to Mr. F. H. Hutchinson's Jester. Mr. W. Vary, York, showed the best roadster stallion, and won the President's cup. The best roadster mare or gelding was Mr. W. H. Blackman's, who took the silver cup. Other cups were awarded as follow: Mr. G. E. Emmett, Halifax, for the best mare or gelding for saddle or harness; Mr. J. F. Crowther, Mirfield, for the best roadster mare and foal, and also for the best draught stallion; Mr. C. W. Brierley, Middleton, for the best four-year-old draught mare; Crossley and Sons for the best tradesman's or farmer's draught animal, not exceeding 16½ hands, and the best pair of draught horses; Mrs. Joseph Crossley, Halifax, for the best carriage horse and best harness gelding; Mr. John Wellburn for the best lady's pad; Mr. W. H. Blackman for the best cob; and Mr. G. F. Fletcher, Sheffield, for the best pony in harness. Mr. Statter, Stand, took money prizes offered for the best yearling draught colt or filly, for the second-best draught mare or gelding, and for second-best harnessed mare or gelding. Mr. Jonathan Statham, Sunnyside Works, Salford, showed the best-mounted pony not exceeding 12 hands. The wool entries are naturally of great local interest at this show. The principal exhibitors and prizetakers were Holdsworth and Cockin, Halifax; Mr. J. A. Holmes, Bradford; Daniel Parker and Co., Halifax; W. Appleyard and Son,

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Halifax; Mr. Young Haworth, Halifax; J. Eastwood and Co., Halifax. The judges were John Dewhirst, Elland, and Mr. D. Crossley, Ovenden. In the pig competitions the principal winners were the Earl of Ellesmere, Mr. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, who divide the honours. Three first-class prizes were, however, carried off by Halifax men, Mr. George Spenceley, Mr. John Holdsworth, and Mr. John Ingham. A district competition, open to working men, was encouraged by the presentation of two cups, and the chance of four others, open to nearly all exhibitors. Mr. Allen Coates, Sheffield, and Mr. Joseph Richardson, Halifax were winners of medals. Mr. Thomas Stamper, Oswaldwistle, and Mr. Stephen Barratt, of Leeds, made the awards. There was a good show of implements, there being in the yard 179 entries. The judges, Mr. H. Ambler and Mr. John Smith, Halifax, awarded silver medals to T. Rhodes, Halifax, for a Singer sewing machine; to Hartley and Sugden, Halifax, for a chaff cutter; and to J. Howorth, Farnworth, for an 11 in. diameter revolving archimedean screw ventilator.

THE AMALGAMATED MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL AND ROYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT STALYBRIDGE.

The entries, notwithstanding the amalgamation, were not so numerous as those of the Liverpool Society, at Chester, in 1873; but in the chief feature, that is the Shorthorn section, the classes were well filled. The first prize in the aged bulls went to Lord Irwin, who has now travelled upwards of 1,200 miles in meeting engagements; and besides the first prize in its class Lord Irwin was awarded the £10 cup for the best bull in the yard; but much of the interest in this class evaporated when it was found that Telemachus was not in the ring; and the second prize went to Royal Lancaster, exhibited by Mr. Edward Musgrove, Oughton, Ormskirk; with the third prize to Mr. Linton's Sir Arthur Ingram, a two-year-old bull, which, by the conditions, was pitted against veterans. The propriety of an alteration in the rule was further shown by Mr. Outhwaite's Lord Godolphin, which being now two weeks over two years old, was shown in the class of aged bulls. There was a small entry of bulls between one and two years old, where the first prize was awarded to Rapid Rhone, and Lady Pigot was third in the same class with May King, the second prize going to Telemachus 6th. There was a small entry of bull-calves, the first prize going to Mr. Thomas Statter for Hero. Ten entered in the class of aged cows; the first prize being Vivandiere, to which was also awarded the £10 cup for the best cow or heifer over two years old in the yard; while Mr. Statter was second and third with Lady Graceful and Lady Ann against the Marquis of Exeter and Lady Pigot. Another Lancashire exhibitor won in the class of two-year-old heifers with Royal Rose, and Rose of Wytham again followed Royal Rose, though Rosalbina 6th, shown by Mr. Statter, and bred by Mr. Dickinson, Wigan, was placed third. In the class of yearling heifers the honours were awarded to Robin's Rose, shown by Mr. Statter, and to Lady Pigot, with Rose of Lincoln and Princess Wytham; while Lady Pigot was first in a fair class of calves. The premiums which the Society offers for Shorthorns exhibited by tenant-farmers principally dependant upon farming, and resident in the Society's district, did not bring a good entry, while the other breeds included Alderneys, Ayrshires, and Welsh.

The horse classes were but indifferently filled, the more especially as tested by the amount of competition. For thoroughbred stallions suitable for getting hunters or carriage horses the class ran to six entries. The first prize was awarded to Laughingstock, and the second to Messrs. Ambery and Cockin, Feathers Inn, Manchester, for Kidderminster. The roadster stallions reached only to five entries, with the prize awarded to Shepherd F. Knapp, the second to J. Gill; the roadsters above 14 hands had seven, and only four cobs were entered. Prize money amounting to £28 was offered for carriage or brougham horses, but the class, numbering four, was very indifferent, and only one prize was awarded; while of single-harness horses of any age there were only three exhibitors. In the class for hunters, equal to carry 14 stone, Mr. Joseph Fearon's Erl King beat Mr. W. Armstrong's Cashier! and Loiterer, shown by Messrs. W. Thompson and Son, was put third. In the class for hunters up to 12 stone, the first prize was given to Jester, shown by Mr. T. H. Hutchinson, of Catterick, for which, as the best hunter in the yard, the £25 cup was also awarded. Prizes were offered by the Staleybridge local committee for hunters shown by residents within the local district, which commanded a fair entry.

The sheep classes included some good Shropshires from Messrs. Baker, Nock, and Firmstone; and a very mixed lot in the longwool classes of Leicesters, Lincolns, and Cotswolds; Mr. Hutchinson, of Catterick, having a long lead with his capital type of Leicester, and taking all the chief prizes alike for rams and ewes. The competition here again was in fact but indifferent, and the local display of sheep simply noticeable as a curiosity. The pig show was stronger, supported as it was by many of our most famous exhibitors, including, as the prize-list will tell, Messrs. Howard, Duckering, Royds, Matthew Walker, Peter Eden, Wheeler, Lord Ellesmere, and Mr. Rose, a new exhibitor from Norfolk.

Over what *The Manchester Examiner* calls "the sometimes too much neglected implements," money prizes are given in very few instances, but the distribution of silver medals was duly appreciated by the successful exhibitors.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—SHORTHORNS: G. H. Sanday, Bedale; T. Dodds, Wakefield. OTHER BREEDS OR CROSS-BREEDS: J. Roberts, Saltney; J. Gardner, Worsley, Manchester. LIGHT HORSES: W. S. Atkinson, Leeds; J. Bromley, Lancaster. CART HORSES: R. S. Reynolds, Liverpool; T. J. Rider, Kenwick, Shrewsbury. SHEEP: C. Byrd, Littywood; E. Riley, Kipling Coates. PIGS: J. Birch, Sefton; J. Fisher, Cross Hills. POULTRY: —. Teebay, Fullwood. PIGEONS: M. Hedley, Redhill. DOGS: M. Hedley; R. Gorton, Eccles; W. Lort, Birmingham. HARRIERS: C. B. Speight, Stannington; S. Ridge, Sheffield. FARM AND GARDEN PRODUCE: E. Rothwell, Winwick; J. Hornby, Minshull Vernon. CHEESE: R. Pedley, Crewe. BUTTER: G. Jennison, Belle Vue, Manchester; T. Muirhead, Manchester. IMPLEMENTS: J. Wright, Croxteth; R. Mandsley, Eccleston; R. T. Smith, Whitchurch.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull, above two years old.—First prize, £15, and extra prize, R. Bruce, Newton-of-Strathers, Forres (Lord Irwin); second, £10, E. Musgrove, Aughton, Ormskirk (Royal Lancaster); third, £5, W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York (Sir Arthur Ingram). Highly commended: J. Outhwaite, Bainesse, Catte-

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rick (Lord Godolphin). Commended: B. St. John Ackers, Painswick (Cymbeline).

Bull, above one but under two years old.—First prize, £15, Lady Pigot, Branches Park (Rapid Rhone); second, £10, Marquis of Exeter, Burghley Park (Telemachus 6th); third, £5, Lady Pigot (May King).

Bull calf, above six and under twelve months old.—First prize, £6, T. Statter, Stand Hall (Hero); second, £4, J. Coates, Hartshead, Cleckheaton; third, £2, R. Thompson, Mythorp Lodge, Blackpool (Winsome's Heir).

Cow, above three years old, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £8, and extra prize, J. Outhwaite, Bainesse (Vivandiere); second, £6, T. Statter (Lady Graceful); third, £4, T. Statter (Lady Ann). Highly commended: Marquis of Exeter (Sea Gull).

Heifer, two years old but under three.—First prize, £8, J. Thom, Larkhill, Chorley (Royal Rose); second, £6, Lady Pigot (Rose of Witham); third, £4, T. Statter (Rosalbina 6th). Commended: B. St. John Ackers, Painswick (Queen of the Georgians).

Heifer, above one but under two years old.—First prize, £6, T. Statter (Robin's Rose); second, £4, Lady Pigot (Rose of Lincoln); third, £3, Lady Pigot (Princess of Witham). Highly commended: T. Statter (Robin's Stanley Rose).

Heifer calf, above six but under twelve months old.—First prize, £5, Lady Pigot (Moorish Captive); second, £3, G. Fox, Harefield (Lady Faverley 6th); third, £2, W. J. Legh, M.P., Lyme Park, Disley (Jessamin). Commended: B. St. John Ackers (Lady Carew.)

OTHER BREEDS.

Channel Islands bull, of any age.—Silver medal, T. H. Miller, Poulton-le-Fylde (Mentor). Highly commended: R. H. Norreys, Davey Hulme Hall.

Ayrshire bull of any age.—Silver medal, T. Statter.

Welsh bull of any age.—Silver medal, R. Humphreys, Beddgelert (Prince Llewelyn).

Channel Islands' cow or heifer of any age.—First prize, £5, A. Hall, Cleckheaton; second, £3, R. Smith, The Poplars, Manchester. Commended: T. H. Miller, Singleton Park (Maid of the Mist).

Ayrshire cow or heifer, of any age—First prize, £5, T. Statter (Dairymaid); second, £3, T. Statter (Buttercup).

Welsh cow or heifer, of any age.—First prize, R. Humphreys; second, £3, G. Jones, Mold (Pride). Commended: R. Humphreys.

LOCAL PRIZES.

A piece of plate, value £10, to the best bull in any of the foregoing classes, for Lord Irwin.

Ditto, value £5, to the best cow or heifer above two years old, for Vivandiere.

Ditto, value £5, to the best heifer or heifer-calf under two years old, for Robin's Rose.

HORSES.

Young horses for road and field, three years old, gelding or filly.—First and second prizes, C. E. Ashworth, Fairfield, Manchester; third, J. F. Crowther, Knowl Grove, Mirfield.

Two years old, gelding or filly.—First prize, T. F. Jackson, Tattenhall Hall, Chester; second, J. F. Crowther.

Cart horses (open), stallions for getting cart or waggon horses (prize money £45).—T. Statter, Stand Hall; second, F. Crowther; third, R. Hopper, North Bank, Whittlesey, near Peterborough.

Stallion colts, foaled in 1871.—First prize, J. and J. Wylde, Worth Hall, Poynton, Stockport; second, T. Statter.

Stallion colts, foaled in 1872.—This was a poor class, and only the third prize was awarded, to J. Gould, Hyde Hall, Denton.

Stallion colts, foaled in 1873.—First prize, T. Statter; second, J. F. Crowther; third, J. Tomlinson, Lutton Marsh.

Pairs of horses, mares, or geldings, for farm work, property of tenant-farmers principally dependent on farming.—First prize, W. Birch, Aintree, Liverpool; second, J. Partington, Whittalfold, Birch, Middleton.

Cart horse, four years old, or upwards, mare or gelding, property of tenant-farmers principally dependant on farming.—First prize, H. Nield, Worsley; second, J. Waterworth, North Ashton, Wigan; third, J. Pover, Elton Hall, Chester.

Pairs of waggon horses, mares or geldings, most suitable for heavy town work.—First prize, T. George, Wellington Saw Mills; second and third, C. W. Brierley, Rhodes House, Middleton.

Cart or van horse, four years old or upwards, mare or gelding.—First prize, C. W. Brierley; second, T. Statter; third, J. W. Crosby, Crosby Green.

Van horse, four years old or upwards, mare or gelding.—Prize, C. W. Brierley (only entry).

Young horses, three years old, cart breed, gelding or filly.—First prize, G. Prescott, Minshull Vernon, Middlewich; second, W. Birch, Aintree; third, E. Waterworth, Brimelow Farm, Wigan.

Two years old, cart breed, gelding or filly.—First prize, J. Walsh, Moss House, Upper Rawcliffe, Garstang; second and third, T. Seed, Bashall Town, Clitheroe.

One year old, cart breed, gelding or filly.—First prize, T. Statter; second, J. and F. Crowther.

Brood mares, cart mare with foal at foot.—First prize, J. Tomlinson, Sutton Marsh (foal and mare); second, T. Statter (foal and mare).

Stallion for getting cart or waggon horses, which has served mares in the local district during the season 1874.—Prize, W. Chantler, Hurst Nook, Ashton. A medal was awarded to T. Statter for extra stock.

Pair of horses, mares or geldings, the property of a tenant-farmer principally dependent on farming.—Prize, J. Hyde, Denton (only one entry).

Cart horse, four years old and upwards, mare or gelding, the property of a tenant-farmer principally dependent on farming.—Prize, L. Hyde, Hartshead, Ashton-under-Lyne (only one entry).

Cart horse, four years old or upwards, mare or gelding.—First prize, T. George; second, T. A. Harrison, Stalybridge.

Young horses, three years old gelding or filly.—Prize, D. Adamson, Newton Heath, Hyde.

Two years old gelding or filly.—Prize, J. Bardsley, Birches Farm, Lees.

One year old colt or filly.—Prize, H. Smith, Bagshaw Farm, Glossop.

Brood mare, for breeding horses suitable for farm work, with foal at foot.—First prize, J. Bardsley; second, C. Stocks, Cheadle.

Thoroughbred mare, with foal at foot.—First prize, S. Kirby, 3, City-terrace, City-road, Manchester; second, L. Rawstorne, Hutton Hall, Preston.

Halfbred mare, for road or field, with foal at foot.—First prize, S. Kirby; second, J. F. Crowther, Knowl-grove, Mirfield. Highly commended: B. Bee, Bullenape Hall.

(Local prizes given by the Stalybridge local committee for residents within the local district.)

LIGHT HORSES.

Stallion, for getting weight-carrying hunters or roadsters, having served mares within the local district during the season 1874.—Prize, W. Laycock, Crows-i'th-Wood, Staley, Staleybridge.

Roadsters, four years old, mare or gelding, above 14 hands 2 inches.—First prize, W. Sidebottom, Etheron House, Hollingworth, Hadfield; second, Lucy H. Sidebottom, Etheron House.

Cobs, mare or gelding, above 13 but under 14 hands 2 inches.—Prize, R. Heap, Brun Micklehurst, Mossley.

Pony, mare or gelding, not over 13 hands.—Prize, T. Hall, Hollingworth.

YOUNG HORSES FOR ROAD OR FIELD.

Three-year-old-gelding or filly.—Prize, G. Kay, Sidebottom Fold, Stalybridge.

Two-year-old colt or filly.—First prize, H. Smith, Bagshaw Farm, Glossop, Derbyshire; second, R. Bridwake, Delph, Saddleworth.

One-year-old colt or filly.—First prize, T. Ashton Harrison, Stalybridge; second, A. Holt, Limehurst Farm, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Brood mare, for road or field, with foal at foot.—First prize, M. H. H. Bardsley, Ashton-under-Tyne; second, J. Bottomley, Hill Top, Stalybridge.

SHEEP.

(Open for competition to the United Kingdom.)

SHROPSHIRE DOWNS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, T. Rigby, Darnhall Mill Farm; second, W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone; third, T. Nock, Sutton House, Shifnal, Salop.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, W. Baker; second, W. F. Firmstone, Rockingham Hall, Hagley, Worcestershire; third, T. Rigby.

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Ram lamb.—First prize, T. Nock; second, W. Baker; third, T. Nock.

Three shearling ewes.—First prize, W. Baker; second, T. Nock; third, W. F. Firmstone.

Three ewes, having reared lambs this year.—First prize, W. Baker; second, W. F. Firmstone; third, T. Nock.

Three ewe lambs.—First prize, T. Nock; second, W. Baker; Third, T. Nock.

LONG-WOOLLED OF ANY BREED.

Shearling ram.—First, second, and third prizes, T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick.

Ram of any other age.—First and second prizes, T. H. Hutchinson; third, W. Norman, Hall Bank.

Ram lamb.—First prize, W. Norman; second, J. T. Clifton, Lytham Hall; third, T. H. Hutchinson.

Three shearling ewes.—First and second prizes, T. H. Hutchinson.

Three ewes having reared lambs this year.—First and second prizes, T. H. Hutchinson; third, W. Norman.

Three ewe lambs.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, J. T Clifton; third, W. Norman.

Three Cheviot ewes of any age.—First and second prizes, T. Roddick, Pembedw.

Three half-bred Cheviot lambs, ewe or wether.—Prize, H. Smith, Blackshaw Farm, Glossop, Derbyshire.

LOCAL PRIZES.

(For residents within the Stalybridge district.)

White-faced horned ram of any age.—Prize, R. Heap, Micklehurst, Mossley.

Pen of not less than five white-faced ewes of same breed.—First prize, R. Heap; second, D. Heap, Micklehurst, Mossley.

Pen of not less than five white-faced wethers of same breed.—First prize, D. Heap; second, R. Heap.

Black or speckled-faced horned ram.—Prize, R. Heap.

Pen of not less than five ewes of same breed.—First prize, R. Heap; second, W. Nield, Hollingworth Hall.

Pen of not less than five wethers of same breed.—Prize, R. Heap.

Pen of not less than five store sheep of any other variety.—Prize, W. Nield.

PIGS.

(Open for competition to the United Kingdom.)

Boar of large white breed, above one year old.—First prize, J. and F. Howard, Britannia Farms, Bedford; second and third, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Pyke House, Littleborough.

Breeding sow of large white breed, above one year old.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds; second, Earl of Ellesmere; third, R. E. Duckering.

Boar pigs of large white breed, under one year old.—First and second prizes, M. Walker, Stockley Park; third, R. E. Duckering.

Pair of sow pigs, large white breed, under one year old.—First prize, Earl of Ellesmere; second, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; third, P. Eden, Cross Lane, Salford.

Boar of small white breed, above one year old.—First prize, Earl of Ellesmere; second, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; third, R. E. Duckering.

Breeding sow, white breed, above one year old.—First prize, Earl of Ellesmere; second, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds.

Boar pig, white breed, above one year old.—First prize, P. Eden; second, M. Walker; third, R. E. Duckering.

Pair of sow pigs, white breed, above one year old.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, Earl of Ellesmere.

Breeding sow of the middle breed, above one year old.—First prize, Earl of Ellesmere; second, R. E. Duckering; third, C. R. N. Beswick-Royds.

Boar pig of the middle breed, under one year old.—First prize, P. Eden; second, R. E. Duckering; third, H. Nield.

Pair of sow pigs of the middle breed, under one year old.—First prize, P. Eden; second, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Boar of the Berkshire breed, above one year old.—First prize, Mrs. Cunliffe, Darnhall Hall; second and third, J. Wheeler, Long Compton.

Breeding sow of the Berkshire breed, above one year old.—First prize, M. Walker; second and third, J. Wheeler.

Pair of sows of the Berkshire breed, under one year old.—First prize, Mrs. Cunliffe; second, J. Wheeler.

Boar, improved Essex, above one year old.—First prize, T. Rose, Meltham Magna, Norfolk; second and third, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Breeding sow, improved Essex, one year old.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, J. Wheeler; third, R. E. Duckering.

Pair of sows, improved Essex, under one year old.—First prize, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds; second, T. Rose; third, C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds.

Boar of any breed belonging to landlords in the district.—Prize, silver medal, W. J. Leigh, M.P., Lyme Park.

LOCAL PRIZES.

Boar of large breed.—First prize, H. Garside, Stalybridge; second, R. Dyson, Stalybridge.

Boar of small breed.—First prize, W. Winterbottom, Dukinfield; second, R. Brierley, Stalywood.

Sow of large breed.—First prize, R. Worthington, Mottram road; second, E. Ford, Lanzley End.

Sow of small breed.—Prize, R. Worthington.

Litter of sucking pigs (with sow), under ten weeks old.—First prize, W. Williamson, Dukinfield; second, R. Worthington.

Fat pig, any age.—Prize, J. Byrom, Commercial Inn, Staley.

Pair of store pigs, under ten months old.—First prize, J. Turner, Hollingworth, Hadfield; second, J. Bottomley, Hill Top, Staley.

GRAIN AND ROOTS.

White wheat.—First prize, W. A. Gray, Dawpool, Birkenhead; second, J. Cornes, New Farm, Hurleston.

Yellow or red wheat.—First prize, T. Rigby, Darnhall Mill Farm, Winsford; second, J. Cornes.

Any variety of white oats.—First prize, P. M'Gregor, Onston; second, J. Greatorex, Stretton.

Any variety of yellow oats.—Prize, H. Nield, The Grange, Worsley.

Black oats.—First prize, W. A. Gray, Dawpool; second, H. Neild.

Any variety of barley.—First prize, J. Greatorex; second, W. K. Fowler, Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury.

Any variety of beans.—First prize, J. K. Fowler; second, W. A. Gray.

Six roots Swedish turnips of any kind.—First prize, J. K. Fowler; second, S. Taylor.

Six roots of any other kind of turnips.—First prize, G. Smith, Flash Green Farm, Wheelton, near Chorley; second, G. Ashburne, Low Hall, Broughton-in-Furness.

Six roots of long red mangel wurtzel.—First prize, J. K. Fowler; second, J. Greatorex.

Six roots yellow mangel wurtzel.—First prize, J. K. Fowler; second, J. Greatorex.

Six roots of any kind of globe manuel wurtzel.—First prize J. K. Fowler; second, J. Greatorex.

Six carrots, any variety.—G. Smith, Flash Green Farm; second, H. Simcock, Brighton Grange.

Two Scotch cabbages.—First prize, J. Greatorex; second, H. Neild.

Samples of twenty round potatoes.—First prize, J. Rigby, Spindle Hall Farm, Farringdon, Preston; second, J. Taylor, Malpas, Cheshire.

Samples of twenty flat potatoes.—First prize, G. Smith; second, J. Taylor.

Collections of farm and garden produce of any kind, the bonâ fide growth or manufacture of exhibitor.—First prize, T. F. Jackson, Tattenhall, Chester; second, H. Simcock, Brighton Grange, Barton Moss; third, F. Lythall, Offchurch, Leamington.

CHEESE.

Four cheeses, any colour, above 50lb. each.—First prize, G. Prescott, Minshull Vernon, Middlewich; second, J. Robinson, Lee Green Hall, Middlewich; third, J. Cornes, New Farm, Hurleston.

Four cheeses, under 50lb.—First prize, W. Moreton, Acton Hill, Northwich; second, J. Beckett, Beckton Lawton, Cheshire; third, R. Prescott, Iddinshall Hall.

Three cheeses (for residents within the Stalybridge local district).—First prize, W. Nield, Hollingworth Hall, near Hadfield; second, R. H. Ashton, Roe Cross, Mottram.

BUTTER.

Six half-pounds of fresh butter (for residents within the Stalybridge local district).—First prize, cup, J. Marson, Acton Trussell, Stafford; second, H. Nield, The Grange, Worsley; third, S. W. Wildman, Park House, Shaw; fourth, J. Lloyd, Rhuallt, St. Asaph, Flintshire.

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Six half-pounds of butter, made by exhibitors resident in the local district.—First prize, R. Jaffrey, Oak Farm, Stalybridge; second, Mrs. M. Heginbotham, Shepley Farm, Hooley Hill; third, A. Holt, Limehurst Farm, Ashton-under-Lyne; fourth, W. Kirkham, Boar Fold, Stalybridge.

IMPLEMENTS.

Best arranged machinery for preparing food for farm stock, to be exhibited in motion at work.—First prize, S. Corbett and Son, Park-street Works, Wellington, Salop; second, Picksley, Sims, and Co., Bedford Foundry, Leigh; medal, Richmond and Chandler, Salford; medal, A. Woods and Cocksedge.

Collection of farm implements and tools.—First prize, Richmond and Chandler: second, Standing, Preston.

Articles of domestic use.—First prize, T. Bradford and Co., Cathedral Steps, Manchester; second, R. Sykes, Stalybridge.

Dairy vessels for butter and cheese-making.—First prize, G. Llewellin and Son, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire; second, W. and F. Richmond, Colne, Lancashire.

Useful articles in slate.—First prize, Belcher, Gee, and Co., Gloucester; second, Lewis, Ford, and Co., Bristol Road, Gloucester.

Best assortment of stable and cowhouse fittings.—Prize, Musgrave and Co., Belfast.

Silver medals.—Richmond and Chandler, Salford, for a chaff-cutter; Harrison, M'Gregor, and Co., Leigh, for a two-horse Albion combined mower and reaper, and for a chaff-cutter; Osborne and Co., Liverpool, for a collection of agricultural implements by American manufacturers; J. Fowler and Co., Leeds, for six-horse traction engine; T. Standing, Preston, for Coultas' improved 6 ft. 6 in. 12-row corn and seed drill; David Harkes, Mere, Knutsford, for a drill plough; Ransomes, Sims, and Head for a six-horse power portable steam engine; R. Hornsby and Sons, Grantham, for a spring balance self raker; Fallows and Bate, Manchester, for a lawn mower; Picksley, Sims, and Co., for their general collection; Corbett and Peel, Shrewsbury, for a clover and seed barrow drill; W. Rainforth and Son, Lincoln, for their collection; S. Corbett and Son, Wellington, for the best mode of fastening the mouldboard to a ridge plough; J. Braggins, Banbury, for patent hangings for carriage gate; W. Milburn, Manchester, for a combined vertical steam engine and boiler; Wheeler and Wilson Company, Manchester, for a sewing machine, designed especially for heavy manufacturing purposes, tailoring, and leather work; R. Jones, Liverpool, for a collection of sporting guns; R. Sykes, Stalybridge, for kitchen-ranged grates; G. Cheaven, Boston, for a collection of filters; J. Crowley and Co., Sheffield, for an arm-stopping motion in a haycutter; J. Edwards, Manchester, for leather machine bands; Dobson Brothers and Wormald, Leeds, for a double-reel sewing machine; Hodgson and Stead, Salford, for a collection of weighing machines.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT ST. NEOTS.

The total number of entries was 592, against 526 last year and 413 in 1872, showing an increase of over 60 compared with 1873. The show of horses was good, especially the hunters. The total number of horses entered was 153, against 141 last year. Mr. J. Goodliff, of Huntingdon, was very successful as an exhibitor of horses; for he was awarded as many as five cups, and Marshal McMahon took the Duke of Manchester's silver cup, while Lady Mary carried off both cups, the owner being both exhibitor and breeder. Mr. Hayward, of Southill, took the £25 cup with Richelieu, and the horses on the whole were the best exhibition ever seen at this show. The entry of horned stock was not quite so large as last year. The 20 gs. cup for the best bull was secured by Mr. W. Dolby, of Bingley, Yorkshire, against sixteen exhibitors, and the piece of plate for the best cow or heifer, value 20 gs., by Mr. Dolby also. The show of sheep was not so large as last year, the number of entries only 36. The £10 cup for the best pen of ewes was carried off by Mr. T. Gunnell, who also took the £5 cup for the best pen of lambs. There was a fair show of pigs, and the root show was quite up to the average. There was a small show of implements; and the ploughing matches were again dispensed with.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CART-HORSES: J. Coates Sharpley, Kerstern Hall, Louth; J. Plowright, Manea, Isle of Ely. RIDING HORSES: J. Martin, Wainfleet; J. Plowright, Manea; J. Bennett, Husbands Bosworth. BREEDING AND STORE STOCK: F. Dunn, Weston, Shipton-on-Stour; E. A. Fawcett, Childwick Hall, St. Alban's. SHEEP AND PIGS: T. Cartwright, Dunstan Pillar, Lincoln; H. Overman, Weasenham, Norfolk.

HORSES.

Cart stallions (open to all England).—First prize, £15, R. Hopper, Whittlesey; second, £7, J. Smalley, Whittlesey.

Cart mares suckling foals (open to all England).—First prize, cup, value £10, J. Warth, jun., Chat'eris; second, £3, R. H. Ekins, Wennington.

Two-year-old cart geldings.—First prize, £6, S. Fyson, Warboys; second, £3, S. Fyson.

Two-year-old cart fillies.—First prize, £6, W. Nix, jun., Somersham; second, £3, T. H. Vergeste, Boro' Fen.

Cart foals.—First prize, £2, R. H. Ekins; second, £1, J. Hall, Little Barford, St. Neots.

Pair of cart-horses.—Prize, cup, value 5 gs., Mr. Fyson.

Hunting mares or geldings, above three or under four years old.—Prize, cup, value 10 gs., as breeder, and a cup, value 5 gs., as owner, J. Goodliff, Huntingdon.

Hunting mares or geldings, above four and under five years old (open to all England).—Prize, cup, value £25, Mr. Hayward, Southill, Biggleswade.

Hunting mares or geldings, five years old or upwards (open).—Prize, cup, value 20 gs., J. Goodliff.

Mares and foals for hunting purposes, the foals by thoroughbred stallions.—First prize, cup, value £10, J. Goodliff; second, cup, value £5, J. Goodliff.

Roadster mares or geldings, above four and under five years old, and not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch (open).—Prize, cup, value £10, Mr. Tebbutt, Bluntisham, St. Ives.

Roadster mares or geldings, above five years old, over 14 hands and not exceeding 15 hands 2 inches (open).—First prize, cup, value £5, T. Banyard, Horningsea, Cambs; second, £3, S. Day, St. Neots.

Hackney mares, not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch.—Prize, £5, J. Topham, Great Staughton.

Hackney cobs, not exceeding 14 hands.—Prize, cup, value 5 gs., W. R. Cockle, Hill-row, Haddenham, Ely.

Ponies, not exceeding 13 hands.—Prize, 2 gs., J. Goodliff.

Mares or geldings, not less than 14 hands, with action and pace in harness.—Prize, cup, value 5 gs., J. Benton, Somersham.

Mares or geldings, for jumping.—Prize, cup, value £5, W. and A. T. Wagstaff, Offord, Cluney.

CATTLE.

Bulls not under two years old.—First prize, £8, Mr. Wood, Clapton, Thrapston; second, £4, T. Smith, Tilbrook.

Bulls under two years old.—First prize, £6, J. J. Sharp, Broughton, Kettering; second, £3, B. Brown, Huntingdon.

Cows of any age, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £5, J. J. Sharp; second, £3, S. Armstrong, Shingay, Royston.

Cows of any age adapted for dairy purposes, and not eligible to be entered in the Herd-book.—First prize, silver inkstand value 10 gs., G. E. Daintree, Fenton; second, £3, Mr. Looker, Wyton Manor.

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Heifers under three and over two years old.—First prize, £4, Mr. Looker.

Heifers under two years old, and not eligible to be entered in the Herd-book.—First prize, £3, B. Brown; second, £1 10s., C. Daintree.

Heifers under two years old.—First prize, £3, J. J. Sharp; second, £1 10s., C. Daintree.

Steers under three and over two years old.—First prize, £5, Mr. Sisman, Buckworth Lodge, Hunts.

Steers under two years old.—First prize, £3, C. Daintree; second, £1 10s., Mr. Sisman.

Pair of steers of any age or breed, not being Shorthorns.—First prize, £4, C. Hall, Eaton Socon; second, £2, Mr. Sisman.

Bulls (open to all England).—Prize, cup, value 20 gs., W. Dolby, Bingley, Yorkshire.

Cows or heifers (open).—Prize, piece of plate, value 20 gs., W. Dolby.

SHEEP.

LONG-WOOLS.

Three shearling wethers.—First prize, £4, T. Gunnell, Milton, Cambs; second, £3, J. Looker, Hemingford Abbotts.

Five ewes that have suckled lambs to the 1st of June last.—First prize, £4, T. Gunnell; second, £2, J. T. Roseblade, Hilton, Hunts.

Five wether lambs.—First prize, £4, T. Gunnell; second, C. Daintree.

Five ewe lambs.—First prize, £4, T. Gunnell; second, £2, J. T. Roseblade.

Five tup lambs.—First prize, £4, T. Gunnell; second, £2, Mr. Looker, Wyton Manor.

SHORT-WOOL OR MIXED BREED.

Three shearling wethers.—Prize, £4, W. Wells, Holme Wood House, Hunts.

Five ewes that have suckled lambs to the 1st of June.—First prize, £4, Mr. Street, Harrowden House, near Bedford; second, £2, J. Hall, Little Barford, St. Neots.

Five wether lambs.—First prize, £4, W. Wells; second, £2, J. Hall.

Five ewe lambs.—Prize, £4, F. Street.

Best pen of ewes exhibited in the foregoing classes.—Prize, cup, value £10, T. Gunnell.

Best pen of lambs exhibited.—Prize, cup, value £5, T. Gunnell.

Best ram (open to all England).—Prize, cup, value £10, W. F. Marshall, Branston, Lincoln.

PIGS.

Boars, large breed.—First prize, £3, Hon. C. W. W. Fitzwilliam, M.P. Allwaton, Peterboro'; second, £1 10s., Duke of Manchester, Kimbolton Castle.

Boars, small breed.—First prize, £3, Earl of Carysfort, Elton Hall; second, £1 10s., Mr. Deacon, Polebrook Hall.

Breeding or suckling sows, large breed.—First prize, £3, J. Looker; second, £1 10s., Mr. Deacon.

Breeding or suckling sows, small breed.—First prize, £3, Mr. Deacon; second, £1 10s., Earl of Carysfort.

Three yelts over six and under twelve months old.—First prize, £3, J. Looker; second, £1 10s., J. Looker.

Best animal exhibited in the pig classes.—Prize, cup, value £5, J. Looker.

At the dinner, Mr. E. Fellowes, M.P., the Chairman, wished to congratulate his agricultural friends upon the harvest they had seen that day. They had had a most satisfactory harvest, and, thanks to God, they had had magnificent weather to gather in their crops, so that they had reason to be thankful. But he thought he heard them reminding him of the low price of wheat. Well, the price had undoubtedly gone down, but they would hope that the fall was not a permanent one, but that wheat would be at such a price as to be remunerative to the farmer and advantageous to the consumer. He thought and hoped he might also congratulate them upon the termination of those disagreeable feelings which had existed for some little time between the employers and their labourers. He was in great hopes that that was now terminated. He hoped that the labourers had found now who were their best friends. He trusted that they had found that Mr. Arch and those people who went about the country setting class against class were not the real friends of the agricultural labourer. He thought the labourers had learnt that, although not without great loss. Their present experience had cost a good many of them a great deal. Many hundreds and thousands had been out of work a considerable time, and had gained nothing by it. He hoped he might say it was at an end. It was past, but perhaps there might be a little advantage in what had taken place to them all. The labourers deserved consideration, and whenever opportunity arose it should be shown to them. They must endeavour to show the labourers that they were their real true friends. They should endeavour to the utmost of their power, to advance the happiness, welfare, and prosperity of the labourer. He was far from saying that such was not the case. Those who recollected what the agricultural labourers were a few years ago, and recollecting the state they were then in, must observe the great improvement that has taken place in their condition in the last few years. The labourers might be told that the farmers were their enemies, but they would know that such was not the case. The recent circumstances through which they had passed ought to teach them to do what they could to promote the welfare of the labourer. There was a suggestion that would be sure to engage the attention of Parliament next session, and which was of considerable importance. If he were not convinced that it would be taken up by Parliament, he would have brought the matter before the attention of his brother landowners. He referred to the establishment of country friendly societies. That was a matter that he believed was of importance for the consideration of them all. He knew where they had been established, they had been attended with the most beneficial results. They were aware that there were various clubs existing, but he was afraid it was not always the case that these clubs were on a sound footing, and they had heard of such thing as these clubs becoming insolvent. A young man entered one of these clubs early in life, contributed to its funds nearly all his life, and towards the close, when he hoped to derive some benefit from it, he found it was insolvent. This was a very great hardship. If friendly societies were established on a proper footing, and were governed by good rules, and based on proper tables, there would be no fear of such clubs becoming insolvent, but would be a great benefit to the labouring classes. If it was taken up as a county matter he believed the labourers would largely support it. If they had a large area over which the society would spread it would be successful and would confer great benefit. What they wanted to do was to instil into the minds of the labourers a spirit of frugality and independence. At the present time, if one of these men became sick or old, he had to go to the Union and be supported at the expense of the rates. What they wanted to do was to make a man provident, to make him feel that when he is ill or old, he can go on the funds of his club as a right. The great advantage of the clubs was that they induced men to lay by a small allowance every week or month towards sickness and old age. He believed that if the matter was taken up by landowners generally and a good fund provided to fall back upon, there would be no want of confidence on the part of the labourers, but that they would much more readily become members than they did of the present societies. About two years ago the Speaker had called upon his labourers to invest their money in his farm, and he promised they should have part of the profits. It sounded all very well in theory, but he believed at the time and still believed that it was impracticable. He wished to pay great deference to the opinion of the right hon. gentleman, but he thought he had made a very great error, and had proved that himself, as he had said that he was very sorry to say he had not received one single application from any of his labourers. At the same time, Mr. Brand still held out the offer that he would receive the money in the concern and share the profits with them proportionately. How those profits were to be arrived at he did not know. At all events to that day no single application had been made, nor did he believe it would, or if it were that it would be beneficial to either the employer or the labourer. On the contrary, he thought it would throw down the apple of discord, and would do a great deal of harm. What they wanted was to promote harmony and good will, and instead of that it would produce just the reverse, and the sooner his right hon. friend dropped the whole question the better.

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STOCK SALES.

SALE OF THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE'S SHORTHORNS.

AT HOLKER, ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH.

BY MR. H. STRAFFORD.

On the 9th of September, 1864, Mr. Strafford sold by auction at Holker a selection of nineteen cows and heifers and eleven bulls at an average of £66 3s., making a total sum of £1,984 10s. The highest-priced female was a red three-year-old Barrington heifer, Countess of Barrington 2nd, which Mr. Sheldon, of Brailes, bought for 135 gs. The highest-priced bull was Twelfth Duke of Oxford (19633), which Messrs. Adcock and Longland bought for 210 gs. Three Oxford bulls were sold at the same time for a total of 415 gs., but no Oxford females were offered. Ten years later, on the 9th of September, 1874, twenty-eight cows and heifers were sold at an average of £462 8s., and fifteen bulls at £236 13s. 6d., or a total of £16,497 12s. Are any further facts necessary to indicate the extraordinary rise in the value of high-bred stock? The Duke's herd is an old-established one, and its position in the Shorthorn world ten years ago was equal to what it is now. As far back as 1851 a portion of it was sold. The late Mr. John Colling's Rosey, one of the grandest cows of her day, went to Holker about '46, but the cow which elevatad the herd was Oxford 15th. She was bought at Lord Ducie's sale at Tortworth, 1853, for 210 gs., and a large family has been reared at Holker from her and her offspring. Indeed, it has been the custom, until a few years back, to look to Wetherby for the Duchess blood and to Holker for the Oxford. Comparing, as far as one is capable of doing—for we are prone to think things better than they were by lapse of time—the cattle ten years ago were neater, deeper, rounder, and broader in their carcases, and with sweeter heads and horns, than those shown last Wednesday. The frame appeared to be lengthened, and with it came a looseness of structure; many of the cows were forward in their shoulders, and very patchy, particularly in their hind-quarters; the head seemed larger and the horns darker coloured, longer, and outspreading. Two of the lots, Music and Minstrel, were of the old type, the latter being generally acknowledged the handsomest animal in the sale. The heifers, particularly the yearlings and some of the calves, were excellent, and fit to exhibit: they were mostly dark colours, reds or roans, and in excellent condition. Some of the calves were thin, especially two or three of the younger bulls.

The hotels in the surrounding district were full, and before the Askholme special train arrived there was a goodly company. The sale lots, except the calves and bulls, were grazing in the sale field, and about eleven the bulls were paraded. Three of the Barrington tribe were white, and much admired; level, thick, massive bulls they were, particularly the youngest, Baron Barrington 6th. Baron Winsome 3rd, a thick good roan, excellent in his fore-hand, was another favourite. It was rumoured that this bull was resold at a profit the following day to Lord Sudeley. Neither Baron Oxford 5th nor Duke of Nancy met with great public fancy, indeed the low price the Duke realised can hardly be taken as a test of his merit. Mr. Drewry had thought well enough of him to mate Winsome 12th with him, but the produce, a May bull-calf, only went for 48 gs., against 360 gs. for the dam.

Luncheon, although announced for one o'clock, commenced soon after twelve; it was laid for some hundreds in the schoolrooms, and a great squeeze took place to get in. The Duke presided, and after the loyal toast, Lord Dunmore, as before, gave the Duke's health, which was very heartily received. Mr. Strafford's was also given, and it is but simple justice to say that the sale was as expeditiously as it was excellently conducted. The company was much divided, and taking a careful survey of the numbers, five deep round the ring, in the rostrums, and in the conveyances, it was estimated that eight or nine hundred persons were assembled. Mr. Drewry supported Mr. Strafford, and with him were Mr. Leney, Mr. Fox, Mr. Longman, Mr. Barnes, and several others. The Duke and a large party of ladies were in a dray, with Sir John Whitworth on the box. Below, in Lord Bective's pony carriage, which had been specially sent over, was Capt. Oliver, and around him Mr. Holford, Mr. Sartoris, Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Beauford, Col. Kingscote, and many others. Lords Bective, Dunmore, Feversham, and Cavendish, occupied another drag, and in the opposite rostrum to the auctioneer's, Lord Chesham, Rev. P. Graham, Rev. Mr. Bradshaw, as well as others from Ireland, Mr. Coleman, and appropriately Mr. Thornton, and many others stood. The Bowness 'bus contained the Storrs party, among whom were Mr. Booth, Mr. Pole Gell, Mr. Aylmer, and Mr. Jacob Wilson. Mr. Angerstein, Mr. Wilson, of Shotley, and Mr. Mitchell, of Scotland, were also here; while the Cumberland fashion of sitting inside the ring was naturally enough adopted by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Mr. George Moore, and Mr. J. P. Foster; as also by Mr. Gow, Mr. Loder, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Ashburner, Mr. Crowdson, and other local breeders.

When the animals came into the ring the Oxford cows were certainly most in demand, and realised the highest prices. The sale opened with Grand Duchess of Oxford 6th, a red ten years old, rather patchy from years, but very massive, and half gone in calf. Having produced six heifers she might naturally be expected to continue this profitable career, and Mr. Frank Allen, of Thurmaston, got her at 805 gs. It was a great opening and indicated a high average. Mr. Sheldon gave 800 gs. for lot 2, another Barrington, nearly own sister to that which he bought ten years ago. Winsome 4th being amiss, was withdrawn, and her handsome yearling heifer substituted, when she went to Mr. Wilson, of Shotley, one of Mr. Bates' oldest friends, and who has had a herd of Shorthorns in Northumberland for nearly half a century. Then came the two crack lots of the sale, Grand Duchesses of Oxford 11th and 12th; the former, the dam of Lord Bective's 1,005 gs. heifer at the 1871 sale (although her dam was by the late Dr. Dickinson's Priam of the Cressida blood), was one of the evenest and best Oxfords, and, after a 500 gs. start and brief competition, she soon realised a thousand, from Mr. George Moore. The other, Grand Duchess of Oxford 12th, had bred the two bulls of which Mr. Drewry had made a thousand guineas each; and it would seem a young cow, six and a-half years old, was worth more than the 1,010 gs. Mr. Brogden paid for her. In appearance, however, she differed much from the rest, being small and rather light-fleshed; still she looked like a bull breeder. As times go, Mr. Ashburner got a bargain in the two white Oxford heifers at 760 gs. and 675 gs. each.

Baroness Oxford 3rd was the "gem" of the young lots; and the public were justified in putting her as

the highest-priced animal. She was calved in November last—a handsome hairy red, and a grand-daughter of Lady Oxford 5th, one of the best Holker cows. Started at 500 gs., there was sharp bidding from various quarters till 1,000 guineas was reached, and Mr. Holford outbid Northumberland at 1,100 gs., getting her at least 100, or some said 400 gs., below the public estimate of her value. Still it was an excellent price for a calf, and a great improvement on her grand-dam's price, 600 gs., in 1867.

Of the Winsomes much might be written: they are large-framed good cattle, and rose considerably in value on former sales. Mr. Geo. Fox gave 700 gs. for a lovely heifer, Winsome 16th, fit to go into a Royal show. Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave 605 gs. for another heifer, Winsome 14th, and the twelve of the tribe sold averaged £333.

Many breeders have not hesitated to say that the Oxford Roses, or Rose of Raby tribe has produced some of the finest animals at Holker. Mr. Drewry has carefully guarded the tribe and kept them together from Sir Joseph Whitworth's sale. Mr. Longman effected a good stroke of policy in buying the entire tribe, saving a rather weedy one, which went to Wetherby, at an average of £237.

Towards the close of the sale of the cows and heifers the biddings certainly became flat; and more so at the finish, when several of the bull-calves went cheap. Whether the public, excited with the high prices made by the first few lots, suddenly became enervated and apathetic, or whether anticipating something better the next day at Underley, it is difficult to tell; nevertheless, the sale was dull, great as the averages afterwards proved. Forty-three head averaged £383 13s. 3d., against forty-three at £240 13s. 10d. in 1871, and with this enormous increase in the space of three years, there was a corresponding increase in the value of the tribe. Breeders did not, however, hesitate to express opinions that the Oxfords and Barringtons had somewhat declined in value and the Winsome had risen, notwithstanding any increase in value. Certainly the voice of the people was in favour of the Winsome tribe, and the wonderful result of the sale is strong evidence of the high position still maintained by the Holker herd.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Grand Duchess of Oxford 6th, red, calved April 18th, 1864; by Imperial Oxford (18084), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 4th.—Mr. Allen, Leicestershire, 805 gs.

Countess of Barrington 4th, roan, calved May 23rd, 1864; by Lord Oxford (20214), out of Countess of Barrington.—Mr. Shildon, Warwickshire, 800 gs.

Music, roan, calved October 14th, 1866; by Juryman (20043), out of Minstrel 3rd.—Mr. Postlethwaite, Whitehaven, 200 gs.

Winsome 4th, red, calved Dec. 2, 1866; by Grand Duke 10th (21848), out of Winsome.—Mr. T. Wilson, Shotley, 310 gs.

Grand Duchess of Oxford 11th, red, calved July 6th, 1867; by Grand Duke 10th (21848), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 5th.—Mr. Geo. Moore, Whitehall, near Wigton, Cumberland, 1,000 gs.

Grand Duchess of Oxford 12th, rich roan, calved Feb. 28th, 1868; by 2nd Duke of Wetherby (21618), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 7th.—Mr. Brogden, M.P., 1,090 gs.

Bright Eyes 5th, roan, calved May 4th, 1868; by Grand Duke 6th (19876), out of Bonny.—Lord Skelmersdale, 800 gs.

Winsome 5th, red and white, calved Oct. 19th, 1868; by Grand Duke 10th (21848), out of Winsome 2nd.—Lord Feversham, 350 gs.

Musical, roan, calved June 24th, 1869; by Grenadier (21876), out of Minstrel 3rd.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, 360 gs.

Oxford Rose 3rd, roan, calved June 24th, 1869; by Baron Oxford 3rd (25579), out of Rose of Raby.—Mr. Longman, Herts, 250 gs.

Lady Blanche 3rd, roan, calved Feb. 23rd, 1870; by General Napier (24023), out of Lady Blanche.—Sir W. Lawson, 380 gs.

Severn Girl, red, calved March 6, 1871; by 3rd Duke of Clarence (23727), out of Severn Lady.—Mr. Postlethwaite, 130 gs.

Winsome 12th, roan, calved April 20, 1871; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Winsome 2nd.—Mr. Halford, Market Harbro', 360 gs.

Countess of Barrington 6th, roan, calved Nov. 24, 1871; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580).—Mr. Levy, 860 gs.

Carry 2nd, roan, calved Sept. 4, 1871; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Caroline.—Sir J. Whitworth, 205 gs.

Oxford Rose 7th, roan, calved Feb. 13, 1872; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Oxford Rose 2nd.—Mr. Longman, 305 gs.

Winsome 14th, roan, calved April 2, 1872: by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Winsome 4th.—Sir W. Lawson, 605 gs.

Harmony, red and white, calved Oct. 9, 1872; by Prince of Lightburne (29653), out of Music.—Mr. Foster, Kilhow, 200 gs.

Grand Duchess of Oxford 25th, white, calved Nov. 30, 1872; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 15th.—Mr. Ashburner, Ulverstone, 160 gs.

Maid of Lorne 2nd, red, calved April 16th, 1873; by Baron Wellington (30495), out of Maid of Lorne.—Col. Gunter, Wetherby, 150 gs.

Winsome 16th, roan, calved Aug. 10th, 1873; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Bright Eyes 5th.—Mr. G. Fox, Hertfield, 700 gs.

Melaby, white, calved September 4th, 1873; by Baron Oxford 4th (25570), out of Music.—Mr. G. Fox, 310 gs.

Blanche 13th, red and white, calved October 16th, 1873; by Duke of Oxford 24th (31002), out of Lady Blanche 3rd.—Sir J. Whitworth, 205 gs.

Winsome 17th, roan, calved Oct. 24th, 1873; by Duke of Oxford 24th (31002), out of Lady Bright Eyes 3rd.—Lord Skelmersdale, 310 gs.

Oxford Rose 9th, roan, calved Oct. 30th, 1873; by Duke of Oxford 24th (31002), out of Oxford Rose 5th.—Mr. Longman, 230 gs.

Baroness Oxford 3rd, red, calved Nov. 12th, 1873; by Duke of Hillhurst (28401), out of Baroness Oxford.—Mr. Holford, 1,100 gs.

Grand Duchess of Oxford 28th, white, calved Nov. 17th, 1873; by Duke of Oxford 24th (31002), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 15th.—Mr. Ashburner, 675 gs.

Severn Maid, red, calved Feb. 8th, 1874; by Cleveland, out of Severn Girl.—Mr. Markworth, of New Zealand, 675 gs.

Clarissa (the property of Mr. Dewry), red and white, calved Feb. 20th, 1866; by Oxford (20450), out of Clarence.—Mr. Loder, 110 gs.

BULLS.

Baron Oxford 5th (27958), red, calved Feb. 7th, 1870; by 2nd Duke of Claro (21576), out of Lady Oxford 7th.—The Duke of Roxburgh, 250 gs.

Duke of Nancy (30991), red, calved Feb. 17th, 1872; by Cherry Duke (25752), out of Dorothy.—Mr. Dalzell, Cumberland, 46 gs.

Baron Winsome 3rd, roan, calved Dec. 4th, 1872; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Winsome.—Mr. Coleman, Stoke Park, 250 gs.

Baron Barrington 4th, white, calved Feb. 10th, 1873; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Countess of Barrington 4th.—Mr. W. H. Wakefield, Kendal, 210 gs.

Baron Barrington 5th, white, calved April 10th, 1873; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Countess of Barrington 5th.—Lord Skelmersdale, 300 gs.

Duke of Oxford 26th, roan, calved June 10th, 1873; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 19th.—Mr. Robinson, Beckhampstead, 420 gs.

Baron Tregunter, red, calved Sept. 30th, 1873; by 3rd Duke of Tregunter (31026), out of Evening Star.—Mr. Postlethwaite, 250 gs.

Baron Barrington 6th, white, calved Nov. 23rd, 1873; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Lady Ellen Barrington.—Mr. Howard, Winterfold, Worcestershire, 185 gs.

Duke of Oxford 28th, roan, calved December 24th, 1873; by the Duke of Oxford 24th (31002), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 17th.—Lord Chesham, 550 gs.

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Duke of Oxford 29th, roan, calved January 12th, 1874; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 12th.—Sir J. Whitworth, 400 gs.

Duke of Oxford 30th, red, calved February 1st, 1874; by Fifth Duke of Wetherby (31033), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 21st.—Mr. Morris, Liverpool, 275 gs.

Baron Barrington 7th, white, calved April 22nd, 1874; by 3rd Duke of Clarence (23727), out of Countess of Barrington 5th—Mr. Martin, Cornwall, 71 gs.

Baron Winsome 5th, roan, calved May 13th, 1874; by Duke of Nancy (30991), out of Winsome 12th.—Mr. Fawkes, Farnley Hall, 71 gs.

Baron Winsome 6th, roan, calved May 20th, 1874; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Winsome 5th.—Mr. Crowdson, Ulverston, 50 gs.

SALE OF LORD BECTIVE'S SHORTHORNS. AT UNDERLEY, KIRKBY LONSDALE. ON SEPTEMBER 10.

BY MR. JOHN THORNTON.

"His Lordship has been a liberal and judicious buyer."—Thus was the sale introduced to a company far larger than that assembled at Holker. The morning was cloudy and often wet, as during the sale great gusts of wind accompanied with hail and drenching showers occasionally interrupted the business—a very different day to the one preceding. The catalogue of the Underley herd was accompanied by a map coloured with the different lines of railways and towns in the district. This made clear what otherwise would have been an obscure district to find, though the finding of it would repay the seach when the beauties of the place were seen. A special train, happily arranged from Lancaster, picked up scores of passengers at Carnforth, Oxenholme and Low Gill; and although several conveyances were provided at Barbon, the nearest station to Underley, yet many had to walk, the numbers being so great.

The history of the stock was given in the preface to the catalogue, which stated that the herd was commenced in 1868, with purchases from the herd belonging to Mr. Foster, of Killhow. It was next increased by animals bought from Lord Penrhyn, Col. Kingscote; Mr. Rich, of Didmarton; Mr. McIntosh, of Havering Park; and Mr. Saunders, of Nunwick Hall. Subsequently several first-class animals were added from the Holker, Dunmore, and Gaddesby herds, and more recently the famous cow Tenth Duchess of Geneva, her heifer-calf, and the Ninth Duchess of Oneida, were purchased at the well-known sale at New York Mills, U.S.A. Baron Oxford 3rd (25579), bred at Holker, a son of that magnificent cow Lady Oxford 5th, was first used. He was succeeded by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), by Lord Oxford 2nd from Grand Duchess 9th, who is the sire of seventeen of the younger animals in the catalogue; while latterly Second Duke of Tregunter (26022), a son of Fourth Duke of Thorndale and Duchess 94th, for three seasons at Siddington, and third Duke of Glo'ster from Gaddesby, also of the Duchess tribe, have been, and are still, in service. The animals whose pedigrees are herein given comprise the entire herd, with the exception of the Duchesses from America, a few favourite old cows, and Grand Duchess of Oxford 18th and Cherry Princess, whose daughters were both included in the sale. Eight lots are of the Kirklevington tribe, and eleven of the Gwynne or Princess family. Five are descended from the handsome Winsomes, of the Wild Eyes tribe, obtained from Holker; three are of the Barrington tribe, and seven of the popular Darlington family. Among the remainder are specimens of the Towneley Blanche, the Chaffs from Kingscote, the Craggs, and Violet tribes, while the old-established herds of Mr. A. L. Maynard and Messrs. Crofton are represented by the Flora and Garland strains. The principal sires are bulls of the fashionable Duchess blood, more than two-thirds of the animals being by the well-known sires Seventh Duke of York (17754), Duke of Wetherby (17753), Third Duke of Wharfdale (21619), Third Duke of Clarence (23727), Fourth Duke of Thorndale (17750), Second Duke of Collingham (237304), Grand Duke 17th (24064), Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), and Second Duke of Tregunter (26022). Three sons of the Duke of Devonshire's Lady Oxford 5th—Baron Oxford 3rd, 4th and 5th—are likewise among the sires, and it will be seen that the cows and heifers are nearly all in-calf either to Second Duke ot Tregunter (26022), or Third Duke of Glo'ster (lot 43), the latter with Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759) being included in the sale.

As the cattle roamed in the park, it soon became manifest that the cows and heifers were quite equal to those offered at Holker. They were not so patchy, and although loosely made and large-framed—as their blood would naturally lead one to expect—they were perhaps altogether a better lot cf cows, though not a more blooming lot of heifers. The bulls were by some considered not equal to those at Holker, by others superior. Be that as it may, the spirited sale, and capital prices got for them, were inferences greatly in their favour. The most conspicuous lots to attract the eye were 1, 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 24, 25, 27, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39. Perhaps for choice, old Duchess Gwynne, Siddingtons 4th and 7th, and the Darlingtons; among the heifers, Winsomedale, Cherry Queen and Empress of Oxford. Fair Maid of Kent and Princess Sale were beautiful little calves.

The reserved cows were viewed during the morning, and the company drawn together at lunch-time, by the parade of Tenth Duchess of Geneva, her yearlling heifer, and her red bull-calf. The other American importation had injured a hind leg in the iron railings, and was unable to be led out. The cow is a magnificent animal, nicely proportioned, a lightish roan, with a grand back and ribs, good shoulders, somewhat hollow hind-quarters, but with a lovely head and beautiful pair of horns nicely set on. The heifer, although thick, handsome, and a beautiful roan, is not so highly finished as her dam, whose excellence is imparted to her son—a red calf, full of hair and masculine character, with great style and length of body, without being disjointed. Mr. Leney's Sixth Duke of Oneida is out of the same dam, and her last calf promises to make equally as good a bull. The possession of these three Shorthorns is sufficient of itself to make a herd of great reputation; and the brilliant sale which followed undoubtedly stamps the Underley herd as one of the best Bates herds in the kingdom, if not the topmost one.

Luncheon was provided in a large marquee for 600, and not being ready by noon threw the sale a little late. Lord Bective presided, and Mr. Booth, of Warlaby, proposed his health. Mr. Sheldon, of Geneva, U.S.A., being present, his health was also given, and happily responded to, and by a quarter to two the company had gathered round the ring.

The biddings throughout were quick, general, and lively. Duchess Gwynne, rising 12 years old and down calving, created great excitement when she ran up to 430 gs. (Mr. Salt), and the spirit of the sale was of the same character. Mr. Coleman, who bid well at Holker, made several judicious purchases of cows, and took as a mate for them the Third Duke of Glo'ster, which Lord Bective bought at Gaddesby last year, Mr. Cheney's agent being against Mr. Coleman on this occasion. Mr. Wilson, of Shotley, purchased Violante's Butterfly, bred at Towneley, of the Blanche tribe, as well as one of the best Winsomes. Lord Ellesmere secured some of the Siddingtons. The Darlingtons, the tribe most fancied by the public—large,

massive animals as they are—were all purchased by Mr. Loder; and Col. Loyd-Lindsay took the Chaff family. Lord Fitzhardinge bid very firmly both for Siddington 7th—now swollen into a fine cow—and Winsomedale, securing both of them. Mr. Brogden, having the Princess tribe, still kept to it. Great excitement took place when Cherry Queen entered; as she had been exhibited and admired, though not placed at Hull. From 500 gs. to 700 gs., and on to a thousand, were rapid bids, Mr. Larking and Mr. Holford concluding the joust, and Sussex won at 1,220 gs. A handsome Winsome calf accompanies her. The calves came galloping into the ring; they made excellent prices, as also the bulls. Grand Duke of Kent 2nd, returned from hire, looked thin; but the handsome calves he had left on the herd added much to his fame. Mr. De Vitre takes him at 750 gs. into Berkshire, where he has a fine herd of Bates and Towneley cattle. This bull, bred by Mr. Leney, was sold to Mr. Slye, from whom Lord Bective purchased him for 1,000 gs. Lord Lunesdale Bates was a promising young bull, and Mr. Casswell bid strongly and last for him against Mr. Longman, and he goes into Lincolnshire. Major Webb bought Marquis, a very handsome calf, at 330 gs., and Ostrogoth, a young bull bred from Turks Darling a reserved cow, of the old Sarsden blood, made the same figure, Mr. Percival Maxwell competing for both of them. A few bulls, the property of Mr. Fawcett, of Scaleby, and his tenants, were afterwards sold at lower figures. Considering the number sold, 55 head, 15 of which were bulls, the average of £363 is nearly twice as much as was generally anticipated, and the sum realised is the largest yet made by any herd of Shorthorns in England. Subjoined are prices and buyers.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Duchess Gwynne, roan, calved December 15, 1862; by Duke of Wetherby (17753), out of Polly Gwynne.—Mr. Salt, Leicester, 430 guineas.

Violante's Butterfly, red and white, calved November 17, 1862; by Royal Butterfly (16862), out of Violante.—Mr. T. Wilson, Shotley Hall, 220 gs.

Kirklevington 16th, roan, calved January 6, 1865; by Duke of Wetherby (17753), out of Kirklevington 12th.—Sir John Swinburne, 420 gs.

Flora M'Ivor, red, calved January 6, 1864; by Third Duke of Lancaster (19624), out of Fata Morgana.—Mr. E. J. Coleman, Stoke Park, 150 gs.

Winsome 2nd, red and white, calved March 12, 1865; by Lord Oxford (20214), out of Winsome.—Mr. E. J. Coleman, 305 gs.

Lady Oxford, roan, calved September 12, 1865; by Lord Chancellor (20160), out of Lady Richmond.—Mr. E. J. Coleman, 100 gs.

Oxford Belle, roan, calved October 24, 1866; by Thirteenth Duke of Oxford (21604), out of Oxford Witch.—Mr. J. Robinson, Birkhampstead, 60 gs.

Siddington 4th, roan, calved March 14, 1867; by Seventh Duke of York (17754), out of Siddington 2nd.—Lord Ellesmere, 600 gs.

Carolina 7th, red, calved October 8, 1867; by Grand Duke 13th (21850), out of Carolina 5th.—Mr. E. J. Coleman, 170 gs.

Darlington 17th, red and white, calved January 29, 1868; by Eleventh Grand Duke (21849), out of Darlington 13th.—Mr. R. Loder, Whittlebury, 500 gs.

Chaff 13th, roan, calved February 8, 1868; by Second Earl of Walton (19672), out of Clarissa.—Col. Loyd Lindsay, 270 gs.

Goneril 4th, roan, calved August 3, 1868; by Third Duke of Clarence (23727), out of Goneril.—Not offered.

Siddington 7th, roan, calved October 9, 1868; by Seventh Duke of York (17754), out of Siddington 3rd.—Lord Fitzhardinge, 750 gs.

Fair Maid of Collingham, roan, calved April 22, 1869; by Second Duke of Collingham (23730), out of Fair Maid of York.—Mr. A. Brogden, M.P., 300 gs.

Lady Cambridge, roan, calved June 20, 1869, by Royal Cambridge (25009), out of Lady Oxford.—Sir Wilfred Lawson, Bart., 180 gs.

Darlington 19th, roan, calved August 12, 1869; by Third Duke of Wharfdale (21619), out of Darlington 15th.—Mr. R. Loder, 650 gs.

Princess 4th, white, calved September 27, 1869; by Baron Oxford 3rd (25579), out of Princess 3rd.—Mr. A. Brogden, M.P., 300 gs.

Winsome 9th, red, calved December 17, 1869; by Grand Duke 17th (24064), out of Winsome 2nd.—Mr. T. Wilson, Shotley, 505 gs.

Marchioness 3rd, roan, calved July 21, 1870; by Second Duke of Collingham (23730), out of Siddington 1st.—Lord Ellesmere, 600 gs.

Dentsdale, red, calved September 14, 1870; by Second Duke of Collingham (23730), out of Darlington 15th.—Mr. R. Loder, 550 gs.

Lady Laura Barrington, white, calved November 11, 1870; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Lady Ellen Barrington.—Duke of Devonshire, 305 gs.

Barbon Belle, red and white, calved August 8, 1871; by Baron Oxford 3rd (25579), out of Oxford Belle.—Not offered.

Baroness Bradwardine, roan, calved December 29, 1871; by Baron Oxford 3rd (25579), out of Flora McIvor.—Mr. J. Grant Morris, Liverpool, 165 gs.

Duchess Gwynne 4th, roan, calved March 6th, 1872; by Baron Oxford 5th (27958), out of Duchess Gwynne 2nd.—Mr. R. Loder, 580 gs.

Winsomdale, roan, calved March 12, 1872; by Baron Oxford 4th (25580), out of Winsome 2nd.—Lord Fitzhardinge, 650 gs.

Princess Gwynne 2nd, roan, calved May 6, 1872; by Royal Cambridge (25009), out of Duchess Gwynne.—Rev. P. Graham, Lancashire, 250 gs.

Cherry Queen, roan, calved October 2, 1872; by Baron Oxford 5th (27958), out of Cherry Princess.—Mr. J. W. Larkin, Ashdown, Sussex, 1,220 gs.

Duchess Gwynne 5th, white, calved February 17th, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Duchess Gwynne 2nd.—Mr. T. Holford, Market Harborough.

Empress of Oxford, white, calved February 26, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford 18th.—Mr. T. Holford, 770 gs.

Deepdale, roan, calved March 2, 1873; by Second Duke of Tregunter (26022), out of Darlington 17th.—Mr. G. Fox, Cheshire, 315 gs.

Oxford Lily, white, roan ears, calved February 27, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Lady Oxford.—Mr. J. Postlethwaite, Whitehaven, 130 gs.

Clotilde, roan, calved March 12, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Chaff 13th.—Col. Loyd Lindsay, 250 gs.

Underley Darling 2nd, roan, calved August 29, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Underley Darling.—Mr. J. Postlethwaite, Whitehaven, 200 gs.

Dentsdale 2nd, roan, calved July 21, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Dentsdale.—Lord Penrhyn 420 gs.

Princess 6th, roan, calved August 29, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Princess 5th.—Marquis of Headfort, Ireland, 450 gs.

Fair Maid of Kent, roan, calved December 21, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Fair Maid of Collingham.—Marquis of Headfort, 275 gs.

Lady Kendal, roan, calved March 7, 1874; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Lady Oxford.—Mr. J. Robinson, Berkhampstead, 140 gs.

Lily Beckfoot, white, calved May 3, 1874; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Oxford Belle.—Mr. A. Staveley Hill, M.P., 40 gs.

Princess Sale, red, calved May 23, 1874; by Second Duke of Tregunter (26022), out of Lady Sale of Putney.—Sir John Swinburn, 370 gs.

Winsomdale 2nd, roan, calved June 4, 1874; by Second Duke of Tregunter (26022), out of Winsome 9th.—Mr. J. W. Larkin, 330 gs.

Princess 7th, roan, calved July 10, 1874; by Second Duke of Tregunter (26022), out of Princess 4th.—Mr. W. H. Salt, 265 gs.

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Castalia, white, calved July 18, 1874; by Second Duke of Tregunter (26022), out of Chaff 13th.—Col. Loyd Lindsay, 70 gs.

BULLS.

Third Duke of Glo'ster, red, calved December 1, 1872; by Tenth Duke of Thorndale (28458), out of Duchess of Airdrie 8th.—Mr. E. J. Coleman, 900 gs.

Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), white, roan ears, calved May 12, 1870; by Lord Oxford 2nd (20215), out of Grand Duchess 9th.—Mr. H. D. de Vitre, Berkshire, 750 gs.

Marquis 3rd (31826), roan, calved July 13, 1871; by Second Duke of Collingham (23730), out of Siddington 7th.—Capt. Gandy, 175 gs.

Duke of Dentedale 2nd, red and white, calved March 17 1873; by Second Duke of Tregunter (26022), out of Darlington 19th.—Mr. W. Hutchinson, Penrith, 125 gs.

Duke of Kirklevington, roan, calved March 24, 1873; by Second Duke of Tregunter (26022), out of Kirklevington 16th.—Sir Richard Musgrave, 305 gs.

Lord Lunesdale Bates, red, calved March 26, 1873; by Baron Oxford 5th (27958), out of Lady Tindale Bates 2nd.—Mr. J. H. Caswell, Lincolnshire, 510 gs.

Amadeus, white, calved July 14, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Princess 4th.—Mr. A. Dalzell, Workington, 61 gs.

Duke of Tosca, roan, calved October 23, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Duchess Gwynne.—Mr. M. Kennedy, Ulverstone, 300 gs.

Marquis 4th, white, calved November 23, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Siddington 6th.—Mr. Williamson, Cheshire, 220 gs.

Marquis 6th, roan, calved December 16, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Marchioness 2nd.—Major Webb, Tamworth, 330 gs.

Ostrogoth, roan, calved December 24, 1873; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Turk's Darling.—Messrs. S. and J. Lindow, Park House, Whitehaven, 330 gs.

Lord of Garadale, white, calved January 21, 1874; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Duchess Gwynne 2nd.—Mr. W. H. Wakefield, Sedgwick, 115 gs.

Visigoth, roan, calved April 25, 1874; by Grand Duke of Kent 2nd (28759), out of Winsome 2nd.—Mr. F. W. Lowe, Tipperary, 120 gs.

Duke of Dentedale 3rd, roan, calved May 5, 1874; by 2nd Duke of Tregunter (26022), out of Darlington 19th.—Marquis of Headfort, 110 gs.

Lawrence Barrington, roan, calved July 14, 1874; by 2nd Duke of Tregunter (26022), out of Lady Laura Barton.—Mr. C. A. Barnes, Hertfordshire, 100 gs.

SUMMARY.

40 cows averaged	£382	11	10	.....	£15,303	15	0
15 bulls "	311	11	5	.....	4,673	11	0
55 head "	363	4	6	.....	£19,977	6	0

The following first-class bulls were sold by permission of Lord Bective, after the dispersion of the Underley herd:

Royal Cambridge Gwynne (29849) (Mr. Wilson's), rich roan, calved November 22, 1868; by Royal Cambridge (25009), out of Duchess Gwynne.—Mr. Becton, 40 gs.

Charmer Duke Echter 3rd (Mr. Fawcett's), white, calved January 1, 1874; by Eighth Duke of York (28480), out of Constancy.—Mr. Marshall, 41 gs.

Lord Spencer (Mr. Fawcett's), rich roan, calved December 4, 1873; by Eighth Duke of York (28480), out of Oxford's Juliana.—Mr T. C. Thompson, Kirkhouse, Brampton, 52 gs.

THE LATE MR. GIBBON'S HERD.

This sale took place at Holmescales, between Kirby Lonsdale and Oxenholme, in consequence of the early and sudden death of Mr. H. J. Gibbon. The larger portion of the herd was sold last year at Storr's, and now it only numbered 15 head, consisting mostly of cows and calves, and two old bulls of Booth blood. The cattle had run out with their calves and were wholly unprepared for sale; moreover a steady downpour all day long detracted from their appearance.

There were four lots descended from the Aylesby herd, and these were most in request. Golden Star, a plain red and white, but a well formed sweet-looking cow, had bred an extraordinarily good red bull-calf, and Mr. Waldo, of Kent, bought the cow at 180 gs., and Mr. Miller, of Singleton, the calf at 105 gs. It is not at all improbable he may be seen at the Royal next year. The Rev. J. Micklethwaite bought both the other Golden heifers at 135 gs. and 100 gs. respectively. Earl of Clare, a Mantalini bull in use, was plain in colour and small in stature; Mr. Beattie bought him at 56 gs., and Prince of Imperial (32142) of the Bliss tribe, a large roan, broad horned bull, somewhat deficient in his fore-quarters, goes to Mr. H. Fawcett, of Leeds, at 110 gs. A set of Coates' Herd-book brought 21 gs., and the Royal Society's Journal 20 gs., well-bound. Thus the "great Shorthorn drama" was concluded in three acts, after what in London phrase may be called a brilliant and successful performance to crowded houses, and it is likely that the Shorthorns will still continue to hold the public estimation for many years to come. One noticeable feature in all the sales was that the best beast made the most money.

SALE OF MR. RICHARDSON'S SHORTHORNS.

BY MR. THORNTON.

For thirty years and more Mr. J. M. Richardson has kept a few Shorthorns round about the green pastures at Hutton. Within a short distance is Netherscales, Blencow, Skelton, and other places, well known for good blood, and Mr. Unthank was the means of inducing Mr. Richardson to keep a good beast as he has many other breeders. He started him with the Diamonds, a short pedigree tribe, originating with a good Darlington cow, on which Gainford (2044), one of the best and most favourite sires that ever came into the district, was put. Thalberg, one of Mr. Troutbeck's Gwynne bulls, was mated with the produce, and begot a heifer which, in her turn, brought forth Dewdrop to Captain Shaftoe. Mr. Unthank bred a heifer from the sort which beat everything around, even the Lowther cattle. By his bull Lofty, Diamond was begotten from Dewdrop, and there were several of the tribe in the herd which, although small, yet contained many useful animals. The most favourite trite was the Gwynne, of which there were three females. The Pearls, of Crofton blood, but well-known at Nunwick, had many representatives and several good animals. With two or three odd lots the catalogue was completed. When Mr. Richardson first started breeding, he was a great feeder and exhibitor; but in time he gave up showing, and went more in for milk and lower keeping. The Pearls were quite after his heart in this matter—neat, well-formed, handsome, stylish cattle: they did their duty at the pail by giving 20 to 25 quarts daily. They were no great flesh carriers, yet some of them were capital cows. Lot 2, Pearl 9th, thin and well-shaped, was kept in the county by Mr. J. C. Bowstead at 55 gs.; but the next lot, Pearl 10th, made a guinea more, and goes to Mr. Tisdall, at Holland Park, Kensington. One of the best lots, Pearl 12th was brought in with a large bull-calf beside her. After some good bidding from the Rev. O. James, Mr. Brunton secured her at 78 gs. for Kelso. He also purchased what may be considered the best lot in the sale. This was Riot, a roan two-year-old heifer, down calving. She had a grand top and ribs, but stood a little close on her legs, and was plain about the head. Still Sir Richard Musgrave had a great fancy for her, and bid 100 gs., but Mr Brunton took her across the Border too

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at 105 gs. Mr. Gow got a handsome Pearl calf, lot 17, at 44 gs., and two or three others to go to Northumberland. Princess Gwynne, lot 5, a large-framed handsome roan cow, came through Mr. Caddy's stock, which he got at Blencow in 1839. Having lost two quarters, and being recently served, she was not everybody's money. She had bred two calves. Mr. Smith, however, gave 100 gs. for her, and 72 gs. for her calf, to join the Storr's herd. The calf was a handsome roan by Mr. Toppin's Knight of Killerby. Mr. Toppin bid well for the calf, having purchased her elder sister, Agnes Gwynne, very cheap at 51 gs. Sir R. Musgrave bought Diamond 5th, a good red heifer, by Mr. Lamb's prize bull Ignoramus, at 41 gs., and Mr. Lamb gave the same price for Diamond 4th, by Mr. Saunders' Waterloo Boy. Lot 4, Patchouli 5th, a stylish true-made cow, bred by Mr. Christy in Essex, was purchased by Mr. Unthank for 60 gs., after competition with Mr. Heskett; her calf, a young bull, went for 21 gs., but there is little demand for bull-calves in that season of the year and in that part of the country. A few dairy cows went cheap. The sale throughout was slow, yet it averaged well, the seventeen cows and heifers making 55 gs. each, and the seven bull-calves £25. Sir Henry Vane presided at the lunch, where a goodly company assembled to congratulate Mr. Richardson on his restoration to health after a long and serious illness, and which was the cause of the sale. A few drizzly showers fell, and soon after the sale was concluded it became a down pour—little needed, as harvest is still out, and the fields are as fresh and as green as at May-day.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Diamond 2nd, roan, calved March 20, 1867, by British Cherry (23461), out by Diana by Baron of Ravensworth (17380).—Mr. J. Fenton, 37 gs.

Pearl 9th, roan, calved February 16, 1868, by British Cherry (23461), out of Pearl 6th by Welcome Guest (15497).—Mr. J. C. Bowstead, 55 gs.

Pearl 10th, red, calved May 11, 1868, by British Cherry (23461), out by Pearl 7th by Lablache 2nd (20092).—Mr. E. C. Tisdall, 56 gs.

Patchouli 5th, red, calved April 6, 1869, by Mandarin (26799), out of Patchouli 4th by Duke of Grafton (21594).—Mr. J. Unthank, 60 gs.

Princess Gwynne, roan, calved November 17, 1869, by Knight of Santon (24275), out of Dainty Gwynne by Sir Windsor (22927).—Rev. T. Staniforth, 100 gs.

Primrose, roan, calved March 25, 1870, by Kirbythore Waterloo (24263), out of Red Rose 4th by Royal Oxford (22795).—Sir R. C. Musgrave, 40 gs.

Red and white cow-calf.—Mr. T. Gow. 11 gs.

Diamond 3rd. red, calved October 25, 1870, by Inglewood (28892), out of Diamond 2nd by British Cherry (23461).—Mr. D. Bragg, 36 gs.

Waterloo 29th, red and white, calved November 30, 1870, by Grand Duke of Lightburne 2nd (26291), out of Waterloo 26th by Ravenspur (20628).—Mr. R. Jefferson, 45 gs.

Pearl 12th, red, calved March 18, 1871, by Lord of Nunwick (26702), out of Pearl 9th by British Cherry (23461).—Mr. J. Brunton, 78 gs.

Pearl 13th, red, calved August 30, 1871, by Lord Bates (29065), out of Pearl 10th by British Cherry (23461).—Rev. O. James, 46 gs.

Riot, roan, calved December 27, 1871, by Rosolio (32346), out of Reckless by Mandarin (26799).—Mr. J. Brunton, 105 gs.

Diamond 4th, red, calved March 30, 1872, by Waterloo Boy (27762), Diamond 2nd by British Cherry (23461).—Mr. J. Lamb, 41 gs.

Agnes Gwynne, roan, calved November 9, 1872, by Lord Bates (29064), out of Princess Gwynne by Knight of Santon (24275).—Mr. J. C. Toppin, 51 gs.

Diamond 5th, red, calved March 10, 1873, by Ignoramus (28887), out of Diamond 2nd by British Cherry (23461).—Sir R. C. Musgrave, 41 gs.

Polly Gwynne, roan, calved January 9, 1874, by Knight of Killerby (29000), out of Princess Gwynne by Knight of Santon (24275).—Rev. T. Staniforth, 72 gs.

Diamond 6th, red and white, calved April 10, 1874, by Stackhouse (32591), out of Diamond 2nd by British Cherry (23461).—Mr. T. Gow, 13 gs.

Pearl 14th, red, calved August 1, 1874, by Knight of Killerby (29000), out of Pearl 10th by British Cherry (23461).—Mr. T. Gow, 44 gs.

Strawberry, roan dairy cow.—Rev. O. James, 20 gs.

White Rose, white dairy cow, three years old.—Mr. R. Thomson, 14 gs.

Tulip, roan dairy cow, three years old.—Mr. Robinson, 17 gs.

White heifer, calved in 1872.—Mr. B. Sweeton, 15 gs.

Ruby, roan heifer, calved in March, 1873.—Mr. Robinson, 18 gs.

White Rose 2nd, white, calved May 2, 1874.—Mr. T. Gow, 5½ gs.

BULLS.

Lilywhite, white, calved April 8, 1873, by Lord Bates (29065), out of Pearl 9th by British Cherry (23461).—Mr. J. Bainbridge, 26 gs.

Familiar Pearl, roan, calved January 5, 1874, by Marquis of Lorne (31847), out of Pearl 12th by Lord of Nunwick (26702).—Mr. H. Walker, 35 gs.

Duke of Edinburgh, red and a little white, calved January 20, 1874, by Knight of Killerby (29000), out of Diamond 3rd by Inglewood (28892).—Mr. Bleasdale, 20 gs.

Killerby Pearl, red roan, calved March 23, 1874, by Knight of Killerby (29000), out of Pearl 9th by British Cherry (23461).—Sir H. R. Vane, Bart., 20 gs.

The Doctor, red, calved April 18, 1874, by Waterloo Boy (27762) out of Waterloo 29th by Grand Duke Lightburne 2nd (26291).—Mr. A. Graham, 30 gs.

Romulus, red and white, calved May 25, 1874, by Stackhouse (32591), out of Pearl 13th by Lord Bates (29065).—Mr. J. Jardine, 15 gs.

Comet, roan, calved July 14, 1874, by Bloomfield, out of Patchouli 5th, by Mandarin (26799).—Mr. Wm. Graham, 21 gs.

SUMMARY.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
17 cows averaged	57	10	0	.....	977	11	0
7 bulls "	25	1	0	.....	175	7	0
24 averaged	£48	0	9	.....	£1,152	18	0
6 dairy cows					93	19	6
Total sale					£1,246	17	6

SALE OF MR. CHEYNEY'S SHORT-HORNS.

AT GADDESBY, LEICESTER, ON SEPTEMBER 23RD.

BY MR. H. STRAFFORD.

That "he had found a district housed in brick and left it under stone" was once thought a boast which did credit to an emperor, but it may be doubted if some visitors to Leicestershire, in September 1874, would consider such a change would invariably prove to be a gain. For no stone that ever was quarried could give the warmth to the landscape in Gaddesby Park which is afforded by the bricks of which the hall is built. No tint could come out better on a bright day, in early autumn—when the sun has lost power, but scarcely brilliancy—than does the yellow-red of the mansion in contrast with the hoary church adjacent and the dark-green of the elms and the herbage in the park. The country between this and Melton Mowbray—noted for horse-flesh living and for swine-flesh dead — would scarcely be improved did Baron Haussman get a commission to reconstruct the dwellings à *la* Parisian Boulevardes. But the master of Gaddesby has thought if the local building material cannot be improved on the local Shorthorns may; for into a tract of the richest grazing land, famous for fatted beeves for ages,

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he has imported the most fashionable strains of blood which are at present to be found in the States. Other breeders have done the like, no doubt; but the attendants at English Shorthorn sales have not encountered before the produce of the late consignment of "Princess" animals from America. A heifer-calf from "Lady Sale of Putney" was, indeed, sold at Underley the other day; but she was hardly old enough to show the character developed beyond the Atlantic, by descendants of exported specimens of a tribe which, on this side, has always been deservedly esteemed. Many visitors were curious to see these Princess cattle, especially as English-bred Princesses were to be sold at the same time and place, and so an excellent opportunity would be afforded for comparison. Accordingly a large company assembled on the twenty-third, day and locality both being favourable, yet certain magnates (among the Bates courtiers) were *conspicuously* away. Every care had been taken to set the lots off to advantage, and to arrange the sale so as to secure a high average, and the result must have been beyond expectation. Before men have ceased to talk—like Uncle Toby's scullion with foolish fat face of praise—about Holker and Underley price, these are as much exceeded (so far as females go) as they themselves surpassed every previous auction of a Shorthorn herd. It is not our intention to enlarge on this fact, but it must needs be chronicled. In 1873 Mr. Cheney sold 35 animals for £10,807 17s. In 1874 19 females (mostly calves) make £10,720 10s., or an average of £564 4s. 9d. for the whole lot offered. It is best to let the facts speak for themselves, and make no comment. As we have intimated, "every card turned up a trump." Weather, fashion, state of the money market, all were "as could be wished." And the crowded tables at the luncheon assured one that a sufficient regiment of customers were present to buy up not merely the lots offered, but the reserved herd as well. These were in the park, but in the remotest part of it, so that our inspection was confined to the sale cattle and the old imported bull. Many have criticised 9th Duke of Geneva. It must be conceded now that—such is the present feeling among wealthy Shorthorn buyers—no bull's stock ever were sold at such a high figure. Yet the contrast between the prices made by the bulls, as compared with the heifers, is a fact, as well as the high average of these, as is also the curious confinement of the list of buyers within the limit of that of previous competitors for similar animals. Mr. A. H. Longman, we believe, bid high for one of the Duchess lots; but, as a rule, there were few new bidders, and not one new buyer. There were two of the animals offered whose portraits appear in the last volume of the Herd-Book—Eighth Duchess of Airdrie and Kirklevington 18th. The former was substituted at the last minute for her daughter, who had calved, and been unlucky. It must be said that this Eighth Duchess—who is reported to have cost 10,000 dollars "on the other side of the water"—was a fine slashing, if somewhat leggy, cow, heavy in calf; as was also Kirklevington 18th, who—except the characteristic "nipping-in" behind the shoulders, and this by no means to a great extent—was a heavy, good cow, on very short legs. When 8th Duchess came into the sale-ring, which was soon after two o'clock, the chairman at the luncheon, Mr. Cheney himself, having wisely curtailed the lists of toasts—no healths were drunk save that of the Royal family and his own—the cow provoked a good deal of admiration, but no very eager bidding. She was, however, put up at 1,000 gs., and rose slowly till the price given below was reached, and she goes to take the place, at Havering, vacated by Grand Duchess 21st. Lady Waterloo 22nd, with her calf (lot 19), came next into the ring, and the bidding, begun by Mr. Bowley at 100 gs., rose slowly to 225 gs., at which, if fashion holds, she should not be dear. Peach Blossom 8th, the only white female shown, began at an offer of 50 gs., but made her value, even taking into account her being stinted to the Ninth Duke of Geneva. When the next lot—the first of the daughters of the old Princess cow, for which Mr. Adkins gave Mr. Stephenson 100 gs., and sold her, after having had four calves, to Mr. Cheney for thrice as much—Princess of Geneva, came into the ring the sale became very lively, and she ran up from 200 to 800 gs. without much effort from the auctioneer. Mr. McIntosh got her, with an in-calf to her own sire, for 860 gs., and yet she was not the dearest lot sold Her own sister was equally in request. They were two nice heifers, if somewhat dark in their roan hue. Cleopatra's Duchess coming, like the meat in a sandwich, between the two, was not without admirers; nor was Seraphina's Duchess (lot 7), who goes, as her companion, to Stancliffe Hall. Then came a red and white Oxford heifer, whose appearance acted like a wet blanket on the bidders, and she was dragged up to 200 gs., then went briskly to 810 gs. by an old admirer of the tribe. The next lot, Duchess of Glo'ster, a charming red yearling, revived the sale, and, beginning, like the elder Duchess, at 1,000 gs., went up steadily to 1,700 gs., when the pace slackened. At 1,750 gs. she was knocked down, and Sir Curtis Lampson's name given as buyer; but a little demur caused her to be put up again, and she finally made 1,785 gs. to the same purchaser. Lady Elizabeth, first of the Princesses, shared the fate of those who enter next—"a well-graced actor having quitted the stage"—for she was coldly received, and waited for an opening bid of 200 gs. for some minutes. She was leggy and of a plain colour, yet her dam was a good cow with a fine bag, and her own brother about the best of the bull calves. Lady Waterloo 28th was a very good heifer, of a capital red; and Seraphina's Duchess 2nd, a not much inferior roan; nor was Wild Duchess of Geneva 3rd, the lot following these, far behind. After seeing three such calves by one sire, it is impossible to withhold from him the credit of having "that within which passeth show," for these assuredly have the grace of beauty, which he lacks. Rosalie—lot 14, got by an American Princess bull from an ex-American Princess cow—kept the ball a-rolling, and made 700 gs. readily; and after her the interest taken in the lots perceptibly diminished, as Mr. Strafford's labour increased. From this time the sale was slow, the biddings coming tardily from a limited number of competitors, till with the first bull the spirit of the thing evaporated. The bulls were sold indeed, but they took some selling, and any person conversant with the strains they represented will compare with surprise the prices made for bull-calves here and at Underley for similar animals. It cannot be said that the calves had been badly done by; animals more plainly speaking of good and liberal usage never entered a ring, and they were gay-coloured, well-haired, stylish calves of their type. Mr. Pavin Davies' four Kirklevington cows were good specimens, and made good prices, though possibly the Bates men will not allow this; but over the sale of the extra bulls it is best "to draw a veil" and retire: they did not do the blood credit, and did not get the credit their appearance deserved. Lord Garland was a nice bull, but the company had begun to disperse, for the hour for starting the "special" from Brooksby was at hand. Altogether it was a remarkable and a suggestive sale, both for what was done and what was not.

Eighth Duchess of Airdrie, calved July 10th, 1867, by Royal Oxford, out of Duchess of Airdrie 7th.—Mr. Mackintosh, 1,700 gs.

Lady Waterloo 22nd, calved January 10th, 1871, by 7th Duke of York, out of Lady Waterloo 15th.—Mr. G. Fox, 225 gs.

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Peach Blossom 8th, calved June 25th, 1871, by 8th Duke of York, out of Peach Blossom 6th.—Colonel Kingscote, 185 gs.
Princess of Geneva, calved August 3rd, 1871, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Princess.—Mr. Mackintosh, 860 gs.
Cleopatra's Duchess 2nd, calved June 18th, 1872, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Cleopatra 12th.—Sir J. Whitworth 300 gs.
Princess of Geneva 2nd, calved October 15th, 1872, by 9th, Duke of Geneva, out of Princess.—Mr. H. J. Sheldon, 800 gs.
Seraphina's Duchess, calved November 16th, 1872, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Seraphina 22nd.—Sir J. Whitworth, 160 gs.
Lady Oxford 15th, calved May 1st, 1873, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of 13th Lady of Oxford.—Mr. P. Davies, 310 gs.
Duchess of Glocester, calved July 10th, 1873, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of 14th Duchess of Airdrie.—Sir Curtis Lampson, 1,785 gs.
Lady Elizabeth, calved July 13th, 1873, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Primula.—Mr. Leney, 430 gs.
Lady Waterloo 28th, calved August 30th, 1873, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Lady Waterloo 19th.—Mr. G. Fox, 530 gs.
Seraphina's Duchess 2nd, calved December 8th, 1873, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Seraphina 22nd.—Lord Penrhyn, 200 gs.
Wild Duchess of Geneva 3rd, calved December 26th, 1873, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Wild Oxford.—Mr. Gow, 555 gs.
Rosalie, calved February 23rd, 1874, by Saladin, out of Rosette.—Mr. G. Fox, 700 gs.
Fantail's Duchess 2nd, calved February 28th, 1874, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Fantail.—Mr. J. Lynn, 135 gs.
Lady Wellesley, calved May 16, 1874, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Lady Wellington.—Mr. P. Davies, 360 gs.
Geneva's Minstrel 2nd, calved May 20th, 1874, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Minstrel 3rd.—Mr. W. H. Salt, 260 gs.
Lady of Oxford 16th, calved June 28th, 1874, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of 13th Lady of Oxford.—Mr. John Thornton, 605 gs.
Lady Waterloo 29th, calved August 26th, 1874, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Lady Waterloo 22nd.—Mr. Gow, 110 gs.

BULLS.

Master Faithful, calved July 12, 1873, by Credit, out of Fidelity 2nd.—Mr. Beauford, Liverpool, 50 gs.
Duke of Goscote 2nd, calved November 23rd, 1873, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Darlington 12th.—Mr. H. H. Langham, Cottesbrooke-grange, 60 gs.
Earl of Leicester 3rd, calved December 16th, 1873, by Royal Cambridge 2nd, out of Princess of Geneva.—Mr. Cotterill Dormer, 90 gs.
Earl of Leicester 4th, calved March 20th, 1874, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Lady Susan 3rd.—Mr. Thomas, 120 gs.
Earl of Leicester 5th, calved March 21st, 1874, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Princess.—Mr. C. Howard, 68 gs
Earl of Leicester 6th, calved April 15th, 1874, by Saladin, out of Rose Ann.—Mr. Smith, Leicester, 73 gs.
Lord Blanche, calved May 20th, 1874, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Lady Blanche.—Mr. F. Minton, Stoke, near Grantham, 45 gs.
Earl of Leicester 7th, calved July 12th, 1874, by 9th Duke of Geneva, out of Primula.—Mr. F. Sartoris, 60 gs.

SUMMARY.

19 heifers	averaged	£564	4	9	.....	£10,720	10	0
8 bulls	"	74	5	9	.....	596	8	0
27 head	"	£419	1	4	.....	£11,314	16	0

FROM MR. PAVIN DAVIES' HERD.

Kirklevington 18th, calved August 26th, 1866, by 3rd Lord Oxford, out of Kirklevington 10th—Mr. W. H. Salt, 585 gs.
Kirklevington Duchess 2nd, calved December 31st, 1868, by Duke of Athelstanes, out of Kirklevington, 9th.—Mr. J. H. Caswell, 410 gs.
Kirklevington Duchess 6th, calved June 23rd, 1870, by 2nd Duke of Claro, out of Kirklevington 18th.—Mr. Snodin, 285 gs.
Kirklevington Duchess 12th, calved November 6th, 1872, by 2nd Duke of Gloucester, out of Kirklevington Rose.—Mr. J. H. Caswell, 250 gs.

Marquis of York (property of Mr. W. H. Salt) calved January 26th, 1871, by 7th Duke of York, out of Lady Waterloo 14th.—Mr. J. J. Sharpe, 40 gs.
Duke of Cerisia 2nd (property of Mr. H. J. Sheldon) calved Dec. 20th, 1872, by 18th Duke of Oxford, out of Cherry Countess.—Mr. J. Lynn, 35 gs.
Lord Garland (property of Mr. H. J. Sheldon), calved July 4th, 1873, by 18th Duke of Oxford, out of Lady Florence.—Mr. Fielding, 62 gs.

SALE OF SUFFOLK HORSES AND OTHER STOCK AT COVEHITHE.

There were seventy-five head of horse stock, including six young chesnut cart stallions, two of which are winners at the various local and other agricultural shows, forty-two brood mares and geldings, and twenty-two cart colts, fillies and foals, and four hunters and harness horses. In addition to the horse stock there were 1,180 blackfaced ewes and half-bred lambs, eighty-four Shorthorn beasts, and eight Shorthorn cows, besides all the implements. The sale took place under the direction of the executors of the late Mr. S. C. Goodwyn. For Mr. Goodwyn's horses the prices were:

1. Fancy, a cart mare, sold to Mr. Beakbane, Liverpool, for 97½ gs.
2. Smart, to Mr. Havers, for 67½ gs.
3. Scot, to Mr. Havers, 62½ gs.
4. Diamond, to Mr. Woods, 55 gs.
5. Tinker, a gelding.—Mr. Pratt, 55 gs.
6. Farmer.—Mr. Chaplin, 72½ gs.
7. Captain.—Earl Dudley, 60 gs.
8. Ramper.—Earl Dudley, 85 gs.
9. Spright, a cart mare.—Mr. Beakbane, 125 gs.
10. Moggy, a cart mare.—Mr. Beakbane, 115 gs.
11. Briton.—Mr. A. Garrett, 80 gs.
12. Darby.—Earl Dudley, 80 gs.
13. Smart, a Suffolk mare.—Mr. Pratt, 52½ gs.
14. Lively.—Earl Dudley, 105 gs.
15. Brag.—Mr. Brown, 52½ gs.
16. Boxer, a gelding.—Mr. Pearce, 40 gs.
17. Briton.—Earl Dudley, 60 gs.
18. Captain.—Mr. Scace, 65 gs.
19. Proctor.—Messrs. Lucas Brothers, London, 65 gs.
20. Sharper.—Messrs. Lucas Brothers, 60 gs.
21. Bumper.—Messrs. Lucas Brothers, 87½ gs.
22. Moggy.—Messrs. Lucas Brothers, 72½ gs.
23. Darby.—Earl Dudley, 92½ gs.
24. Bly.—Mr. Grimwade, 52½ gs.
25. Ramper.—Mr. Pratt, 62½ gs.
26. Captain.—Mr. Kirby, 34 gs.
28. Dodman.—Mr. Cragg, 17 gs.
29. Hero, a chesnut cart stallion, two years old, by Young Conqueror.—Mr. Talbot, Kilkenny, 185 gs.
30. Captain, a chesnut Suffolk cart stallion, by the late Mr. T. Crisp's Duke.—Mr. J. Grout, 95 gs.

The property of Mr. Richard Garrett, of Carleton:

The Claimant, a pure Suffolk cart stallion, by Cupbearer.—Earl Dudley, 200 gs.
Challenger, a Suffolk cart stallion, by Cupbearer.—Mr. Westhorp, 100 gs.

Two lots, the property of the executors of the late Mr. James B. Cooper, of Blythburgh Lodge, and Mr. James Deck, of Westleton, were also sold at 62 gs. and 55 gs., and a number of other cart horses at lower figures.

Mr. Goodwyn's bullocks, cows, sheep, lambs, and dead stock were disposed of on Thursday. The result of the sale was between £8,000 and £9,000.

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SHEEP SALES AND LETTINGS.

SALES OF LAMBS AT PERTH. — Messrs. Macdonald and Fraser held their second special sale of store lambs. The numbers penned were over 8,000, of which 5,000 were crosses, 1,500 half and three-part breds, and 1,500 blackfaced lambs. The attendance of buyers was large, and, from the beginning to the close of the sale, a steady demand was experienced for all sorts at prices similar to those realised at the special sale ten days ago. Cross lambs, best class of tops, sold from 17s. 6d. to 21s.; fair to good sorts of tops, same class, 13s. 3d. to 16s. 6d.; secondary sorts 10s. 3d. to 12s. 3d. Half and three-part bred lambs, best class of tops, 21s. to 25s.; fair to good, same class, 16s. 6d. to 18s. 6d.; secondary sorts, 14s. 6d. to 15s. 9d. Blackfaced middling ewe lambs, 10s. to 13s. Shotts, 7s. 6d. to 9s. Blackfaced wether lambs, 5s. 3d. to 10s. The usual weekly sale comprised 194 sheep, 131 cattle, and 3 cows. Both sheep and cattle met a slow sale. Cross hoggs, secondary sorts, sold from 25s. to 27s. One-year-old cattle, £6 7s. 7d. to £8 10s.; two-year-olds, small sorts, £11 5s. to £13 17s. 6d. each.

MR. C. CLARKE'S LINCOLNS.—At the sale at Scopwick the following purchases were made: Lot 1, Mr. J. Kirkham, 24 gs.; 2, Mr. Slater, 10 gs.; 3, ditto, 11 gs.; 4, Mr. T. Kirkham, 115 gs.; 5, Mr. Bond, 8 gs.; 6, Mr. Wiles, 9 gs.; 7, Mr. Foster, 13 gs; 8, Mr. R. Kirkham, 15 gs.; 9, Mr. Stephenson, 10 gs.; 10, Mr. E. Paddison, 68 gs.; 11, Mr. Coleman, 45 gs.; 12, Mr. W. Dudding, 28 gs.; 13, Mr. Pitchell, 8 gs.; 14, Mr. T. Pears, 14 gs.; 15, Mr. Chapman, 13½ gs.; 16, Mr. T. Caswell, 70 gs.; 17, Mr. Taylor, 7½ gs.; 18, Mr. Coleman, 9 gs.; 19, Mr. Tindall, 7½ gs.; 29, Mr. H. Mackinder, 26 gs.; 21, Mr. Holmes, 21 gs.; 22, Mr. Slater, 48 gs.; 23, Mr. Marshall, 16 gs.; 24, Mr. Trotter, 7 gs.; 25, Mr. Marshall, 13 gs.; 26, Mr. Shillito, 20 gs.; 27, Mr. T. Pears, 13 gs.; 28, Mr. Mellows, 9 gs.; 29, Mr. Howard, 11 gs.; 30, Mr. C. Clarke, 20 gs.; 31, Mr. W. Gillatt, 36 gs.; 32, Mr. Holmes, 12 gs.; 33, Mr. H. Paddison, 7½ gs.; 34, Mr. Tindall, 6½ gs.; 35, Mr. G. Bland, 12½ gs.; 36, Mr. W. Dudding, 10 gs.; 37, Mr. Phillips, 8 gs.; 38, Mr. Mellows, 11 gs.; 39, Mr. Lamb, 7½ gs.; 40, Mr. T. Pears, 7½ gs.; 41, Mr. T. Stephenson, 7½ gs.; 42, Mr. Mann, 11 gs.; 43, Mr. Tindall, 6½ gs.; 44, Mr. W. Dudding, 11 gs.; 45, Mr. G. Bland, 8½ gs.; 46, Mr. W. Cappe, 10½ gs.; 47, Mr. Bainbridge, 6½ gs.; 48, Mr. White, 6½ gs.; 49, Mr. Wiles, 7 gs.; 50, Mr. Morris, 15 gs.; 51, Mr. Stephenson, 6½ gs.; 52, Mr. C. Paddison, 7½ gs.; 53, Mr. Harrison, 6 gs. Two-shears: 54, Messrs. Lister and Byron, 100 gs.; 58, Mr. Trotter, 12 gs. The entire lots made £1,082 11s., or an average of £19 13s. 8d. each.

MR. BORTON'S LEICESTERS. — At the sale at Barton, near Malton, Mr. Stafford, of Bedford, being the auctioneer, many of the sheep were bought for New Zealand, and several for Ireland. The following is the result of the sale:

Shearling Rams.—Mr. Gray, 21 gs.; Mr. Smith, New Zealand, 20 gs., 15 gs., 22 gs., 30 gs., 12 gs., and 10 gs.; Mr. Key, Musley Bank, 16 gs. and 10 gs.; Hon. C. W. W. Fitzwilliam, M.P., 23 gs.; Mr. Humphrey, Leicester, 51 gs. and 32 gs.; Mr. Houlden, Wigganthorpe Hall, 66 gs.; Mr. Tinker, 8 gs.; Major Worsley 7½ gs.; Mr. Smithson, 11 gs.; Rev. C. P. Peach, 15 gs.; The Earl of Faversham, 10 gs. and 20 gs.; W. Robertson, Ireland, 8 gs., 10 gs., 9 gs., and 9 gs.; Mr. Cattle, Barton, 9 gs.; Mr. Leefe, Fryton, 8½ gs.; Mr. West, 7½ gs., 8 gs., and 8 gs.; Admiral Howard, 10 gs.; Mr. Jackson, 17 gs.; Mr. Geo. Wright, Broughton, 40 gs.; Mr. Scoby, 10 gs.; Mr. Beech, Stockton, 20 gs.

Two-Shear Rams.—Mr. West, 8 gs. and 10 gs.; Mr. Robertson, 9 gs.; Mr. Smithson, 10 gs.; Mr. Tinker, 11 gs. and 30 gs.; Earl Feversham, 10 gs.; Mr. Beech, 18 gs., 10 gs., 12 gs., and 70 gs.; Mr. Hatterslay, 10 gs.; Earl Fitzwilliam, 20 gs.

Three-Shear Rams.—Mr. Humphreys, 36 gs. and 33 gs.; Mr. Key, 14 gs.

Shearling Ewes (Three in a lot).—Mr. Beech, 27 gs.; Mr. Holden, 43½ gs., 27 gs., and 27 gs.; Rev. C. P. Peach, 30 gs.; Mr. Tinker, 24 gs.; Mr. Allen, 24 gs.

MESSRS. DUDDING'S LINCOLNS. — Mr. Calthrop sold by public auction about seventy long-woolled rams, principally shearlings, the property of Messrs. Dudding, at Panton House, near Wragby. There were in all 70 lots; the first six being let, and the others, which comprised rams and four old sheep, sold. For No. 4 there was a very strong competition, and it was ultimately knocked down to Mr. Hesseltine for 60 guineas. The competition of the day, however, was for lot 58. This numbers had evidently set their minds on obtaining, although the principal competitors came from the ranks of the colonists. The bidding speedily mounted up, and at last became confined to Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Coleman, to the latter of whom it was ultimately knocked down for 200 gs., amidst the cheers of those standing around the ring. Mr. Coleman afterwards became the purchaser of lot 64 for the sum of 175 gs. The sale was altogether a most successful one. The average of the six rams let was £33 13s. 4d.; of the four old sheep, £27 16s. 9d.; and of the rams sold £37 12s. 4d.; the total average being estimated at £36 12s. 11d. The following is the return of the prices realised:

Lot.	Gs.	Lot.	Gs.
1—Mr. Kemp	13	36—Mr. Wilson	24
2—Mr. Langdale	15	37—Mr. Epton	16
3—Mr. R. Howard	30	38—Mr. Jones	14
4—Mr. Hesseltine	60	39—Mr. Dolbell	12
5—Mr. Chas. Clark	45	40—Mr. Elward	33
6—Mr. Ghest	30	41—Mr. Livesey	16
7—Mr. Wilson	21	42—Mr. Turnbull	37
8—Mr. Coleman	125	43—Mr. Jones	27
9—Mr. Marshall	50	44—Mr. Smith	22
10—Mr. Dalton	57	45—Mr. Dolbell	21
11—Mr. Jones	29	46—Mr. Strafford	14
12—Ditto	21	47—Mr. Smith	12
13—Mr. Coleman	110	48—Ditto	24
14—Mr. Dolbell	25	49—Mr. Hodson	13
15—Mr. Banyard	45	50—Mr. Lamb	32
16—Mr. Coleman	65	51—Mr. Jones	24
17—Mr. Strafford	16	52—Mr. Coleman	36
18—Mr. Bennett	32	53—Mr. Jones	17
19—Mr. Langdale	40	54—Mr. Smith	16
20—Mr. Jones	40	55—Mr. Chambers	12
21—Mr. Smith	21	56—Mr. Smith	17
22—Ditto	40	57—Mr. McVicar	21
23—Ditto	13	58—Mr. Coleman	200
24—Mr. Hodgkinson	30	59—Mr. Smith	18
25—Mr. Coleman	90	60—Ditto	14
26—Mr. Epton	18	61—Mr. Coleman	28
27—Mr. Smith	22	62—Mr. R. Howard	38
28—Mr. Coleman	47	63—Mr. Smith	34
29—Mr. Dolbin	18	64—Mr. Coleman	175
30—Mr. Coleman	65	65—Mr. Giles	12
31—Mr. Russell	20	66—Mr. Jones	21
32—Mr. Coleman	31	67—Mr. H. Nelson	38
33—Mr. Dolbell	11	68—Mr. Davy	31
34—Mr. Smith	20	69—Mr. Banyard	17
35—Mr. Jones	25	70—Mr. Langdale	20

RAM SALES AT HEREFORD.—Messrs. Edwards and Weaver sold a number of Shropshire rams, the property of Mr. F. Evans, Bredwardine, which were disposed of as follows: Four shearling rams, 35 gs., to Mr. J. Turner, Stanton-on-Arrow; shearling ram, 12 gs., to Mr. J. Like, Mansel Lacey; ditto, 8 gs., to Mr. S. Evans, Parton; ditto, 6 gs., to Mr. J. Marston; ditto, 7 gs., to Mr. Williams, Glasbury; ditto, 11½ gs., to Mr. Farr; ditto, 9 gs., to Mr. James, Monnington: ditto, 8½ gs., to Mr. G. Bray, Haven; ditto, 4 guineas, to Mr. Williams, Glasbury; ditto, 14 guineas, to Mr. Nicholas Price, The Thornes, Ledbury; ditto, 10 guineas, to Mr. H. Griffiths, Brick House; ditto, 8 guineas, to Mr. T. Goodwin, Hampton Bishop. Average £11 14s. 6d. The property of Col. Bridgford; shearling Shropshire ram, sold to Mr. Gwilliam, 5½ guineas; ditto to Mr. Hodges, The Moor, for 7½ guineas. Messrs. Pye and Sunderland disposed of large consignments of rams from the well-known flocks of Messrs. James and Embrey, Much Birch; Mr. T. Pearce, of Snod-hill; Mr. A. Davis, Dorston-court

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&c., the former of which changed hands at from 5½ to 12½ guineas, averaging £8 2s. 6d. The Snod-hill rams went from 4½ to 10½ guineas, averaging £6 12s. The Dorston-court rams averaged £5 7s. 6d., and a few other small lots were sold at satisfactory prices.

MR. J. H. VESSEY'S LINCOLNS.—At Halton Holegate there was a large attendance of buyers, several being from the antipodes, and the competition was very keen, especially between two gentlemen from New Zealand. One ram fetched the extraordinary figure of 200 gs., another 175, one 125, and one 110. There were 70 lots sold, and the total sum realised amounted to 2,450 gs., the average price of each sheep being 35 gs.

MR. RIGDEN'S SOUTHDOWNS.—The Hove Flock sale took place at Mr. Rigden's new residence in Goldstone Bottom. There was a large attendance of flockmasters from different parts of the country. 100 ewes and 27 rams were offered by Mr. E. Drawbridge, of Lindfield. The ewes were put up in lots of five each, 75 being full-mouthed and 25 shearlings. Mr. Clark, the Duke of Richmond's agent, secured five at six guineas each; the next lot at the same price to Mr. Field, the agent of the Duke of Portland. The third lot realised five guineas, and was bought by Mr. E. Cane, of Berwick; and the remainder of the full-mouthed ewes fetched prices varying from £2 10s. to £3 15s., the purchasers being the Duke of Portland, Mr. Kelsey, Mr. Smith (Paddockhurst), Mr. Dudney, Mr. Botting, Mr. Gorringe, and Mr. Phillips. The prices of the shearlings ranged from £3 to 5½ guineas; and four out of the five pens offered were bought by Sir Cartis Lampson, of Worth, Mr. Sharp being the purchaser of the other lot at £3 5s. per head. Ten rams were then offered for hire, but, notwithstanding the competition was keen at times, the prices obtained were not so great as at some of Mr. Rigden's sales in past years. The highest figure reached was 83 gs., at which sum Mr. Carew-Gibson obtained the services of the one-year-old animal that carried off the first prizes at Bristol and at Bedford; the next highest quotation being 50 gs., given by Mr. Greville, M.P., for a one-year-old, which received high commendation at those two shows. Mr. Hart, of Beddingham, gave 42 gs. for the ram (two years old) which carried off the first prize at Cardiff and second at Bedford; and the Duke of Portland possessed himself of the one-year-old which obtained second prize at Bristol, giving 41 gs. for it. The prices given for the others ranged from 12 gs. to 26 gs., and were hired, three by the Duke of Portland, one by Mr. More Stevens, one by Mons. Nouette Delorme, and the other by Mr. Oldacre. The rams for sale—seventeen in number, all (with one exception) being one-year-olds—were then put up and realised various prices, the lowest being 10 and the highest 46 gs.; M. Delorme being the purchaser of the animal last alluded to. He also secured two others at 31 and 34 gs. The other purchasers were the Duke of Beaufort (two), Mr. Carew-Gibson, Mr. Hart, Mr. Thornhill (two), Mr. Wodehouse, Mr. More-Stevens (two), Mr. Raikes, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Hempson, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. J. Hodson.

MR. KIRKHAM'S LONGWOOLS.—At the luncheon which preceded the sale a testimonial portrait of Mr. Kirkham was presented by Colonel Amcotts who presided on the part of the subscribers. Seventy shearlings were subsequently offered by Mr. Briggs; one of which went to Messrs. Dudding at 200 gs.; another to Mr. Clark of Scopwicke for 175 gs.; while Mr. E. J. Davy gave 68 gs. for a sheep; the Rev. T. O'Grady, 62 gs.; Mr. J. R. Kirkham, 62 gs.; Mr. Needham, 50 gs.; Mr. Buchanan, of New Zealand, 75 gs. for No. 64; Mr. Jones, 42 gs. for No. 19; Mr. E. Howard, 30 gs. for No. 62. The total amount was £2,291, or an average of £32 14s. 11d.

THE SELSEY SOUTHDOWNS.—A number of rams and ewes from Mr. Hugh H. Penfold's flock have lately been sold. Twenty-four rams were offered for letting, but the first, which took the first prize for ram lambs at Southampton last year, did not sell. Four yearlings, from the blood of Mr. T. Ellman's No. 14, were then knocked down to Mr. E. Hobgen (Sidlesham), 6½ gs.; Mr. G. Penfold (Wiggonholt), 7 gs.; Mr. S. Seward (Petersfield), 23½ gs.; and Mr. Tribe (Falmer, Lewes), 11 gs. The remainder of the yearlings were from Lord Walsingham's blood, and were taken by Mr. G. Duke (Blakehurst) at 3 gs.; Mr. Tribe, 7 gs.; Mr. G. Penfold, 5½ gs. and 8 gs.; Mr. R. Drewett (Peppering), 13½ gs.; Mr. W. Woods (Crow's Hall), 21½ gs.; Mr. E. Herrington (Pagham), 8½ gs.; and Mr. T. Saxby (Firle, Lewes), 15 gs. Three two-year-olds from the same blood were taken by Mr. G. Duke, 13½ gs.; Mr. P. Ellis (Clayton Court), 9½ gs.; and Mr. C. Hobgen (Shripney), 16½ gs. Four two-year-olds, from Mr. Ellman's blood, Mr. E. B. Green (Stoughton), 5½ gs.; Mr. G. Boniface (Ford), 10 gs.; Mr. S. V. Clarke (Kingston), 13 gs.; and Mr. G. Duke, 11½ gs. Two three-year-olds from Mr. Hart's No. 5, Mr. G. Blaker (Pangdean), 15½ gs.; and Mr. G. B. Green, 6½ gs. The rams for sale did not fetch high prices, and the ewes went cheap; 5½ gs. was the highest price for a ram, and 60 full-mouthed ewes were disposed of at from 4s. to 69s. a-head.

THE HAGLEY SHROPSHIRES.—This sale was held on August 3, and some animals from the flocks of Messrs. Webb, Kinver Hill; J. Harward, Winterfold; W. F. Firmstone, Hagley; and W. Yates, Grindle, were put up to competition. Mr. Hayward's highest price realised £7 17s. 6d. The Kinver Hill flock averaged a little over £8, the highest price being £11 11s. Of the eleven shearlings of Mr. Firmstone only six were sold, the best price being £6 16s. 6d. Mr. Yates' seven shearlings averaged £8 15s., the highest price being £15 15s.

MR. ROBINSON'S LINCOLNS.—At Huttoft, by Messrs. Mason and Sons.—The number offered was sixty-five, thirty-six of which were shearlings. Of these, No. 20 was hired by Mr. J. Byron, for £52 10s., No. 14 by Mr. W. Chatterton, for £42, and No. 10 by Mr. G. A. Oliver, for £22 1s. Mr. S. R. Kemp took the highest priced aged sheep, No. 52, for £31 10s. Mr. Chatterton took the second, No. 56, for £25 4s., and Mr. J. W. Parker the third, No. 54, for £21. The total amount realised by the letting was £879 18s., giving an average of about £13 11s.

THE OWERSBY RAMS. — Mr. Calthrop offered for sale 80 longwool shearling rams belonging to the representatives of the late Mr. John Davy; 79 of the 80 lots were speedily disposed of. There was considerable competition for No. 5, which was at last knocked down to Mr. Cartwright for £75. The top sheep of the day was No. 13, of which Mr. Havercroft became the purchaser for £100, No. 20, at £30, was knocked down to Sir J. D. Astley, Bart., M.P. The total sum realised was £1,567 13s., the average being £19 16s. 10½d.

THE AYLESBY RAMS.—A select company assembled at Aylesby Manor, to view the show rams bred by Mr. Torr. There were about 40 pure-bred Leicesters exhibited, and of these 28 were let at an average of £17 15s. One of the rams was sold to a gentleman from New Zealand for £100.

THE GIVENDALE RAMS. — At the annual letting of these Leicesters, Mr. Boulton, of Malton, was the auctioneer. No. 1 shearling was let to Mr. Jordan, of Eastborne, for £34. The average was £11 14s. The two-shears averaged over £9. The average of the aged sheep was over £9.

MR. CLARE'S SHROPSHIRES.—The business at Twycross commenced with Midshipman, a three-shear ram, by Mansion 3rd, falling to the lot of Mr. Baker, at 12 guineas. Then came a shearling, Captious, which fell to Mr. Savidge, at 11 guineas. The Leicestershire prize sheep was bought by Mr. Peerman at 13 guineas; whilst the commended sheep made 20 guineas to Mr. Coxon; and another realised 23 gs. to Earl Howe. Other rams ranged from 18 guineas to five-and-a-half guineas. The ewes made a fair average for the season. The sale was conducted by Messrs. Davenport, German, and Allen, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

HEREFORD SALES. — Messrs. Pye and Sanderland's sales included upwards of 50 high-class rams, consigned by the following eminent breeders, viz: Mr. J. N. Downing's pure Ryelands, 22 in number, the competition for which was brisk, were purchased as follows: Lots 1 and 7, Mr. Hall, Ripple, 9 gs. and 14½ gs.; lot 2, Mr. T. H. Pitt, Freetown, 14 gs.; lot 3, Mr. Mutlow, 12½ gs.; lot 4, Mr. Hill, Newend, 7 gs.; lot 5, Mr. Downes, 7 gs.; lots 6 and 13, Mr. Wedge, 10 gs. and 7 gs.; lot 9, Mr. Williams, 7½ gs.; lot 10, Mr. Griffiths, 5½ gs.; lot 11, Mr. T. Duckham, 9½ gs.; lot 12, Mr. B. Galliers, 6 gs.; lot 14, Mr. Timmens, 6½ gs.; lots 16 and 20, Mr. Powell, 6½ gs. each; lot 17, Mr. Vaughan, 5½ gs.; lot 19, Mr. Payne, Birch, 7 gs.; lot 20, Mr. Oakley, 5½ gs.; lot 22, Mr. James, 7 gs.; lot 23, Mr. Powell, Brecon, 6 gs.; lot 24, Mr. Vevers, Yarkhill, 5½ gs. The average price realised is 8 gs. Mr. Pulley's Shropshires, 6 of which were consigned and readily sold as follows: Lot 1, Mr. T. S.

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Wathen, Coldbrook, 12 gs.; 2 and 3, Mr. Williams, Cowbridge, 7½ gs. and 7 gs.; 4, Mr. H. T. Taylor, Holmer, 9 gs.; 5 and 6, Mr. A. Goodwin, Wilmaston, 21 gs. The average price 11 gs. Mr. J. Waddell, Canon Bridge, pure Cotswolds, 8 in number, ranged from 5½ gs. to 8 gs., the purchasers being Messrs. Till (Bullingham), Blashill (Bridge), Large (Madley), Daw (Shenmore), Lydiatt (Dinedor), Matthews (Tiberton), and Morgan (Monkton). The average price 6 gs. Several other lots were disposed of at full average prices.

PETERBOROUGH RAM FAIR.—There were 800 sheep penned, being an increase of 302 over last year. The highest prices realised was £74 8s. for one of the Dunstan Dunstan Pillar flock (Mr. Cartwright's). It was purchased by Mr. Davey, who also gave 50 gs. for another out of the same pen. One of the Nocton Heath flock (Mr. Robert Wright's) fetched 58 gs., and another 52 gs. The Pointon Rams (Mr. T. Caswell's) made good prices, ranging from 50 gs. downwards, and the Laughton flock from 53 gs. Several of the latter were purchased for New Zealand. A number of Croxton Kerriel rams were let at good sums. The average prices obtained were—The Pointon, 18 gs.; the Buckminster, 14½ gs.; the Laughton, £18 6s. 6d.; the Kirby Green, 10 gs.; Dowsby Hall, 8 gs.; Wellingore, 6½ gs.; Cranwell, 10 gs., the Mere 13 gs.; Dunstan Pillar, £18 11s. 6d.; Mr. Looker's (Hartford, Hunts), £19; the Nocton Heath, £18 13s. 10d.; the Branston, 10 gs.

SHROPSHIRES AT SHREWSBURY.—The Shropshire Sheep Autumn Sale was held at Shrewsbury. The catalogue contained 349 rams and 2,665 ewes from the flocks of many leading breeders, and the attendance included buyers for Australia, the European continent, and various parts of the United Kingdom. The demand was good and competition spirited, the whole number being disposed of at satisfactory figures, including the following prices: For rams—Mr. Evan's from 84 gs. to 10 gs., Mr. Mansell's averaged 12 gs., Mr. Crane's averaged 18 gs., Lord Chesham's 30 gs., Mr. Thomas Tanner's 10 gs., Mr. Marson's 10 gs., Mr. Edwards' 16gs., Mr. Yates' 7 gs., Mr. W. O. Foster's 11 gs., Mr. J. K. Fowler's 15 gs., Mr. Keeling's 11 gs., Colonel Dyott's, 9½ gs., Messrs. Fenn and Harding's 9 gs., Mr. Horton's 8 gs., Mr. Tanner's from 15 gs. to 7 gs., the Hon E. Kenyon's 15 gs. to 9 gs., Mr. J. B. Jones averaged 10 gs., Mr. J. W. Ninton's 15 gs., Mr. M. Williams' 9 gs., Mr. Andrews' 12 gs., Messrs. J. and G. Crane 7 gs., Mr. Bache 7 gs., Messrs. Ibbs 5 gs., Mr. J. Horton 7 gs., Mr. Nock 7½ gs., Messrs. Wheeler and others 7 gs. The price of ewes ranged from 180s. to 55s., Mr. Foster's average being 3 gs., Mr. Andrews' 3 gs., Mr. Ninton's 3½ gs., Mr. Tanner's £5, Mr. W. G. Preece's £5 2s. 6d., Mr. Bache's 60s., Mr. Horton's 63s., Mr. Barber's £5 7s. 6d., Mr. Lloyd's 63s., Mrs. Smith's 80s., Mr. Fowler's £4 15s., Mr. R. Everall's 60s., Mr. Nevett's £4 2s. 6d., Mr. J. Lee's £4 10s., and others from good flocks from 75s. to 55s. each. Mr. W. G. Preece of course conducted the sale.

SHROPSHIRES IN IRELAND.—The annual sale of Shropshire rams, belonging to Mr. J. L. Naper, took place at Lougherew. Mr. Preece auctioneer. 39 shearling Shropshire rams were sold at prices ranging up to £48 6s., paid by Mr. R. G. Cosby for a first prize ram; his highly commended ram having brought £25 4s. The average of the Shropshire shearling rams was £11 7s. The shearling ewes sold at prices ranging from 42s. to 60s., and stock ewes from 47s. to 71s. Ten shearling Leicester rams realised from £5 5s. to £12 12s., and Lambs up to 38s.

COL. LANE'S SHROPSHIRES, at the Echills Farm, King's Bromley. The rams sold at prices varying from 6gs. to 24gs, twenty averaging £9 16s. 4d., exclusive of a shearling, which was let for the season at 110gs. The ewes found customers at prices from 45s. to 81s. per head. Messrs. Winterton and Beale conducted the sale.

MR. BAKER'S SALE, at Moor Barns, near Atherstone, by Messrs. Lythall and Clarke. The first lot, a three-shear ram, was disposed of for 28gs. Another fetched 18gs. several 16gs., 15gs., 14gs., and smaller sums; the average being nearly 10gs. The ewes did not sell so well as usual, but the first lot of five prize shearlings were sold for 5½gs. each, and others realised from 56s. to 87s. each.

MISS ROSE'S SHROPSHIRES.—This sale took place at Mullaghmore, County Monaghan. The sale included over 200 Shropshire rams, ewes, and lambs; 70 Leicester rams and ewes, 17 pure Devon heifers, 16 Devon and cross-bred bullocks, with the following prices: Shropshire rams 35 guineas to 8 guineas, ditto ewes 120s. to 60s. ditto lambs 50s. to 30s., Leicester rams 16 guineas to 5 guineas, ditto ewes 80s. to 50s., Devon heifers 45 guineas to 18 guineas, ditto and cross-bred bullocks (yearlings) about £13 a head. Mr. W. G. Preece, of Shrewsbury, conducted the sale.

THE LITTYWOOD SHROPSHIRES. — Mr. Charles Byrd's sale and letting took place at Littywood Farm, near Stafford, when 31 rams and 100 ewes were disposed of by Mr. W. G. Preece. The rams realised from 25 to 10 guineas, and the 100 ewes averaged about £4.

MR. TURNER'S LONGWOOLS.—At Ulceby Grange, by Mr. Calthrop. The sheep, 60 in number, were offered, 49 sold, and 11 were withdrawn. The average was £12 9s. 4d. on the number sold. The plum of the flock was bought by Mr. Brady Nicholson, Stourton Grange, near Leeds, for £40.

MR. HAVERCROFT'S LINCOLNSHIRE LONGWOOLS.—The Wootton Dale flock was sold on Friday week, by Mr. Calthrop, at Wootton Dale, Barton-on-Humber. The 60 rams were sold at an average of over £16 per head.

CADEBY RAMS.—The sale of this first and direct branch of the Biscathorpe flock took place at the residence of Mr. J. W. Kirkham, at Cadeby. Forty shearlings were offered for sale, and the whole were sold. The lot realised £737 12s. 6d., the average being about £18 9s. The following are the particulars: Messrs. Brigg £12 12s., Young £36 15s., Needham £44 2s., Stokes £14 14s., Skipworth £23 2s., Parr £24 3s., Sharp £31 10s., Mackinder £16 18s., Hewson £16 16s., Hodgson £13 13s., Dawber £13 13s., Bennett £14 14s., Boynton £50 8s., D. G. Briggs £16 16s., Bennett £10 10s., Sharp £10 10s., Morley £13 2s., W. Wright £18 18s., Hodgson £10 10s., Calvert £16 16s., Parr £29 3s., Law £31 10s., Caswell £14 14s., Sharp £10 10s., Needham £18 7s. 6d., Twidale £14 3s. 6d., Weightman £12 12s., Godfrey £10 10s., Swift £9 9s., Barker £10 10s., Westmoreland £10 10s., R. Houlden £9 9s., Morley £9 9s., Odling £13 13s., Sharp £27 6d., Chapman £7 17s. 6d., Hundleby £7 7s., Halliday £12 12s., Chapman £9 9s., Calvert £14 3s. 6d.

LOUTH SEPTEMBER RAM FAIR.—This fair was held in The Quarry. Mr. John J. Clark's Welton-le-Wold flock of 30 long-woolled rams realised an average of not quite 12 guineas. The plum of the flock made 35 guineas. The Huttoft Grange sheep, the property of Mr. John Louth, Needham, realised an average of nearly 15 guineas, Mr. John Walisby, Kirkham, giving 40 guineas for the plum of the flock. Several others sold at high figures for New Zealand.

MR. CARPENTER'S HAMPSHIRES.—Messrs. Waters, Son, and Rawlence, of Salisbury, sold by auction at Lake Farm, the stock of Mr. Joseph Carpenter. The two-teeth ewes ranged from 110s. (Mr. Newton), down to 54s. per head, at which latter figure, however, only one lot was sold. Mr. Brine, of Gussage, was a purchaser at 71s. The four-teeth ewes from 55s. to 100s. (Mr. Dibben). The six-teeth ewes made from 55s. to 83s. (Mr. Dibben). The ram lambs fetched from 4gs. to 10gs., and one four-teeth ram realised 21gs. The highest price obtained for chilver lambs was 63s., the lowest 34s.; the general run being from 36s. to 48s. The cart horses, of which there were twelve, realised satisfactory prices. A chesnut mare in foal fell to Mr. Read at 75gs.; Mr. Blake gave 70gs. for a black mare in foal; and Mr. Pinkney was the purchaser of a chesnut horse at 74gs. The lowest price 29gs. Two foals fetched 26gs. and 15gs.

MR. GALPIN'S HAMPSHIRES.—At Little Langford, by Messrs. Waters, Son, and Rawlence. The sale commenced with the two-teeth ewes, which reached an average of 56s. 6d. per head, the principal pens falling to Mr. J. Read at 75s., Mr. Newton at 70s., Mr. J. Friend at 66s., Mr. F. Moore at 65s., Mr. Smith at 62s., Mr. Blake at 61s., 58s., 57s., and 55s., and Mr. Andrews at 60s., 51s., and 49s. The four-teeth ewes brought an average of 54s. 6d. each, the chief purchasers being Mr. J. Friend at 64s., Mr. Blake at 64s., Mr. Taunton at 59s., Mr. Tabor at 58s., Mr. Torey at 56s., Mr. Hart at 55s., 54s., and 47s., Mr. Rawlins at 54s., Mr. Andrew at 55s., Mr. Read at 53s, and Mr. Hinxman at 50s. The average of the six-teeth ewes was 58s. 3d., the highest lots being secured Mr. Newon at 81s., Mr. Andrews at 70s., 57s., 54s., and 53s., Mr. F. Moor at 72s, Mr. W. Flower at 66s. and 62s., Mr. T. Parham at 62s., Mr. Blake at 61s., Mr. Torey at 61s. and Mr. Humby at 60s. The full-mouthed ewes averaged 48s. 6d., and the Chilver lambs 39s.

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CAPT. TAYLOR'S DEVONS AND SOUTHDOWNS.—The first periodical sale of pedigree Devons and Southdowns, from the established herd and flock of Captain Taylor, took place at Priesthaws, Westham; Mr. Thornton the auctioneer. Ewes ranged from 40s. to 80s., the rams from 5gs. to 21gs., and the Devon cows and heifers from 15gs. to 28gs. The young bulls sold at 22gs. and 19gs. respectively.

SOUTHDOWN SHEEP AND SUSSEX CATTLE AT SANDGATE.—This annual sale took place at Sandgate, on the estate of Mr. G. C. Carew-Gibson. Twenty lots of ten full-mouthed Southdown ewes sold at from 38s. to 65s. a head. Mr. Botting bought at 65s., Mr. Plummer (Bolney) at 55s., Mr. Dendy (Cuckfield) at 42s., Mr. E. Tomkins at 42s., Mr. J. Tomkins at 40s. (three lots), Mr. Hide (Angmering) at 40s. (four lots) and 38s., Mr. Marsh at 40s., Mr. Page (Perching) at 40s., Mr. Friend Duke at 40s. (three lots) and 38s., and Mr. Sharp and Mr. Howell at 38s. Two lots of ten two-tooth ewes were bought by Mr. Hylton (Upper Beeding) at 52s., and by Mr. Knight at 48s. Two lots of broken-mouthed ewes sold at 32s. and 36s., Mr. Howell being the purchaser. Twelve rams were offered for letting, but there was no demand. Mr. Humphrey (Ashington) hired two at 10 gs. each—No. 2, a four-tooth, by Lord Walsingham's sheep, by Manchester Reserve, and No. 6, a shearling, by Mr. Rigden's sheep, which took second prize at Dorchester, Cardiff, Plymouth, and Hull. There were 22 rams for sale, which found purchasers at from 17 gs. down to 9 gs. A Sussex bull made 37 gs., and 20 Sussex heifers went at prices ranging from 27 gs. to 13 gs.

THE BLENHEIM STOCK SALE.—The sale of live and dead stock, on the Park and Home Farms, which are now let, comprising 1,636 sheep, 90 head of Shorthorn cattle, 64 choice Scotch oxen and heifers, 20 horses and colts, 37 pure-bred Berkshire pigs, and a large and general assortment of agricultural implements. The attendance was very numerous, upwards of 5,000 persons being present. Messrs. Paxton and Castle were the auctioneers, and the sum realised over £8,000.

MR. GAMBLE'S SHORTHORNS, BY MR. WETHERELL.—A portion of Mr. Gamble's herd of Shorthorns was sold at Shouldhamthorpe, Downham, Norfolk. The summer drought affected that part of the country perhaps, more seriously than any other, and told greatly against the condition of the stock; and the absence of any of the Prudence tribe, one of the best of the late Lord Spencer's families, went against the prices, which were generally low. Lot 1, Florest and calf, brought 35 gs.; lot 6, Coral, made 54 gs., and Lady Agony 42 gs.: the others, rising from 20 gs., went up to 33 gs. A young bull, Ould Coral, made 35 gs., but there was no great demand for them. Mr. Brackenbury sold twenty-two head at the same time, which were quite a nice selection, the animals being well-shaped, with good countenance, and several fit to exhibit. They had been principally bred from Mr. Gamble's bulls, for nearly 40 years. A three-year-old heifer went as high as 110 gs.; others made 55 gs., 52 gs., 43 gs., and downwards. The twenty-two head sold realised £929 5s.

SHORTHORNS BY LYTHALL AND CLARKE AT THE MIDLAND COUNTIES REPOSITORY, BIRMINGHAM.—These were from the herds of Messrs. Holbeck, Barnett, Pulley, Upson, Whitehouse, G. Garne, and J. Beckford. The catalogue contained 31 cows and heifers, and 15 bulls. The following are the better prices: Lot 1, Lady Stuart, 53 gs. (G. Garne); lot 4, Hellenor, 35gs. (Robotham); lot 6, Ammonia, 80 gs. (Bennior); lot 7, Lady, Nore Burdett, 52 gs. (Bradburn); lot 13, Helen 30 gs. (Bradburn); lot 14, Miss Moseley, 38s.; lot 22, Maria Stuart. 46 gs. (G. Garne); lot 28, Quality Fogg, 25 gs. (Upson) The bulls made rather lower figures.

MR. C. TIMMIS' SHROPSHIRES.—At the Brick House, Stafford, by Mr. B. Lytham, about 30 shearling and 3 older rams, and 100 ewes. Lord Lichfield took the best, a three-shear ram, at 18 gs., and the average of the rams was close upon 11 gs., while the ewes ranged from 45s. to 92s., resulting in an average of nearly 60s. per head.

SHROPSHIRES IN BINGLEY HALL, BIRMINGHAM, on Thursday, September 17th, by Messrs. Lythall and Clarke.—Mr. E. Lythall's average was 11 gs., Mr. T. Nock's 13 gs., Lord Wenlock's 12 gs. One of Mr. Joseph Pulley's rams, a two-shear, made 27 gs., and a shearling 20 gs. Mr. T. Jowitt's made 26 gs., Earl of Zetland's average was 11 gs.; Mr. Harcourt Griffin's average 13 gs., a two-shear making 43 gs.; Mr. T. J. Mansell's average was 9 gs. Ewes: Mr. Tidy averaged 80s., Mr. B. Long averaged 63s., Mr. I. Jenkins 50s. to 57s., Mr. T. Watson 49s. to 53s., five young stock ewes from Mr. T. Wood, of Grendon, made 168s.

MR. GORRINGE'S SOUTHDOWNS AT KINGSTON-ON-SEA, SUSSEX, BY MR. THORNTON.—The shearling ewes were first offered, and sold at an average of about 55s. Mr. Rigden, Mr. Taylor (Glenbeigh), Mr. Steyning Beard, Mr. Bushby, Mr. F. D. Carew Gibson, Mr. Wemys, were among the buyers. The 90 two-shear ewes topped the average with not quite 3 gs., and fifty of these go to Mons. Bastin, France. The 100 three-shear just exceeded the average of the shearlings, the Rev. J. Goring, Mr. Cane, Mr. Humphrey, and Mr. Biel taking several pens. In the old ewes were some of the best sold, but a few pens going to the butcher reduced the average to 48s. The rams were principally shearlings, and three of these were put up for letting, and two of them taken, Mr. Steyning Beard one at 16 gs., and Messrs. Page, Essex, the other at 10 gs., while Mr. Verrall gave 15 gs. for another. The others ranged from 5 to 16½ gs.; the 29 averaging £11 4s. The sale realised a total of about £1,640.

LONG-WOOLLED RAMS IN EAST YORKSHIRE.—The flock of long-woolled Lincoln rams, the property of Mr. Richard Stephenson, of Hollym, were sold by auction at the Royal Station Hotel Yard, Hull, by Mr. C. B. Stamford, at an average of £8—one half from last year. Mr. Park sold the Ulrome Grange rams, the property of Mr. Boynton, Bridlington, at the same time. The average was £7 10s.

RAMS AT ROTHBURY.—On Thursday, Sept. 17, by Messrs. S. Donkin and Son, nearly four hundred Border Leicesters, shearling rams, half-bred, and Cheviot rams and tup lambs, from the flocks of breeders in the district, were brought to the hammer, and the whole were sold—upwards of 370 lots, nearly all the rams being sold singly—in four hours and seventeen minutes. The financial business was very ably managed by Mr. James Hope, of Felton. The following is a summary of the sale: Messrs. Morrison, average £3 8s. 9d.; S. Langdale, average £3 13s. 10½d.; Thompson, average £5 1s. 9½d.; Cairns, average £6 2s. 7½d.; Davidson, average £5 18s. 3d.; E. Allen, average £3 5s. 10d.; Mrs. Readhead, average £4 4s. 10d.; Messrs. Sproat, average £3 17s. 6d.; Shotton, average £3 15s. 8½d.; Hogg, average £4 7s. 7½d.; Hills, average £5 3s. 3½d.; Common, average £3 4s. 4½d.; Sir W. G. Armstrong, average £3 10s. 6½d.; Messrs. I. Langdale, average £5 17s. 8½d.; T. Allan, average £5 1s. 6d.; Dickman, average £9 3s. 3d.; Angus, average £3 19s. 3½d.; Trevelyan, average £4 17s. 9½d.; Linn, average £3 3s. 4d.; Forster, £3 4s. 6½d.; Dixon, average £6 0s. 10d.; Bonnyman, average £6 10s. 6d.; J. Forster, average £3 6s.; Wealleans, average £3 6s. 8d.; Donkin, average £1 14s.; Riddell, average £1 1s. 6d.—total £1,648 18s. 6d.

EVESHAM RAM FAIR.—The supply of rams was rather in excess of the demand. Messrs. Smith and Righton sold a number of Shropshire Down rams from the flock of Mr. Randell, which averaged about eight guineas, the highest figure reached for a two-shear ram being sixteen guineas. Cotswolds were in force, and those of Mr. Walker, of Compton Abdale, averaged nearly twelve guineas. They were sold by Messrs. Acock and Hanks, of Stow-on-the-Wold. The Cotswolds of Mr. Fletcher, of Shipton, made an average of about eight guineas. The other auctioneers who disposed of rams were Mr. Villa, of Cheltenham, and Mr. Keck, of Shipton-under-Wychwood. Fat stock was scarce, and the trade was improved, beef making 8½d. to 9d., and mutton about the same.

THE LATE MRS. GUY'S SOUTHDOWNS AT HAMSEY, by Mr. H. Morris, of Lewes and Hailsham. Ewes averaged nearly 49s., and lambs were also sold at good a figure, the leading buyers being Mr. S. Leigh, Mr. C. Ellis, Mr. W. H. Taylor, Mr. Turner, Mr. Mills, Mr. Killick, Orted, &c. The following is a summary of the sale of sheep and lambs: Five full-mouthed ewes by Emery rams 43s., five 44s., ten 40s., ten 42s., ten 42s., ten 42s., ten 38s., ten 39s. ten 41s., ten 38s., ten 41s., ten 41s., ten 39s., ten 40s., five 53s., five 52s., five 54s., ten 47s., ten 48s., ten 51s., ten 50s., ten 56s., ten 55s., ten 50s., ten 52s., ten 49s., ten 50s., ten 50s., ten 48s., ten 48s., ten 50s., twelve 48s. Five four-tooth ewes by Emery rams, and rams bred by Mr. Ellis, of Beddingham by an Ellman ram, 58s., five 61s., ten 60s., ten 50s., ten 55s.

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ten 49s., ten 50s., ten 52s., ten 48s., ten 50s., ten 50s., ten 49s., ten 51s., ten 46s., ten 47s., ten 49s., ten 49s. Five two-tooth by Ellis rams, by an Ellman ram, 55s., five 57s., ten 51s., ten 54s., ten 56s., ten 51s., ten 48s., ten 54s., ten 52s., ten 50s., ten 50s., ten 52s., ten 51s., ten 51s., ten 52s., ten 53s., ten 50s., ten 48s. Ten Southdown lambs 34s., ten 27s., ten 32s., ten 34s., ten 33s., ten 31s., ten 27s., ten 32s., ten 34s., ton 33s., ten 31s., ten 27s., ten 32s., ten 29s., ten 26s., twenty 29s., twenty 29s. twenty 28s., twenty 26s. Eleven rams, four full-mouthed, five six-tooths, and two two-tooths, fetched respectively 55s., 53s., 95s., 60s., 52s. 6d., 110s., 6½ gs., 80s., 110s., 65s., and 35s.

PARTNEY GREAT SHEEP FAIR.—There was a large number of sheep in the fair on Friday. Ewes made from £17 to £30 each. Messrs. Mason and Son sold by auction the Huttoft Grange rams, the property of Mr. John Louth, Needham, at an average of over £13. No. 6 was sold to Mr. Bond, of Toynton for 28 gs., who afterwards refused 40 gs. for the same ram to go to Australia. Mr. Hesseltine, of Barton, secured No. 8 for 18 gs. Mr. E. J. Davy, of Tathwell, got No. 20 for the like figure. The flock of Mr. H. F. Kemp, Thurlby Grange, Alford, 44 in number, was then, offered. Mr. Little, of Blyborough, secured No. 4 for 30 gs.. No. 8 18 gs., No. 9 15 gs., No. 10 31 gs., No. 14 12 gs., No. 21 14 gs. Mr. Williams, of Ashby-cum-Tenby, obtained No 12 for 20 gs., and No 17 for 18 gs. Mr. Clark, of Sales by' bought No. 23 for 19 gs. Mr. Wells, of Withern, No. 27 for 15 gs., and No. 33 for 16 gs.

THE RAM FAIR AT LINCOLN.—Mr. T. B. Richardson, auctioneer, Lincoln, sold for Messrs. C. Lister, of Coleby; C. M. Ward, of Washingboro'; and J. R. Ealand, of Aisthorpe, with the following result: Mr. Lister's: Lot 1, Mr. F. Codd, 5½ gs.; 2, Mr. C. Adams, 5½ gs.; 3, Mr. Searson, 5½ gs.; 4, Mr. Pickworth, 7 gs.; 5, Mr. Pickworth, 7 gs.; 6, Mr. Taylor, 5 gs.; 7, Mr. Searson, 5½ gs.; 8, Mr. Taylor, 13½ gs.; 9, Mr. S. Steeper, 6½ gs.; 10, Mr. Ripon, 6½ gs.; 11, Mr. Wright, 8 gs.; 12, Mr. Wray, 12½ gs.; 13, Mr. Gaunt, 7 gs.; 14, Mr. Challens, 5½ gs.; 15, Mr. Ripon, 11½ gs.; 16, Mr. Tunnard, 5½ gs.; 17, Mr. Hales, 5½ gs.; 18, Mr. Tinley, 5½ gs.; 19, Mr. Picker, 11 gs. Mr. C. Ward's: Lot 1, Mr. W. Dixon, 7½ gs.; 2, Mr. Godfrey, 5½ gs.; 3, Mr. Cartwright, 5½ gs.; 4, Mr. Swan, 6½ gs.; 5, Mr. B. Codd, 6½ gs.; 6, Mr. E. Griffin, 9½ gs.; 7, Mr. F. Mawer, 6½ gs.; 8, Mr. Lake, 5½ gs.: 9, Mr. Pickwell, 6½ gs.; 10, Mr. Mawer, 7 gs.; 11, Mr. J. M. Smith, 4½ gs.; 12, Mr. Godfrey, 5 gs.; 13, Mr. Dear, 6½ gs.; 14, Mr. Dear, 5 gs.; 15, Mr. Hurd, 5 gs.; 16, Mr. Dixon, 12 gs. Mr. J. R. Ealand's: Lot 1, Mr. Houldershaw, 5½ gs.; 2, Mr. Swift, 5½ gs.; 3, Mr. Maud, 6 gs.; 4, Mr. J. Coupland, 7½ gs.; 5, Mr. Buxton, 21 gs.; 6, Mr. Harding, 6½ gs.; 7, Mr. B. Codd, 6½ gs.; 8, Mr. Smith, 11½ gs.; 9, Mr. Mawer, 5½ gs.; 10, Mr. Curtis, 8½ gs.; 11, Mr. Sleightholme, 6½ gs.; 12, Mr. Sleightholme, 6½ gs.; 13, Mr. Clarke, 7 gs. Mr. E. Bailey sold 30 of Mr. Morley's, of Leadenham, the prices realised running from 5½ gs. to 14 gs. each. Messrs. Briggs and Son offered 50 shearlings bred by Mr. Paddison, of Ingleby. Mr. C. F. Paddison gave 31 gs. for one, Mr. Wright 28 gs., and Mr. R. Howard and Mr. Evens one each at 20 gs. The whole made £642 12s., or an average of £12 17s. The Messrs. Briggs also sold for Mr. Arthur Garfit, of Scothorne: Mr. Swann secured one for 21 gs., and Mr. Godson one at 17 gs. The lot, consisting of 21 animals, made a total £216 16s. 6d., or an average of £10 6s. 6d. each. The Branston rams of Mr. Marshall were likewise offered by Messrs. Briggs and Son, and they fetched prices ranging from 6 to 10 gs. A dozen of Mr. Walesby's rams (Ranby) realised from 6 gs. to 13½ gs.

THE QUARTLY HERD OF DEVONS AND FLOCK OF EXMOORS.—Near fifty years ago Mr. James Quartly, like his father before him, took to the business of farming and cattle-breeding, and the whole of the stock has been brought under the auctioneer's hammer at Molland, in the wildest district of North Devon, and almost at the foot of Exmoor. The flock of nearly 300 Exmoor sheep formed the first division of the sale, and the chief purchasers were Messrs. Babbage (Southmolton), Yeo (Swymbridge), Hitchcock (Southmolton), and Harris. Of these the largest buyer was Mr. Babbage. There were seventy full-mouthed ewes, in lots of ten each, and these averaged 38s. a head; 29s. was the lowest, and 55s. the highest price. The eighty three-year-old wethers averaged 51s. each—the prices running from 40s. to 60s. The 110 two-year-old wethers brought in an average of 46s. each—the lowest price was 40s. and the highest 57s. each. Fourteen remained unsold. There were ten rams, but one of these having damaged his leg, was not offered. The purchasers of the nine were Mr. Lovelace, who gave 15 gs. for a very handsome one; Messrs. F. Slader (Highbury), Follett (Dulverton), Westacott (Dulverton), Tamlin (Windsor), C. Burdon (Swymbridge), Stranger, and C. Burrington; the average was £9, and the lowest price £4 10s. The total sum realised by the sale of the sheep was £581 13s. There were altogether 70 Devons offered; but the herd seemed hardly to come up to what some had expected, and prices were not so high as was anticipated. Topsy, a six-year-old cow, and whose grandsire was King of the Britons, went to Mr. Tapp, of the adjoining estate of Twitchen, for 29 gs. Of the next best were Dolly Varden, a yearling heifer, whose grandsire was Duke of Flitton IV., and sire, Duke of Devon, and Bertha, a heifer calf, also from the same blood; the former went to Mr. Azariah Smith, Bradford Peverell, for 25 gs., and five less secured Bertha for Mr. Tapp. All but two of the cows and heifers were in calf by Butterfly, Baron, or Bismarck, and their prices varied from 16½ to 29 gs. Peaceful, a decendant of King of the Britons, out of a purchased dam, fetched 22 gs., at which price she was taken to Wales by the the Rev. Mr. Morgan, brother of Lord Tredegar. Flora, calved in 1869, whose grandsire was Garibaldi 844, and sire Trio 941, fetched 24½ gs. from Mr. Pitfield, of Bridport, Dorset. Duchess, of the Baronet 781 stock, was taken by Mr. Yeo, Swimbridge, for 25 gs. Stately, calved in 1871, and got by a bull of Mr. Buller's, went to Mr. Pitfield for 20 gs. Prettymaid, calved in 1871, sire Champion, grandsire Baronet (781), dam Peaceful (2904), became the property of Mr. Jackman, of Hexworthy, Cornwall, for 23 guineas Saunders came with the character of a good breeder, but she was knocked down at 17 gs. to Mr. Pitfield. Buttercup, calved in 1872, sire Young Turk, grandsire Young Ensign, went for 20½ gs. to Mr. Loveband, Bishopsnympton. Princess and Marchioness, both descended from the same stock, were also noticeable, the former went at 19 gs. to Mr. Norton, of Chulmleigh, and the latter to Mr. Hebditch, of Dorset, for 24½ gs. These twenty-nine cows and heifers fetched 579 gs., and averaged about 20 gs. each. The purchasers were Rev. Mr. Morgan, Messrs. Yeo (Swymbridge), Tapp (Twitchen), Pitfield (Bridford), H. Wippell (Alphington), Jackman (Hexworthy), Zelley, A. Wood (Uffculme), Norton (Chulmleigh), Hebditch (Dorset), J. Beedell (Stoodleigh), Tamlin (Windsor), Loveband (Bishopsnympton), W. Shapland (Northmolton), and Loosemore (Plymtree). There were but half-a-dozen heifer yearlings, three of them had for their grandsires Duke of Edinburgh (823), and two of them Duke of Flitton IV. they brought in 77 gs., and averaged 13 gs. each. The purchasers were Messrs. A. Smith, Norton, Tamlin, and Fetherston (Wiveliscombe). The heifer-calves numbered thirteen, and in addition to Bertha, already mentioned, the most noticeable were Dora, by a bull of Mr. Passmore's, bought by Mr. Shapland for 9 gs., and Snow, sire Butterfly, grandsire Champion, which was sold to Mr. J. Milton. The lot realised 102 gs., giving an average of 8 gs. The thirteen were divided between Messrs. Tapp, J. Milton (Wiveliscombe), A. Capel (Wiveliscombe), Timlin, W. Shapland, J. Westcott (Dulverton), and Passmore (Bishopsnympton). The bulls were next brought out. The olders was Butterfly, calved in 1871, sire Champion, grandsire Baronet; he went for 26 gs. to Mr. Hartnoll, Swymbridge. The other bulls were yearlings, Baron by Old England, and Bismarck by Byron; the first was sold to Mr. Tapp for 23 gs., and Bismarck fetched 25 gs. from Mr. King, of Brompton. The three brought in 74 gs. The three bull-calves were—Pickwick, descended from Duke of Flitton IV., 11½ gs. to Mr. Martin, of Molland; Young England bought by Mr. Burdon (Swymbridge) for £13 10s., and Livingstone fetched 15 gs. from Mr. Tazewell (Bridgwater). The sixteen steers brought £322 10s.; the lowest price for a pair was 10 gs., and the highest £50 10s. The disposal of these concluded the cattle sale, which realised altogether £1,242 10s. The horses, sixteen in number, were all bred by Mr. Quartly. The top price was for a five-year-old chesnut gelding up to eighteen stone with the hounds, which was sold to Mr. Bissett, of Anstey, at 85 gs. The total realised by the sale was about £2,300. Mr. Quartly now retires from farming.

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FANCY STOCK SALES.

Within the last few days there have been two or three more than usually noticeable sales of stock; thus on Wednesday, in Leicestershire, where the Shorthorn has driven out the Longhorn, there was a sale of Shorthorns, the average for which exceeded anything on record in this country. As much however, had been anticipated, as immediately after the Duke of Devonshire's sale, at Holker, the same average for the females was, as it is said, offered Mr. Cheney and declined. Then, on Friday there occurred in Radnorshire a sale of Herefords, announced as THE HERD OF WONDERS, and worthy the notice of "the scientific and philanthropic promoters of agricultural progress thoughout the world." On the same day Mr. Marjoribanks' herd of Anglo-Alderneys was offered to people about town who have a fancy for "rich dairy qualities;" while in the previous week the most celebrated breeder of Devons cleared out his reds from the Molland farm, at the very foot of Exmoor. Yet more remarkable is it that none of these different varieties were what is known as show stock. High as he may stand in his own neighbourhood, visitors to the Royal and Western meetings have never heard of Mr. Green as a breeder of Herefords; while Mr. Quartley has for a long season been content to look on and watch Messrs. Davey and Farthing fight out the battles of the North and Somerset Devons. Mr. Marjoribanks, again, though once famous in the Shorthorn ring, has done little more of late than make his mark with a Jersey steer at a local meeting; and the owners of high-bred Shorthorns now rarely deign to exhibit. With fashion and fancy running after them, they can afford to be very much above that sort of thing; whereas the other breeds clearly languish without the incentive of such an advertisement. Mr. Quartley does not show, and his Devons, full of the best blood made merely market prices; heifers and cows of high degree reached, for twenty-nine in number, to an average of barely 20 guineas, and nothing over 30 guineas. But it may be, well though they always stand at our Christmas shows, that the Devons are gradually narrowing their confines and growing out of use. Whereas, the Alderneys, as commonly so distinguished, are fast growing into repute, alike on and off the show-ground. And yet Mr. Marjoribanks had a very bad sale. Bred of course quite regardless of cost from the stock of Mr. Dauncey, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Duncan, and others, the forty-one cows and heifers, sold on Friday, reached to no better average than 34 gs.; whilst the four bulls realised amongst them 107 gs., or about "a pony" a-piece. But the Bushey sale of Jerseys spoke to an experiment, and more directly to the failure of that experiment. "The argument" here offered was that Jerseys should carry beef as well as give milk; and bred altogether from home stock, that is from sire and dam both calved in England, they have under special treatment grown into great coarse animals, sadly wanting many of the fine points of the Jersey, and more properly to be distinguished as the Anglo-Alderney, a whole-coloured or "self-coloured" beast as they call it, more, after the manner of the butcher than the dairy maid. This run, indeed, on greys, duns and fawns, is fast approaching an absurdity; and, as we said when at Mr. Dauncey's sale of seven years since, "the preference for a grey herd has nothing further to recommend it than a fancy, for the lemon and white and other parti-coloured cows from the Channel Islands are quite as good milkers as, if anything, they show more style and breeding than their Quaker-coated sisters." In truth, the Horwood greys were inclined to coarseness, but at the sale Mr. Marjoribanks' bailiff gave the top price, 100 gs., for Landscape, a great lengthy cow, and her produce, as tried by Friday's sale, were scarcely worth rearing. There was a two-year out of her called Landlady, which looked more like a Scotch cross than a Jersey, and sold for 33 gs.; while an elder daughter was worse still, "mere beef," as a connoisseur said turning away in disgust, and she went for 28 gs.; two rather better but sadly coarse going at 37 and 40 gs. There were, no question, a few large handsome cows in the catalogue, which made more money; but the only brisk feature of the sale was for the calves, showing as these did more Jersey character, as so far not developed according to the system adopted at Bushey. But the general business was slow, and so little zest had followed a look through the herd, that one of the early lots was knocked down to Mr. Simpson for 32 gs., having come in from Mr. Duncan a few months back at 87 gs.

We draw two or three conclusions from this sale, as we must admit entirely in accordance with our previous opinions: people who go for beef in Jerseys are very likely to go wrong; there is little or nothing more to be said for greys and fawns than that this is a mere fancy, and to keep to the true type of the Jersey it will be necessary every now and then to have a fresh cross from the Island. Tried by Bushey, your Anglo-Alderney is often going far away from "the guinea stamp." Properly cultivated, however, there is no reason why the Jersey should not in his degree become as fashionable as the Shorthorn; although just now "everybody" would look to want one quite as much as the other. At the great Shorthorn sales of late it has been the outsider who has done so much to make the average, as, without being invidious, a run through the price-lists will show; whilst instead of animals dropping to half or a third of their previous price like the Bradwell cow at Bushey, they still keep increasing in value up to almost any age. Thus, at Underley the other day, Duchess Gwynne, the first lot offered, made at twelve years old 430 gs., having eight years previously been sold at Brampton for 60 gs., and two years subsequently by Mr. Foster for 180 gs. At the same sale Cherry Queen, the highest priced cow at 1,220 gs., goes back to Bolden's Brandy, bought at public auction some twenty years since for 33 gs. At the Holker sale of the same week Musical, sold to Sir William Lawson for 360 gs., was purchased just a year since for 71 gs.; while the Roses of Raby, now the Duke's favourite tribe, are from a cow sold as a calf in 1862 for 76 gs. Oxford 14th was once priced at 20 gs.; while at Mr. Bates' sale in 1850 ten Oxfords reached to an average of under 59 gs.; and now gentlemen who are mere beginners at this business take them readily at thousands. But "with so much money about" something must be done with it, as it is not quite clear why Shorthorn cows or thorough-bred yearlings should monopolise all the best business. For much of this, at least in correction, the outsider is answerable; and, until he ceases to frequent the red Devon or white-faced ring, breeders must be content with such prices as they can affect to pay to each other. Still, if the old Duchess Gwynne, like the nails in the horse-shoe, can double her value every time she comes up to twelve years old, surely a herd possessing so much of the blood of Governess, who bred up to twenty-six years, backed by a bull like Zealous, who is useful at half that age, should have made more money than did Mr. Green's Herefords. But the outsider did not open his cheque book at Knighton, where a large company was composed mainly of men who had been educated in the school, and the sale, though a fairly good one, was not a wonder

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REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE

DURING THE PAST MONTH.

The month of September has been unusually fine and warm, helping to clear up the arrears of harvest in the late districts and the North, where their condition was becoming doubtful from the frequent previous rain, while every kind of field preparation has been facilitated by the changes in the weather. The autumnal sowings seem to have the promise of a good seed-bed at an early period; so the plants will have a fair chance of establishment before the winter. The season, however, turns out to be one of unusual inequality in prices. Wheat, having the best reputation as to its yield, has suffered, as we think, unreasonably, for we have seen quite enough inferior samples to convince us that many a farmer has gone short; nor do we think there has been such an abundance as any where to justify a fall, from this time last year, of 17s. 4d. per qr., as shown by the averages. Why should the public be benefited as much as £2 12s. per annum for every family of four at the farmers' expense of 16s. 10½d. per acre, when the previous rates, considering the poor yield, were very moderate—that is, supposing the present not to exceed 36s. 8d. per acre? In some cases it will doubtless be more, but in others less. A rise of 5s. per qr. on the present low average—47s. 2d.—would only bring it to 52s. 2d.; that would right the growers, and yet give the public a considerable benefit, and we hope the late undue pressure will give place to what seems so equitable and just. Already a reaction has set in throughout France, and as the same reason for it exists here, we hope farmers to the same extent will succeed, and feel confident that as the season advances prices will find about their level. In Hungary there is a feeling of resistance as well as in France, though they certainly have one million quarters to spare for export, whereas England on the average only grows half its consumption. Germany shows the same disposition to resist. Belgium is reviving from the panic, and though Odessa feels it still, prices there were relatively higher than here, and a reaction was certain. After all, we must wait for more accurate returns to know how as a nation we have fared. But it seems something untoward, in an agriculturist's lot, to be threatened in his labour, screwed in his rent, and pressed by public opinion, for a moderately successful growth in his produce. Such a result would be turning an apparent success into a real disaster. The following were the prices recently quoted at the several places named: White Mayenne wheat at Paris 51s., red ditto 48s.; white at Bordeaux 50s.; wheat at Courtrai 50s., at Brussels 50s., at Antwerp 52s., at Liege 50s. 6d., at Maestrecht 50s.; new at Hambro' 50s. c. f. i., at Stettin 44s. f. o. b., at Cologne for November 44s., at Berlin for October 40s.; best new at Danzig 50s., red at Odessa 36s., finest red at Budapesth 48s.; soft white at San Francisco 47s. c. f. i.; spring red at New York 37s. 10d. per 480lbs.

Monday, the 31st August, not being included in last month's review, we call it the 1st of the present month (September). The supply of English Wheat was then moderate, and so were the foreign arrivals. The show of fresh samples on the Essex and Kentish stands was fair, but by no means large. There was therefore no further decline, but the demand was far from active, at the previous Monday's rates. The foreign trade had a more settled appearance, and there was a steady quiet trade at unaltered rates. Cargoes afloat not being numerous, there was no change of value to note. Wheat prices in the country appeared as yet unsettled, but the rates generally realised were about 2s. per qr. higher than the quotations of London. The only change at Liverpool was a decline of 1d. to 2d. per cental on all descriptions of foreign, excepting red spring American. At Edinburgh and Leith values were unaltered, but Glasgow noted a reduction of 1s. per qr. The small business done in wheat at Dublin was at fully former quotations.

On the second Monday there was an increased supply of home-growth, and a considerable arrival of foreign, half being from America and some quantity from Australia. But the number of fresh samples from the near counties being limited, a steady trade was noted at the previous currency for all descriptions of fine English new, there being scarcely a sample of old. Danzic and all descriptions of foreign wheat, with the exception of Southern white, were unaltered in value; the latter being over-plentiful, was 1s. per qr. lower. Cargoes afloat not being numerous were unaltered in value. This week the irregularities of the country wheat trade were brought more to a level, some that had not fallen so heavily yielding to necessity, and others rather recovering from the depression so generally felt. But Liverpool, as if rebuking the London decline in white wheat, advanced for this sort 3d. per cental, with a further rise of 2d. on Friday. Though Edinburgh was steady as to wheat, and Leith firmer, Glasgow again gave way 6d. to 1s. per qr. No change was noted at Dublin, either in English or foreign wheat.

On the third Monday there was rather less English wheat, and the foreign arrivals fell off to one-third of the previous week. Again the show of fresh samples from Kent and Essex was limited, showing more dissatisfaction with London rates. Yet factors did not succeed in obtaining any increase over the previous values, and sales were only slow on those terms. There was, however, a fair foreign demand, especially for good old, at quite the previous currency. Cargoes afloat not being plentiful, prices were fully maintained. The country markets this week were generally steady, but mostly above London rates, not being so subject to the influence of large foreign arrivals. Liverpool on Tuesday noted slow sales, and on Friday there was a decline of 1d. to 2d. per cental on foreign. Edinburgh and Leith noted no change in wheat, but Glasgow this week recovered, and was 1s. dearer. The Dublin trade evinced signs of revival, being firm for both native and foreign qualities.

On the fourth Monday, the supply of home-growth was moderate, and that from abroad considerably reduced. The show of fresh samples on the Essex and Kentish stands was larger than of late, though not heavy. Fine qualities went off steadily at the previous Monday's rates, but inferior were difficult to place without some reduction. The foreign trade was quiet, there being no disposition the part of holders to press sales at any less money. Floating cargoes were unaltered in value.

The imports into London for four weeks were 28,638 qrs. English, 123,561 qrs. foreign wheat, against 31,130 qrs. English, 188,119 qrs. foreign in September, 1873. The London exports were 2,897 qrs., against 24,985 qrs. in 1873. The imports into the United Kingdom for four weeks ending 12th September were 3,613,264 cwts. wheat, 258,897 cwts flour, against 3,439,269 cwts wheat, 325,856 cwts. flour in 1873. The London averages commenced at 53s. 4d., and closed at 48s. 9d. The

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general average opened at 57s. 3d. and closed at 47s. 2d., showing a reduction in four weeks of 10s. 1d. per qr.

The flour trade has been dull and declining ever since 24th August, when the top price of Town-made samples was reduced to 47s., Norfolks with difficulty bringing as much as 35s., and low sorts 32s. Barrels have also fallen to 26s., extra State at New York being only quoted 21s. 7d., and good flour at Paris to 37s. 6d. per sack.

Maize has lately advanced 2s. to 3s. per qr., notwithstanding liberal supplies, prices having previously risen in America, and the crop, being a partial failure at Odessa. In Hungary, &c., flat American has become worth 35s., and round sorts 37s. per qr., but as grinding barley has been gradually declining we scarcely think these high rates will last. The imports into London for four weeks were 72,040 qrs., against 58,846 qrs. in 1873.

Till the month was well advanced the supplies of new barley were scanty, it being too early for the malting season. French qualities were the first to appear, and brought 36s. to 40s., but fell subsequently to about 37s. Our own crop has since been appearing in fair quantities for the time of year, and has brought 44s. to 48s. for fine sorts. Foreign arrivals having lately been more liberal in grinding sorts they have been reduced about 2s. in value, such being procurable at 29s. to 33s. Other pig feed being dear we scarcely expect much lower rates. Fine malting Saale at Hambro' was quoted as high as 51s., cost, freight, and insurance. The imports into London for four weeks were 3,424 qrs. British, 66,189 qrs. foreign, against 1,743 qrs. British, 8,782 qrs. foreign for the same period in 1873.

The malt trade has been very quiet through the month, more especially for old qualities, the new being preferred, its future value must of course be determined by the course of fine barley.

The oat trade has fluctuated with the supplies. The first market being over-charged with a double quantity rates gave way 6d. to 1s. per qr. for all sorts, but as the quantities, though still good, every week were lessened there was a reaction to a similar extent, excepting on the last Monday, when the abundance about placed the market 6d. below its starting price. Fresh 36lbs. Russian sorts closed worth about 25s. 6d., 38lbs. 28s., and 40lbs. 30s., and Swedes in proportion, but the bulk of the supplies has consisted of inferior Russian, and the late long sitting of Parliament greatly kept up the demand. This grain is, therefore, relatively dear, and we fear the general deficiency of the crop, both here and on the Continent, will keep it so all through the season. The imports into London for four weeks were 2,741 qrs. English, 160 qrs. Scotch, 700 qrs. Irish, 816,737 qrs. foreign, against 2,396 qrs. English, 75 qrs. Irish, 241,203 qrs. foreign in 1873.

The bean trade has been rather against buyers all through the month, from the very short stocks in the country and the lightness of the crop, though the quality has turned out very fine. New harrows have become worth 47s. to 48s., and extra fine old to 56s., Egyptian 43s. to 44s., Italian and French 45s. Maize may be a check upon any material advance as well as grinding barley, while Rivett wheat at 43s. may be used for feeding as a cheaper substitute. The imports into London for four weeks were 1,292 qrs. English, 7,307 qrs. foreign, against 1,497 qrs. English, 8,927 qrs. foreign in 1873.

The stock of old peas being limited and the English supplies hitherto small, this pulse has also rather hardened in value—say to the extent of 1s. per qr. There has been a large consumption of old white Canadian as horse food, though as white boilers they have not been in demand; pig-feeding sorts being sent up sparingly have also brought the same advance, duns being worth 44s. to 45s.; maples have become quite a fancy article from their scarcity, and whites have readily sold at 46s. Should the next winter be severe and cause a demand for boilers they would of course be susceptible of a further advance. The imports into London for four weeks were 2,424 qrs. English, 6,390 qrs. foreign, against 2,135 qrs. English, 7,790 qrs. foreign 1873.

The linseed trade, with moderate receipts, has been steady and unaltered all through the month. The imports were 25,495 against 27,251 qrs. in 1873.

In cloverseed but little has been passing, stocks being too limited for speculative purposes, and holders too firm to induce buyers to come forward. Here the crop is considered short, in some parts of France it is reckoned good, but no large transactions have yet taken place, and prices were not settled. Winter Tares have been rather more in demand, at 8s. to 9s. per bushel for fine qualities.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES

For the week ended Sept. 19, 1874.

Wheat	72,524¼	qrs.	46s. 8d.
Barley	36,029¾	,,	42s. 5d.
Oats	5,191¾	,,	27s. 2d.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES.

Years.	WHEAT. Qrs.	s.	d.	BARLEY. Qrs.	s.	d.	OATS. Qrs.	s.	d.
1870	91,811¼	46	6	2[illegible],441¾	36	4	4,749¾	23	9
1871	94,742¾	57	7	5,856¼	35	6	2,979¼	23	6
1872	63 109¾	58	9	5,665¼	37	9	3,096¾	23	6
1873	62,693¾	64	7	14,466¼	45	1	3,094¼	27	5
1874	72,524¼	46	8	36,029¾	42	5	5,191¾	27	2

LONDON AVERAGES.

Wheat	4,849	qrs.	47s. 6d.
Barley	478	,,	43s. 6d.
Oats	—	,,	—s. 0d.

CORN IMPORTED AND EXPORTED

For the week ending Sept. 19.

	Imported into Engl'd.	Scotl'd.	Ireland.	Exported. British.	Foreign
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Wheat	590499	140250	128397	7608	6708
Barley	280440	10500	2420	73	...
Oats	216578	...	...	75	...
Rye	13514	...	...	...	...
Peas	13201	30	...	120	...
Beans	37739	2892	...	...	...
Indian Corn	50975	23299	84914	...	7985
Buckwheat	...	...	...	...	...
Total	1202996	176971	215731	7876	1571
Wheat Flour	80114	34234	500	806	271
Oat Meal	11	...	...	239	...
Rye Meal	2005	...	...	...	...
Pea Meal	...	...	...	8	...
Ind'n Corn Meal	94	...	...	...	2
Total	82224	34234	500	1053	2073
Grand Total	1285220	211205	216231	8929	1677[illegible]
Malt ... qrs.	...	...	...	505	...

CURRENT PRICES OF BRITISH GRAIN AND FLOUR IN MARK LANE.

	Shillings per Quarter			
WHEAT, Essex & Kent, white...new	45	fine	50	
,, ,, red ....new	42	,,	46	
Norfolk, Lincolnsh., and Yorksh., red	43	,,	46	
BARLEY ... 38 to 42 ... Chevalier	40	,,	43	
Grinding ... 33	35 ... Distilling	39	,,	43
MALT, pale, new ... 73	76 ... brown	56	,,	61
RYE		42	,,	44
OATS, English, feed 26 to 33 ... Potato		—		—
Scotch, feed ... 00	00 ... Potato	—		—
Irish, feed, white 25	30 ... Fine	—		—
Ditto, black ... 26	29 ... Potato	—		—
BEANS, Masagan ... 43	45 ... Ticks	43	,,	44
Harrow ... 46	50 ... Pigeon	50	,,	56
PEAS, white, boilers 45	48 Maple 45 to 47 Grey	43	,,	44
FLOUR, per sack of 280lbs., best town households		38	,,	47
Best country households		35	,,	36
Norfolk and Suffolk		30	,,	33

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Engraved by E Hacker

Devon Mary.

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PLATE II.

QUEEN MARY:

A Royal Shorthorn Heifer, the Property of the Rev. R. B. Kennard, of the Rectory, Marnhull, Blandford.

Omnes exsuperans formâ Regina Maria,
Hoc sibi grande decus pulchra juvenca tulit.

Queen Mary, roan, calved July 11, 1872, and bred by Mr. Kennard, at Marnhull, is by Grand Duke of Oxford (28763), out of Queen Ann by Lord Stanley 2nd (26745), her dam Queen Bertha by Maccaroni (24498)—Mildred by Duke of Norfolk (17785)—Moss Rose by Fanatic (17828)—Lily by Lillivick (10421)—Delight by Nelson (4547)—Dahlia by Milton (8315)—Lily by Merlin (2302)—by Midas (435)—by Denton (198).

Grand Duke of Oxford (28763), a roan bred by Lord Braybrooke and calved on May 23rd, 1870, but who early passed into Mr. Kennard's possession, is by Clara's Rose (25784), out of Grand Duchess of Oxford by Seventh Grand Duke (19877), her dam Duchess of Oxford by Rembrandt (13587)—Duchess Nancy by Jasper (11609)—Duchess Nancy by Second Duke of Oxford (9046)—by Second Duke of Northumberland (3646)—by Belvidere (1706)—by son of Second Hubback (2683)—a cow of Mr. Bates', of Kirklevington.

Queen Mary is the winner of the following prizes: In 1873, as a heifer-calf, first prize at the meeting of the Bath and West of England Society at Plymouth, in June; first prize at the meeting of the Royal Counties Society at Southampton, in June; first prize, as yearling heifer, at the Worcestershire Show at Evesham, in August. In 1874, as a yearling heifer, first prize at the meeting of the Bath and West of England Society at Bristol, in June; first prize at the Essex County Show at Stratford, and the Essex Challenge Cup of 100 guineas, as the best Shorthorn in the show, open to the United Kingdom, in June; first prize at the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society at Bedford, in July; first prize at the meeting of the Gloucester Agricultural Society at Tewkesbury, and the Gloucester Challenge Cup of 100 guineas, as the best Shorthorn in the show, open to the United Kingdom, in July.

We thus wrote of this famous heifer at Bristol: "Straight and square, with a beautiful coat, and of good quality, Queen Mary is yet more promising than when she came out at Plymouth in 1873, when we thus spoke of her: 'Mr. Kennard's calf was quite in keeping for good points with the other winners amongst the Shorthorn females, having touch, hair, and style; and she was a long way in advance of the rest of the class.'" At Bedford, speaking of the champion Shorthorn of the time, we said there were some well-merited commendations beyond the prizes in the Shorthorn yearling heifer class, but these were nowhere near the Regina Maria, which has already beaten Telemachus, Vivandière, Victoria Victrix, Lord Godolphin, and Baroness Conyers on their merits.

THE WINTER SESSION.

A polite refresher from Piccadilly serves not only to remind members who wish to see the next Smithfield show that they should pay up their subscriptions, but, even further, that Christmas is coming and both town and country getting back to London. By the last day in October or the first Monday in November the entries close for Birmingham and Islington, as some other more local meetings will reckon up the strength of their classes much about the same time. The Council of the Smithfield Club will again decline to receive any animal which has been exhibited about the country within a month of its arrival at the Agricultural Hall; but there is a very attractive provincial tour open to any star who may not care to tread the London boards. Thus, he may open at Manchester, and shirking the last day at the Pomona Palace, travel on for a next appearance at Oakham, while he may wind up one week and draw a deal of company during the next in Birmingham. After a few days' welcome rest he shall turn up again at Leeds, and in due course get through the labours of a month or so at Newcastle on this side of the Border or in Edinburgh on the other. Verily, the life of a prize beast is not all mangel and cake. During the earlier part of this same period a number of now concomitant root shows will be held, such as Sutton's Royal in Reading, Carter's Royal in London, King's at Coggeshall, and Webb's at Wordsley;

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while on the last day of October the entries will also close for the Farm Prizes of Somersetshire, as offered by the Royal Agricultural Society, and extending to no less than three classes—Hill Farms, Dairy Farms, and other Farms.

This, however, is somewhat in anticipation, for life in London really begins again with the discussions of The Farmers' Club, and the consideration of a paper by Mr. James Howard on OUR VILLAGES: THEIR SANITARY REFORM. There is certainly a smack of novelty about this subject, which may afford us a look at the labourer in another light. The main topic of the Autumn meetings, the more especially as taken up by the landlords, has been the working-man's case, and wearisome enough has this become; but as a question of health there is every opportunity of doing a deal more to develope an Englishman's love for *sweet* home. On the Tuesday the meeting of the Central Chamber of Agriculture will follow; and on the Wednesday that of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society in Hanover-square, when it is possible that something more may be heard of the suggestions offered on Bedford race-course, more particularly perhaps as regards the appointment of judges.

The Chamber Council has thrown out a series of questions, which promise to lead to an almost interminable discussion. They run thus: 1. Is an entire re-organisation of our road system in England, including the management and maintenance of turnpikes and highways desirable? 2. Is a re-classification of all roads needed? 3. How many different classes of roads should be established under a new system? 4. How should the funds be raised, and from what sources, for the maintenance of each class of road? 5. What should be the constitution of the governing body of the whole, or of any one class of roads? Unlike our villages, our highways are getting very worn, as apparently commanding less and less interest. At the meeting of the new Bucks Chamber in Aylesbury the other day there were not more than half a dozen people present, even with two papers read, and no resolution arrived at; although the opening address from the chairman "had the help of one of the members of the present Government. Mr. Sclater Booth." Still, this half-dozen "House" at Aylesbury was by no means unanimous as to what was best to be done, no more than the dozen or so which at the call of the East Suffolk Chamber made up a meeting at Ipswich. It was here decided by five to four not to answer the questions put by the Central Chamber, and by seven to three that "it will be necessary to understand what will be the tendency of future legislation," or, in other words, as a rider ran, "what is the opinion of the Government." This cannot count for much, if the people with a grievance have no opinion of their own to put forward. Then, in West Suffolk on Wednesday, nine *versus* three decided against the proposal for appointing a general inspector, half the meeting having apparently gone away before the business was over; while at York, on Thursday a company of just a dozen was very nicely balanced, six going for and six against two classes of roads; although at Peterborough they ask for *three*. The Committee, at least, of the Leicestershire Chamber has adopted a more decisive course, and the following replies to the Central circular were put into our hands during the past week: 1. That it is desirable to re-organise the system of highway management in so far as making the Highway Act of 1862 and 1864 compulsory, and to include the whole management of the turnpikes by the District Highway Boards. 2. Only so far as implied by the answers to the first and third questions. 3. Two. 4. As at present for the highway, but all roads that have been turnpikes should be assisted to the amount of one-half of the expense of repairs from the Consolidated Funds, and the other half from the common fund of the highway district. 5. Highway Boards. It is only right to say that a leading member of another Chamber objected to the "system" recommended here so soon as he heard of it; but the general meeting in Leicester on Saturday went very much with the Committee. Whatever may be the nature of any further answers received, the Central Chamber should encounter at its next meeting even more than the ordinary difficulty in framing and carrying a resolution. The catechism put forth does not so far seem to have done much to further such an object; as the discussions have been attended with continual divisions, and the meetings pretty generally small, tame, and forced. By far the most telling discussion has been that held at Norwich on Saturday, when, at the instance of Mr. Sewell Read, another important demonstration was made in favour of the establishment of County Boards, as distinguished from Quarter Sessions' or mere magistrates' business.

THE AGRICULTURE OF DENMARK.

Between Denmark and this country there existed in early times the most intimate relations, but the causes which led to the migration of the people from these northern latitudes can only faintly be discerned. The submersion of considerable tracts of land by the overflow of the waters around the shores of the Baltic, followed by the distress of the inhabitants, was probably in operation; as the same combination of causes has since driven the Anglo-Saxon race to people America and Australia. From our Scandinavian ancestors much that is practical, energetic, and good in the English and Scotch character has been inherited; and the community of feeling that ought to subsist between kindred races has been happily strengthened by the union of the Heir Apparent to the British throne with one of the Princesses of Denmark. The existence of steam power has made one of the most disjointed kingdoms in Europe the most compact, and the facilities for transporting produce to London and our manufacturing districts has practically added another county to England. All the islands and the towns on the Baltic side of the peninsula have thereby been connected with each other and with the capital. Along the northern coast for an extent of nearly three hundred miles, which could not be approached by sailing vessels of any ordinary size, owing to sand-banks and the want of harbours, steam has restored to navigation the only advantage which the ancient mariners in their small vessels with sails and oars had over the modern.

The capabilities of the country are essentially agricultural. It has no minerals, no water power, from the want of running streams, no fuel for steam-power, no trade or manufactures, except for the supply of its own agricultural population. In all these respects the natural capabilities of Denmark stand out in strange contrast to England. The great progress made everywhere of late years in the science of agriculture has extended to this country, and its productive resources continue from year to year to develope. Its corn production especially has greatly increased. The prominence given to the dairy in all agricultural operations, whether upon the large or the smallest scale, denote the excess of

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grain beyond the wants of the inhabitants. The large dairy farms and baronial estates are almost confined to the coast-side land along the Baltic, and the rest of the country is in the hands of small proprietors. Here we find that the tendency to the division of land into portions too small to afford the owner a civilised subsistence is counteracted by causes which do not exist in France and Belgium. There are certain natural seasons in operation: the shortness of the spring season prevents spade husbandry; the want of any building material that is cheap and on the spot, and the severity of the winter requiring substantial houses for all kinds of stock and crops. The fuel also, peat, although cheaper than wood, costs something, and a piece of land without a peat moss, or a privilege in a moss, would be untenable if it were too small to yield any but a bare subsistence. Amongst even the lowest of the labouring classes, the high standard of education induces a high standard of living as regards food and lodging; the tendency therefore of the peasantry is to augment, not to divide and diminish their land; and it is not at all an uncommon thing for them to club together and purchase crown lands or other estates, and then divide the property amongst themselves according to their share in the purchase.

Agriculture and cattle rearing are the chief pursuit and staple wealth of the country, and whilst the productive power of the land has extended, the principal market for the agricultural produce is Great Britain, other countries receiving but little in comparison with ourselves. The yearly average export of corn for British account may be calculated at about 1,319,000 imperial quarters, or nearly the whole of the surplus cereal harvest; of this quantity about half is barley, which is much liked in England for malting purposes. Danish butter also commands a good price in the English and Scotch markets, especially the latter, for the Leith market prices depend much on the supplies from Denmark. The produce of agriculture in 1872 was greater than in any preceding year. The export of corn, of which the largest proportion consisted of barley, amounted to 3,691,730 tonder, or 1,000,000 more than the average shipments of the foregoing seven years. The export of flour showed also an increase of 52,000 barrels. The export of horned cattle was very great; it amounted to 45,984 head, against 37,086 in 1864-71. Sheep to the number of 17,313 were exported, which is about three times above the average of the same period. The fattening and rearing of pigs had increased, and the numbers exported were 111,637, compared with the annual average of only 25,843. In 1872 there were 101,284 barrels of butter exported, compared with an average export of 47,360 barrels. The net value of the agricultural produce amounted to 51,250,000 rix-dollars, whilst the average value of the previous seven years amounted to 23,000,000 rix-dollars, which shows an increase of 18,250,000 rix-dollars. Of the total amount, 27¾ millions of rix-dollars is obtained from the export of cereals, which had increased by 8,500,000 rix-dollars, and 23½ millions of rix-dollars from the export of cattle and their produce, which had increased more than 10,000,000. Of the latter amount 8,000,000 relates to the export of butter, 6,500,000 to that of horned cattle, more than 3¾ millions of pounds to that of pigs, 2,500,000 to horses, and 2,500,000 to pork and butchers' meat.

The efforts of the Danish agriculturist have hitherto been chiefly directed to the cultivation of corn and cattle rearing, but at present the tendency is to decrease their cereal and increase their dairy produce and live stock, as being likely to yield a steady return. The potato has been grown chiefly for home consumption and for cattle fodder, and the frequent appearance of the disease has led the Danes to depend less upon it than other agricultural produce; the yearly sowings are about 400,000 barrels. Considerable quantities of rapeseed are pressed for oil and the cake used for cattle-feeding, but as it is in this climate a difficult plant to rear and often fails, no effort is made to extend its cultivation. Linseed, hemp, and hops are grown to some extent; but their quantities are unimportant. Cattle-breeding is greatly improved, and more importance is now attached to the increase of good stocks, both from native and foreign breeds. The fodder question had also occupied the attention of the agriculturist, and the import of oilcake is increasing; during the year 1864-5 7,500,000 lbs. above the import were exported, whereas during 1872 6,000,000 lbs. oilcake above the export were imported. The result has shown itself in the increase of the export of cattle, pigs and butter. In dairy produce much improvement had also been made, the cold-water method gaining ground. A dairy with the accessory of ice had been successfully constructed, being the first of its kind introduced into the country. The production of butter in sealed tins for Transatlantic consumption has been largely taken up. Danish butter has even found its way to the Egyptian markets. The use of artificial manure has also increased: 12,500,000 lbs. were imported in 1872 against 8¾ millions of pounds in 1871, and that of natural manure increased from 14,000,000 to 21,000,000 lbs. in the latter year.

The conclusion to be drawn from all these facts is that very remarkable activity is noticeable in the agricultural operations of the little kingdom of Denmark; whilst the increased facilities for communication by land and water has naturally increased the value of all Danish produce. The port of Aarhuus has become the chief place of export for cattle and agricultural produce to Great Britain. In 1865, after the cessation of the war with Germany, there arose a desire among the merchants at the capital and throughout Jutland to export the agricultural produce of the province and its live stock direct to England, on a larger scale than had hitherto been practised, the greater portion of this traffic having, previous to the war, been effected through Hamburg and other Holstein ports. The English shipowners were induced to run some of their steamers, and a direct communication with Great Britain was commenced both by steam and sailing vessels. Since then the number employed has somewhat decreased, owing to the Danes themselves having taken a share in this carrying traffic. The trade itself has, however, continued to increase; next to Copenhagen Aarhuus carries on the largest commerce with Great Britain.

THE MODERN MARIUS.—On the face of it Mr. Clare Read was appropriately placed as Secretary to the Local Government Board, or no doubt he must have been born a poor-law guardian. Somehow, after he was in office, he seemed to have a pensive—nay, lugubrious—look, and he accounted for this in a speech to his constituents a few days since. It seems that he likes official duties well enough, but even in regard to them his expression was not hearty, whereas he uttered a melancholy jeremiad on what may be called his corporate Ministerial duties. He is sorely tried by those functions of subordinate officials which are more imperative than those of their immediate offices—namely, those of making a house and keeping a house from four o'clock one day to any hour the next morning. Certainly, sometimes when he has been sitting on the Treasury bench deep in the small hours his attitude and demeanour and expression of face were somehow suggestive of Marius amidst the ruins of Carthage. No doubt he has often heard "bright chanticleer proclaim the morn" with pleasure, but then he had not to sit up all night to meet the cheerful bird. He is a representative man in the Administration, and it is to be hoped that he will be able to mould himself to the discomforts which he deplores.—*The Illustrated News.*

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THE 12TH CLAUSE.

There can be no question but that the farmers as a body have long since ceased to take much interest in the new Parliament. They lost heart, for they felt they had been thrown over; as perhaps the best evidence of this has been the tone of indifference which has pretty generally characterised the autumn gatherings—"their tameness is shocking to see." As the Session passed away the agriculturist only saw day by day more clearly how remote was the chance of his ever having a hearing. And yet this is all his own fault, as he has just been coolly told by a large landed proprietor at a meeting in Nottinghamshire—"the farmers now had more power than the landlords; the present Parliament, so far as the county constituencies went, was elected under the ballot, and it was really the tenant farmers who had made the opposition to the 12th clause of the Tenant-Right Bill so strong." This is tolerably plain speaking; and henceforth, if the farmer should ever think it worth while to grumble again about no attention being paid to his case, he may expect to hear in answer from some sympathising landlord how "he did it himself—he voted by ballot—why did he not vote for somebody who would do what he wanted?" And Mr. Nevile, the Nottinghamshire landlord, said so much anent Mr. Sewell Read's declaration that "there were not twenty men in the House of Commons who would pass the 12th clause." And as Mr. Nevile quoted Mr. Read no further, such a statement standing alone sounds sufficiently alarming; but in common fairness Mr. Nevile should have gone on to show that Mr. Read himself is one of this miserable minority, as he "would not cross a room to support any measure from which the 12th clause was struck out." Thus, Mr. Nevile and Mr. Read are as directly at issue over this business, when their relative positions are looked to, as it is possible for any two men to be.

Mr. Nevile, indeed, some time since delivered himself of a lengthy address, the text of which was Freedom of Contract; just as Lord Fortescue at Exeter, on only Friday last, was "opposed to legislative interference in this matter. It was very undesirable indeed, where it could be helped, to interfere with the discretion of adults, who ought to look after their own interests. *Prima facie* all interference with liberty of contract and agreement was in itself an evil which required to be counterbalanced by some very clear and decided advantage. Such interference with the liberty of the subject had a debilitating influence on the character of the people who were thus held in leading-strings," and so on. As has been shown over and over again, the Legislature is continually interfering with freedom of contract, as the phrase goes, and dictating with every advantage the terms upon which the strong man shall deal with the weak, the employer with the employed, the master with the apprentice, the buyer with the seller. As to the imperative necessity under the altered circumstances of agriculture for some improvement in the relations between the owners and occupiers of land, it is only to be hoped that for the sake of the public Lord Fortescue and Mr. Nevile are prepared to admit so much; while as to such interference here conducing to any moral debility amongst the people whose interests are thus protected, we must hold to precisely the contrary proposition.

When some years since The Farmers' Club strung together a series of reasons for making the Tenant-Right principle general in its action, it declared emphatically that "uncertainty impedes energy, and justice made subservient to caprice is no justice at all, as it assumes the power of might rather than the claim of right." And without the 12th clause justice will still be dependent on caprice or something worse. The Devonshire Chamber of Agriculture passed a resolution much in accordance with Lord Fortescue's views—viz., that the landowner should be answerable for compensation or not, just as he pleased to rule it; and in the same week at a meeting of the Devon and Cornwall Chamber of Agriculture, the following proposal was unanimously adopted: "That the present position of agriculture and the general welfare of the country require early legislation respecting the tenure and occupation of land. That legislation for the purpose of protecting the landlord's property and the tenant's capital should be compulsory excepting in cases where they are mutually and fully protected by lease or agreement." This is about the most straightforward demonstration made for a long day, representing as it really does the opinions of the farmers themselves, when uninfluenced by others. And it is for this the farmers and their friends—if they have any—must harden their hearts to go; for as Mr. Snell, who moved the resolution, said, "a permissive bill would not be worth the paper it was printed on, but be a snare, a mockery, and a delusion." Just as Mr. John Fowler said under the Chiltern hills on Wednesday, "without the 12th clause being carried any bill which Government might bring forward on the question would be utterly useless and of not the least benefit to the tenant-farmer;" or as Mr. Sewell Read puts it, "not worth crossing a room to support." But already the farmers do not quite stand alone, for at Retford Mr. Foljambe, the chairman of the meeting, a large landowner in the county, and, moreover, a member of the House of Commons, declared in opposition to Mr. Neville, that "he disliked permissive bills, and he thought that any measure should apply to all alike, and be equally binding on all. To take any other course would be unfair." With this before him Mr. Read may begin to count his minority over again.

We said in the outset that the farmers have lost heart and have no faith in the new Parliament; but Mr. Read now explains how he has been, if not openly, still quietly furthering the interests of agriculture by "losing no opportunity of insisting that compensation to tenants for unexhausted improvements ought to be embraced in a measure next session." But Mr. Read says more than this, and on Friday, just when Lord Fortescue and the Devonshire Chamber were fiddling over freedom of contract, Mr. Sewell Read, as something of a corollary on what he himself had been trying to do while in office, told his constituents in Norfolk that "Her Majesty's Government is quite prepared to do justice to the tenant-farmers of England." Coming from such a quarter these are memorable words, affording the promise they do that the tenant-farmer member may still be able to fulfil his mission; although it is already sufficiently palpable that the principle of the 12th clause will be his great difficulty.

THE LATE MR. SAMUEL DRUCE.—At the general meeting of the Oxfordshire Agricultural Society the president, Lord Jersey, proposed the following resolution, which was carried unanimously: "That the Society expresses its deep regret at the loss by death during the past year of Mr. Samuel Druce, who had long been an active member and exhibitor, and begs to offer its sincere condolence to Mrs. Druce on the bereavement she has sustained."

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SUCCESS TO AGRICULTURE.

SUCCESS TO AGRICULTURE! The noble chairman or some honourable gentleman has of late been giving this nearly all over the country as one of the toasts of the evening. Not, however, that much has often come of it. The interests of all are identical, and the best thing to do will be to go on pretty much as we have been, relying on and encouraging the mutual good feeling between landlord and tenant and tenant and labourer. Thus, at Braxted the other day Colonel Brise declared "the three must sink or swim together;" and, further, that it would never do for the farmers to go and complain how "in the present state of farming we only get a very precarious livelihood." But here is one of the most awkward facts of the present state, or of going on as we have gone. If agriculture is to advance, under the present state of things the enterprising tenant is in a most *precarious* condition, as there is no other word for it than that which Colonel Brise employs. If he spends his money freely, often enough, perhaps, in doing that which was more a duty of the owner than of the occupier, the farmer does not know whether he shall have the time or the right to see his own again. And yet an agricultural member would not be inclined to make any alteration in this present state of farming. For two reasons Colonel Brise would certainly not support any measure which would enable owners and heirs to entailed estates to raise money for farming: "In the first place I have much too great respect for the British farmer—I look upon him as the backbone of the country; and, in the second place, I have too much sympathy with owners and heirs of entailed estates; and, moreover, I am quite sure that if they ventured their money on farming the heirs would never see anything of it again." These two reasons are virtually one, the assumption being that if a landowner raised money for improving, that is, for putting his estate in a better condition for cultivation, he must take to farming it himself. This is, so far as we remember, the first time we ever knew the question put in such a way, as it is certainly not the general opinion of what should be sought or follow from any amendment in the law of entail. If the owner were permitted to grant more and do more, this privilege would naturally prove mutually advantageous to himself and his tenants, as they would make more of the property, and he in due course have a better rent-roll. Or, if we even confine any better state of things to that which would affect only the landlord himself, we may say with a Hereford correspondent of last week, "I never go into Radnorshire without thinking that a Landlord-Right is as much wanted as a Tenant-Right. The sides of the hills that are too steep to cultivate would carry larch trees to an enormous amount; but how can limited owners go to the expense of planting them when they would all go to the heir-at-law?" Will Colonel Brise ponder over this query? that is, if he should not have so strong a sympathy with owners and heirs of entailed estates as to prevent him, as a member of the House of Commons, supporting any measure which would give these gentlemen larger incomes.

SUCCESS TO AGRICULTURE! "The interest of the tenant was bound up in that of the landlord." This is not very definite, although liberally interpreted it may perhaps be made to stand good for Tenant-Right, the adjustment of the Game evil, and so forth. But just when Colonel Brise was saying so much in Essex a tenant, who was leaving his occupation in the neighbouring county of Suffolk, said at his sale luncheon, distinguishing the employer's and the labourers' interest from that of the landlord, how "They all knew very well that if a thousand acres were cultivated by one man, he would employ more labour than six men farming the same extent of land. Therefore, it was to the capitalist that the labourer would have to look for the improvement of his condition; and he did not think the labourers would get that improvement unless they got some one to represent them in Parliament who would give them a just Tenant-Right Bill. He did not leave the farm with the slightest amount of regret. He had only been there six years it is true, but they had been six years of annoyance, because he had not been able to get on well with his landlord. He went on four or five years and put up with a very great deal; at last his landlord so grossly insulted him that he told him it would be best for them to cease their relationship as landlord and tenant. If he had been in the position of some tenants he should have had to leave the farm at a very great sacrifice, but his professional ability enabled him to take care of himself, and he had done it." Somehow or other this does not run very well with that identity of interest and mutual good feeling of which we hear so much as touching on the toast of the evening.

SUCCESS TO AGRICULTURE! At this same Braxted dinner, where they talked about everything in a mild pleasant sort of way, from Mr. Mechi and his balance-sheet to compulsory education, another county member, Mr. Round, spoke to the great satisfaction with which every occupier and householder would regard what the present Government had done over local taxation. Mr. Round says nothing as to the landlord's satisfaction, although many people are apt to regard the movement over local taxation as far more a landlord's business than that of an occupier, being, as it is, mainly a matter of adjustment between rates and rent. Still, if Mr. Round be really in earnest as to what the occupier, or, in other words, the farmer, is to gather from this pet movement on the part of the County Party, he would do well to study this extract from a letter in *The Salisbury Journal* on the "unequal incidence," as the honourable gentleman himself phrases it, between the taxation of landlord and tenant: "Let a calculation, in round figures, be made of the comparative taxation of the tenant and of the landlord respectively, on the devolution of properties from, say, parent to child, on the death of the former. In regard to the tenant-farmer's stock there would be on intestacy £75 administration and £25 legacy duty—*i. e.*, £100 to be immediately provided, or at the rate of £4 per cent. In regard to the estate, succession duty, payable only by half-yearly instalments of about £6 for eight half-years, commencing one year after the right of the successor to possession, making a total of about £48, or at the rate of something like nine shillings and sixpence per cent.; assuming the succession to devolve on the average of the four ages of 25, 35, 45, and 55, at which the estate would be respectively valued as an annuity worth 17, 16, 14, and 11 years' purchase, giving an average of 14½ years' purchase, say £4,857, on which, at one per cent., the duty is, say, £48 10s. These ages are merely given as being those at which a succession might be fairly assumed as most likely to take place. Here, then, we have tenant-farmers taxed on their stock devolving from parent to child in case of intestacy, at about double for property worth one-quarter, or, in short, at about eight times the rate per cent. charged to the landowner." And so forth. Of course something of this has been heard of before; but

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as it seems to us, if the agitation over local taxation be really anything more than a landlords' cry, the "unequal incidence" between the two classes should be amongst the first things looked into, more especially as the injustice could be remedied at little inconvenience. If people will talk farmers' politics they should talk them out.

PRIZE FARMING.

Seldom is it that the caricaturist points his pencil at the pursuits of agriculture; or, if so, his aim is still, as often as not, taken after the good old flint-and-steel fashion: a stout gentleman in a superfine blue coat, white cords, and top-boots, is sketched as the British farmer of 'seventy-four going about his business. Whereas we have got far beyond any such an era in the annals of the art, and were we called on to suggest a subject it might be something of this kind: a stranger in a hack-fly come to a stand-still on a bad wooly road, by the side of a gate-way wanting a post, and with a rough, untrimmed hedge blocking out the view. In his difficulty the visitor asks of an intelligent youth whether they are going right for the prize farm? "Why this *oe* the R'yal prize farm," replies the crow-keeper; "you jist stan' up in your carriage and you can see it—theere, where that 'ere broken-backed hay-rick be blazing away like fun!" A print of this pattern would sell, say in Bedfordshire, or it might very fitly appear as an illustration to the next number of the Royal Agricultural Society's *Journal*. Prize-farming, in fact, is fast becoming the feature of the day, as no movement promises to be more serviceable, especially when the awards are accompanied by full and able reports; and no report will be looked to with more interest than that in which the Bedfordshire judges will show the grounds upon which they arrived at their conclusions. There are people who have maintained from the first that these decisions were based upon wrong principles; that the views taken of what really prize farming should be at this time of day were narrow and small; that it is not the man who can hold the most corn who is doing the best by the land, and so forth—points which no doubt the judges will take up in turn, and so soothe down the dismay of that Wednesday morning's deputation as they bumped over the roads, admired the blooming thistles, and scented from afar off the heated haystack.

There has lately been issued a report on the prize-farming of the Banffshire Agricultural Society—a report which for fidelity is something of a photograph, or, perhaps more properly, an inventory. The homesteads are entered with all the minutiæ of a sale catalogue, and every operation on the farm is as carefully posted up; there is not much criticism attempted or comparison drawn, but a deal of information is conveyed on the authority of an official investigation as to the best systems of farming in a very adventurous part of Scotland. Turning to another remote part of the United Kingdom we have in this day's number got together a deal of talk on the farming of Wales, headed as this is by a report on the prize-farms of Denbighshire and Flintshire. And the inspector, as the single judge is termed, has done his work well; for brief though as is the story of his travels, it abounds with useful matter in the way of information and example. Thus, on a model Welsh farm, house-feeding is very largely followed; no hay or straw is sold; all field work, either by horses or hand, is done by piece, as a bonus is given for rearing lambs and poultry. And here the inspector intervenes with an emphatic commentary: "This system is worthy of more thought from farmers than it yet obtains. Wherever it can be applied it must be the fairest way of rewarding skill and industry in the labourer, and of stimulating and sustaining him in his efforts to rise both socially and morally, and by adopting it the farmer must get equal value in labour for his wages, and have his work done more quickly and equally well, with proper supervision. Major Hughes says the plan works admirably." Here, again, is something of what the small farmers in Wales are doing, as testified by Mr. Rigby: "One has eradicated 1,850 yards of old fences on a farm of 227 acres, and has reclaimed upwards of five acres of land by grubbing up tree-roots and filling up ditches, and has planted 628 yards of new fences. Another, on a farm of 200 acres, has done even more work of a similar character, and has also made a new road of considerable length, re-formed a stackyard at great cost to reduce labour, built a stone wall 100 yards long, and expended a considerable sum on improvement of farm-house. A third has gutted his farm of all its old fences, re-formed its fields into the most suitable size for convenience by planting nearly 6½ miles of new fences, his landlord giving quicks and providing substantial rail fences for their protection." They have trimmed their fences, made new roads, improved the farm-houses, and reformed the stack-yards. Why these same small Welsh farmers, though they did not win prizes, might fairly offer example to the crack farmers of Bedfordshire, provided only that they took care to make the stack-yards fire-proof. Then, they have good implements, have planted steam engines, use artificials, and "one of the best fields of wheat I have seen this year." Bravo, Cymro! But at Ruthin the prize agreement scarcely runs up to this form—as for some reason or other a prize agreement is seldom worth much—and this is studded with such big blots as a six-month's notice, a clause compelling the tenant to do so many days' carting for his landlord in proportion to the rent paid, and other such obsolete enactments, which no judge should pass in a prize paper.

Turning again to the North we give the inspectors' report as just published, on the prize farming of Westmoreland and Kendal, wherein the judges boldly declare that some "enterprising and industrious tenants appear to receive too little encouragement from their landlords, and had at their own cost effected what are really landlord's improvements." They speak further to the excellence of the permanent grass land; and, on the other side, of their "surprise at finding in various parts of the district considerable tracts of wet boggy land still unreclaimed, but which by drainage and judicious dressing might be turned at comparatively little cost into valuable stock-rearing land." On only the day previous to the date of this report Mr. Rothschild referred at Aylesbury to "the loose statements about waste lands," and how "these waste lands were said to be held by the landlords and kept out of cultivation for their own purposes." At any rate there is clearly a deal of waste land in Westmoreland; while a nobleman has just become the tenant of a farm of between two and three thousand acres in Suffolk—not exactly waste land, entirely for his "own purposes"—that is, the preservation of game. By the way, the award of some prizes for farms has been made during the week in that same game-ridden county of Suffolk, but no report was presented, and the conditions are objectionable, as a man must win three times over before he can receive any tangible reward. Under such a system as this the thing would soon wear itself

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out; whereas, with handsome premiums readily paid over, there is nothing promises to work better or to do more to spread information and advance agriculture than the principle of prize-farming, which, if not introduced, has been brought so prominently into notice by the Royal Agricultural Society.

AUXILIARY FOODS.

By the Northern Farmer.

No. I.

The word auxiliary, when used in reference to food for live stock, is a most comprehensive term, embracing, as it does, first of all, a considerable variety of crops grown on the farm, and for the most part highly forced, so as to secure as large a quantity as possible of rich succulent food; thus aiding the pastures and enabling the farmer to keep a heavy stock of animals, and yet have an extensive breadth of corn every year. Under an enlightened and liberal system of husbandry, such crops are not permitted to interfere with the fixed course of cropping carried out on the farm, but are grown wholly during the period which elapses from the clearing of the corn crops in autumn and the preparatory operations for turnip-sowing in the ensuing spring and early summer. By liberal treatment in the application of stimulating manures, a vigorous growth is induced, and an enormous quantity of food is obtained from land which would otherwise have been fallow. The plants being cut in any case before seeding, the resources of the soil are not in the slightest degree impaired, and the standard crop of the rotation which succeeds as the land is cleared is actually benefited, if the cultural operations have been carefully attended to. Crops thus grown are strictly supplementary, and are principally used in the house for a morning and evening feed; as, for instance, with dairy stock, in sheds or yards with store cattle, or simply thrown on the pastures, to be consumed by the general stock of the farm. Food used in this way tends largely to forward the interests and material prosperity of the farmer, his animals being improved in condition and amount of produce, his fields are continually top-dressed with substantial manure, and the home supply of the latter becomes after a few years so abundant as in a great measure to preclude the necessity of purchasing bulky manures, the mere saving in the expense of carriage being an item well worth looking after. The latter becomes distinctly noticeable in about five years if auxiliary crops have been extensively and regularly grown, and every known method of fertilising the soil persisted in during that time. It is of course premised that the farmer possesses sufficient capital for the extent of his holding, and that he has the spirit to spend it, and is protected by liberal covenants in so doing, either of these qualifications absent, the most absorbing enthusiasm, combined with the most slavish industry on his part, will fail to command success. In the catalogue of auxiliary foods available to the farmer, there is also included a large number of feeding substances in a concentrated form, consisting principally of oleaginous cakes, specially manufactured for stock-feeding purposes, immense quantities of the various kinds being imported ready for use, the seeds also being imported and crushed in England. Thus the farmer may purchase Canadian cake, as manufactured in Canada, and shipped to this country ready for distribution to the consumer. East Indian linseed-cake is another well-known designation; this cake not however, as its name might seem to imply, being imported in the form it reaches the farmer, the seeds only coming direct from the country of their growth, and afterwards manufactured in the United States, England, and several other countries. Decorticated cotton-cake, another excellent feeding substance, is solely prepared in New Orleans, and largely imported into Great Britain of late years, while the undecorticated is made in England from American, Egyptian, and Indian seeds. The whole of these substances, which at the present day exercise such an all-important influence on the prosperity of cattle-feeders, and which are brought into this country in such immense quantities, very seldom reach the farmer direct from the importer, but mostly through the local cake and manure merchant, these branches of business being usually combined. The cattle-feeder, though thus taxed with an intermediate profit, is, nevertheless, greatly benefited, as he is enabled to get his cake in quantities to suit his requirements at regular intervals throughout the season, and so have it always fresh, a point of some importance with such an expensive article, as it is highly susceptible of injury by exposure to damp, and in large quantities requires considerable space for storage. Large consumers, who can calculate pretty closely to the quantity they will require throughout the season, have it in their power to cut the intermediate profit very low indeed, as the merchant will be only too glad to have the orders of his clients placed early, so that he may secure himself and be able at the proper season to contract with the importer or manufacturer for a full supply. By this arrangement all parties are largely benefited—the shipper, the wholesale merchant, and consumer, and all knowing what they are about, can carry on their business with a feeling of confidence and security which no ordinary fluctuation in the value of feeding-stuffs is able to disturb. Of course such a comprehensive arrangement, in which important interests and large sums of money are involved, can only be carried out by the almost unanimous consent of the farmers themselves, all the other parties being simply engaged in supplying their wants, carrying out their instructions, and receiving their cash. As an inducement to give an early estimate of the amount of cake feeders are likely to require, it will be invariably found that the dealer will cut his profit on the transaction down to the lowest possible point at which it is worth while to place the order on his books, contracting for the entire season, and offering every accommodation necessary in the way of storage, and delivery in convenient quantities at stated periods. These remarks are not by any means merely theoretical, but are based on the commercial transactions of no more distant period than the past feeding season, during which time many agriculturists who are large consumers lost considerable sums of money by omitting to contract for a full supply of cake at the commencement of the season, when it was as low in price as could reasonably be expected. In the single instance of cotton-seed cake, one of the most useful and generally popular feeding-stuffs of the present day, a rise as sudden as unexpected took place in the very middle of the season, when it could scarcely either be done without or economised, without excessive inconvenience. The increase in price under the most favourable conditions was one-fourth, rising occasionally to one-half, when stocks became low, and from various causes were difficult to replace. The position of those who had the forethought to contract contrasted most

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favourably with that of others who merely took chance, although their necessities were quite as urgent, as they not only had to pay from 25 to 50 per cent. extra for the cake they used, but had actually to wait until those were served who were getting it on much lower terms. The time is now near at hand when cake will be required most probably in very large quantity, to supplement what, even under the most favourable conditions as to weather for the remainder of the growing season, can only be but a moderate root-crop, and purchasers, profiting by the experience of the past winter and spring, will do well to make early arrangements for a continuous supply throughout the season, on as moderate terms as the tone of the market for the time being will permit, adding always the cost of carriage, an item the consumer can never get rid of under whatever name it may be disguised. No difficulty need be ever experienced in arranging this highly important business-matter satisfactorily, as in every district respectable merchants, able and willing to carry out their engagements, no matter what turn the markets may take, will be found eager to compete with each other, voluntarily offering a guaranteed article at the lowest possible cash price at which it can be supplied. A continuous supply at a fixed price being thus secured for the season, the extensive feeder is saved a vast amount of inconvenience and pecuniary loss.

HIGHWAY LEGISLATION.

At the Norfolk Chamber of Agriculture's Meeting, in Norwich, a resolution to the following effect was proposed: "That in any future alteration in the management of highways it is expedient that a county committee should decide which roads should be *county roads*, and that the expense of the maintenance of these should be mainly borne by the county rate."

Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., speaking in support of the resolution, said it would be quite possible for a committee or the county authority to say which were the roads used by the general public and had thoroughfare traffic as to entitle them to have a certain portion of the expense of maintenance borne by the county rate. It would be of the greatest advantage to the public, and to the various districts through which thoroughfare roads pass, to have those roads kept in good repair. What few turnpike debts there were now were trifling, but they must be got rid of somehow. The bondholders he believed received very little, and consequently their property must be worth little. At the same time they must be appraised, and the amount paid by somebody. He did not suppose that any proposal to pay off the debt out of the Consolidated Fund would ever be carried into effect; but if they were taken over as county roads a portion of the money would have to be paid by the county and the tolls abolished. No doubt in some parishes the hardship was greater than in others. Where there were two large and populous towns with a great deal of through traffic which railroads would never entirely divert, there the roads were frequently in a bad state; and certainly the expense put upon the parish was altogether disproportionate to the benefit derived. What benefit did a parish derive from having a turnpike road running through it double the width required for its local traffic, and certainly maintained as hitherto managed at double the expense of the ordinary roads of the country? The old system of tolls was really about the right one, namely, that those who used the roads should pay for them; but then it was very inconvenient, and consequently unpopular to be stopped on a cold morning to get out threepence, and it was even much more disagreeable on a dark night. But as it appeared to be the opinion of Parliament that turnpikes should be done away with, then came the question, How were the roads to be kept in the best possible repair? He saw no other way of doing it so economically and so well as by the course suggested in the resolution. He had been glad to hear the mover (Mr. K. T. Gurdon) say he was in favour of county boards. He did not think they would ever get any real reform in or improvement of the system of local taxation unless they had good county boards—boards altogether apart from the quarter sessions, for he had no wish that they should interfere with the functions of the magistrates. There would be plenty left for the magistrates to do. They would have to administer justice, manage the gaols, and have charge of the police, half the cost of which was now paid by the Government. The county boards might manage matters relating to bridges, lunatics, weights and measures, they might have jurisdiction under the Health Act, and of course they would under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and why should they not have a few roads to look after? He hoped that though some might be a little bitten by any alteration they would allow the resolution to pass.

The resolution having been carried by 25 to 5, another motion was made as follows: "That the rest of the highways should continue to be managed by parochial surveyors, power being conferred upon some county official to enforce the proper maintenance of the roads when the parish neglects to repair them."

Mr. C. S. Read also advocated this resolution, saying that the Highway Act of William IV., like a great many other Acts, had failed principally because there were no public prosecutors in this country. This resolution wished to put the Act in force. It was not a pleasant thing to indict one's neighbour, and that was the only way a parish could be brought to book under the Act. The resolution suggested that there should be some county official who should be a sort of referee. One such official would be sufficient for the purpose. He would in all probability be a man who would have to look after the great arterial roads, and consequently he would be competent to advise and instruct the parochial surveyors, who perhaps did not altogether know their duty, and who when they knew it were sometimes not quite willing to perform it.

This resolution was also adopted.

At a meeting of the Essex Chamber of Agriculture, at Chelmsford, Mr. J. S. Gardiner brought before the Chamber the series of questions on Highway Legislation, received from the Central Chamber, and after some conversation, in the course of which a number of propositions and counter-propositions were brought forward, the Chamber decided on transmitting the following answers: Question 1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3. Two; county roads and parochial roads. 4. All roads, whether parochial or otherwise should be maintained, half from the Consolidated Fund and half by the parishes. 5. The governing body of all the roads in the county should be an elected County Financial Board.

At a meeting of the Leicestershire Chamber of Agriculture a number of answers from the special committee to questions submitted by the Central Chamber on the subject of highway legislation were received and discussed, and a proposition was carried, after some discussion, that it was desirable to reorganise the system of highway management in so far as making the district system compulsory, and to include the whole management of the turnpikes by the district highway boards. It was further resolved that the fund for the maintenance of the roads be derived from the common fund of the highway district; that there should be only one class of roads established under the new system; and that highway boards should constitute the governing body. The following were the replies as originally suggested by the special committee: 1. That it is desirable to reorganise the system of highway management in so far as making the Highway Act of 1862 and 1864 compulsory, and to include the whole management of the turnpikes by the District Highway Boards. 2. Only so far as implied by the answers to the first and third questions. 3. Two. 4. As at present for the highway, but all roads that have been turnpikes should be assisted to the amount of one-half of the expense of repairs from the Consolidated Funds, and the other half from the common fund of the highway district. 5. Highway Boards.

At a special meeting of the Nottinghamshire Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. G. Storer, M.P., said that the first

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question from the Central Chamber was somewhat ambiguous, because there existed two systems with regard to the management of our roads—the old parochial system, and the new system of having highway boards. As far as this county was concerned the new system worked well, though he was aware that it was not so satisfactory in some districts as in others. He thought they could hardly give a categorical answer to the question without distinguishing between the new and the old systems, but he was in favour of maintaining the new system, which he thought ought to be made compulsory all over the country. He was of opinion that permissive plans were not satisfactory, and that they did not generally work well. The general feeling of the Chamber was in favour of a reorganisation of the road system, and it was decided to answer the first and second questions affirmatively. With reference to the other questions, the Chamber was of opinion that at least two different classes of roads should be established under a new system; that three-fourths of the expenses of the turnpikes should be paid out of the Consolidated Fund, and that other roads should be supported out of local rates; and, as, to the last question, the meeting thought that the whole should be managed by district boards, subject to a Government inspection of the roads to which they contributed part of the cost of maintenance.

At a meeting of the Cambridgeshire Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. Rodwell, M.P. said the present permissive act with regard to highways was inoperative and unsatisfactory. He agreed with the principle that every parish should maintain its own roads; but, at the same time, some elasticity was required to meet hardships, in exceptional cases, and some form of classification would not be objectionable.

At a meeting of the Peterborough Chamber of Agriculture, a resolution from the chairman, Mr. Wells, in favour of Highway Boards, was put and carried. It was further agreed that a re-classification of roads was necessary; that there should be *three* classes of roads; that turnpike roads should be maintained out of the Consolidated Fund, and ordinary roads by a district rate; and that district highway boards would be the best form of management.

At a meeting of the East Suffolk Chamber of Agriculture, at Ipswich, Lord HENNIKER, in the chair, explained that they were met to consider a communication which had been received from the Central Chamber of Agriculture. This was the first meeting that had been held this year, but he was one of those who thought that a society of this kind should not create a subject for discussion. He had always held that opinion, and when he was President some years since, he thought it his duty to do as he had done this year, to recommend that they should only meet when there was anything important which it was worth the while of the Chamber to discuss. It was far wiser that they should keep their organisation together in a healthy state, so that when it was required to discuss an important subject, that organisation would be available for the purpose. He felt that it was a great pity to meet and have an empty discussion, and he believed that a great many members of the Council agreed with him in that opinion. It was not really from the fact that there was a paucity of subjects to discuss that they had not been able to meet this year, but he observed that other Chambers had followed their example, and had not held discussion meetings. The fact of the matter was, the present Government came into power in the middle of the Session as it were, without having time to consider any measures they were going to bring forward, and he considered it most likely that everybody had been waiting to see what measures the Government would propose in the next Session. With regard to the particular subject which they had met to consider today, they were, perhaps, in the same position; but it had been stated on one or two public occasions that the Government would probably bring in a measure next year; and if this Chamber could have a fair discussion upon the subject, and could generally answer the questions which were put by the Central Chamber, he thought it might be of service in bringing the matter under the notice of the Government, showing the importance of it, and how strong a feeling existed in reference to it. A road measure had been promised year after year by the House of Commons, but something or other had always come in the way to prevent its being brought forward, and this year, again, it appeared that there might be several measures which might be likely to come in the way of any road measure, and possibly they were no nearer than ever they were to having such a measure brought forward. Undoubtedly one of the most important local subjects was that of Local Taxation, and he felt that this subject had an important bearing on the settlement of that question. And if a certain number of Chambers could answer the question generally in a satisfactory manner, it would tend to show that there was a strong feeling that some measure should be passed, making an alteration in the system of road management, and it would have some effect in inducing the Government to consider this question. For that reason it would be generally felt that the Central Chamber had taken a wise course in the action it had adopted. The questions they had to consider were these:

1. Is an entire reorganisation of our road system in England, including the management and maintenance of turnpikes and highways, desirable?
2. Is a re-classification of all roads needed?
3. How many different classes of roads should be established under a new system?
4. How should the funds be raised, and from what sources, for the maintenance of each class of road?
5. What should be the constitution of the governing body of the whole, or of any one class of roads?

Possibly there would be a great difference of opinion on these different questions asked them by the Central Chamber, but probably there would be a general feeling amongst all the Chambers in favour of legislation on the subject, in fact saying that legislation was necessary. The present management of roads in many parts of England was felt to be a great grievance, especially in the North of England, and even also in our rural districts, particularly where turnpike trusts had been done away. Some turnpike trusts were thrown upon the parishes, and others were thrown upon the districts; and some of the old turnpikes were used for main roads, whilst others were only used for the parish roads, but even where they were only useful for the latter purpose, the parish was compelled by law to keep up these old turnpike roads to the original width, although they might be a great deal wider than were actually required. In the North of England there was a great deal of mineral traffic passing through the rural parishes from and to towns which did not contribute to the maintenance of the road, though they had the benefit of the traffic thereon. It sometimes happened that a parish was keeping up a turnpike road which was out of debt, the trust being abolished, but the ratepayers had to go but a few miles before they were on their neighbours' roads where a toll existed, and though they provided a free road for their neighbours they could not travel far without having to enter a parish where there was a debt and toll still existing. He was a member of the Committee on Roads in the House of Commons for several years, and they considered the subject very carefully indeed, and came to the unanimous opinion that an alteration was required, that a re-classification of roads was necessary, and also that the burdens should be more equally distributed according to the class of roads to be dealt with. No doubt some persons might wish to go back to the old parochial system. This might be possible in some counties, and in some parts of our own county it might work very well, but in other parts of England it would be almost impossible, particularly in the North of England, where with the heavy mineral and coal traffic, such a system would be a great injustice, and he thought it would be found, when the matter was looked into carefully, that it would not be wise in all cases to go into the parochial system. If they were agreed that alteration was necessary in the management of the roads, then the question arose as to how to carry it out. There was one plan that had been often discussed, and discussed with some reason because it was a simple one to carry into effect, and it was this: The turnpike roads, and all roads leading to stations, roads between great towns, and those which were the main arteries of communication should be placed upon the county rate, aided, if possible, by a Government grant; and that all the other roads should be placed upon a district rate, a small district probably taking the Highway Act as the basis, altering it in some respects, for it did require some alteration, particularly with regard to supervision of labour, which might be improved if properly considered. There were a great many other plans which might be sug-

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gested; but this one had been generally discussed, and had the merit of being a simple and easy one. Then we come to the question as to the authority to carry out the management of these roads. As regarded the district, there would be a District Board, and as regarded the county, it would have to be some county authority: perhaps the magistrates at quarter sessions, or perhaps a county financial board committee. He did not anticipate, however, that there would be any difficulty in that respect. He sincerely hoped one thing, and it was this, that as regarded the parochial roads, they would not be placed under a central authority, because he thought those who lived in the district were much better able to manage and keep a road in repair than a central authority could possibly be. One thing was quite certain, and that was they needed uniformity. It sometimes happened that in one district the roads were mostly good, and in the next they were very bad; and there ought to be some uniform system of management, for in a country like this, where we ought to manage our affairs properly, we should have some uniform system by which to make up the roads equally good all over the country. With these few remarks he would ask gentlemen present to give their opinions, so that satisfactory answers might be sent to the questions put by the Local Government Board.

Mr. William Gurdon contended that the roads were used to a great extent by those who lived in the locality, and he thought they ought to be managed by those who lived in the immediate neighbourhood of them. He observed that the abolition of the turnpikes threw the whole thing into disorder, and said the question was what was to be the system for dealing with the roads in the future. Was it to be a centralising system? We should hardly in the present day ask the Government to keep up the roads as they used to do in France. He was quite sure it would add greatly to the expense of the country. He felt that at his time of life he should never see any change. In the Western Division of the county the Highway Board system had been tried, and it had not been altogether unsuccessful, because, he observed, with respect to the Lavenham Board, that monstrous as was the district, they had been enabled to save over £1,000, and he was sorry to say that at the meeting at which this fact was stated, it was decided to dissolve the Board. This was certainly not very encouraging. The plan of the Rev. Mr. Cox, a clergyman in Essex, who had taken great interest in this matter was to have a road inspector. This was no new thing, but he (Mr. Gurdon) thought there were few gentlemen present who would like an inspector to come into their parishes and find fault with the work which they had done. Let them consider the whole question carefully, and possibly after all they might come to the conclusion that it was their duty to attend to their own roads; that they could keep them up cheaper than any other body, because they had the requisite knowledge, and the opportunities of putting the materials on to the roads at the most suitable time; and that it was their concern to have their own parish roads in as good a state as possible. He should like gentlemen to come and see the 1,200 yards of road he had by the side of his farm which he made himself. It was a fact that this cost less for mending than the other roads in the parish, and he had this proof that the system of making a good road was the cheaper plan.

Mr. H. Cooper (Holton) was strongly against the Highway Board system. He imagined that those who had adopted that system were now anxious to get rid of it, because they found it much more costly. A person must be better able to attend to the roads of the parish in which he resided than another who resided some distance off, and who had a large district to attend to. In his district the roads generally were in a very good state, and for his own part he did not see any necessity for any alteration in the present system. He thought if all the parishes in the district embraced by one of the Highway Boards were polled there would be found a large majority in favour of a dissolution of the Board.

Mr. R. L. Everett said that the inequality with which the roads in the different parishes were kept up was a glaring anomaly. There were plenty of instances of there being as good roads as could be desired in one parish, but if you went into another you found them very bad. If the present system was to be continued it was necessary that there should be an inspector or some one to force all the parishes to do their duty; and then he thought with Mr. Cooper that there was no cheaper way of mending the roads than under the parochial system. There were roads which had a town at each end, and it did seem hard that the residents in a parish through which the road passed should have to pay the cost of the wear and tear of the traffic by which they were benefited but a very little. He thought the turnpike system had its advantage, but the feeling of the country was decidedly against them. He should be inclined to answer the questions put by the Central Chamber in the affirmative, that the charges should be divided, that the roads which were main thoroughfares should be paid for on a different basis to those which wer parochial roads, and used entirely by those who lived in the neighbourhood.

Mr. J. A. Hempson said there was a very great question as to whether this Chamber would be able to fall in with the resolutions in the form in which they were put by the Central Chamber. At the same time it was a large and important question, and turnpikes and common roads appeared now to be reduced to the same level. As to the main roads between two great towns, it must be remembered that there was hardly a town, of any importance, which had not a railway connected with it, and this had the effect of very greatly reducing the traffic on the roads. He did not see how, unless they upset the whole system by putting the whole thing under a Government Department, how it was possible to better the present parochial system. There were, no doubt, exceptions with regard to districts in the North, and there were much the same grievances in some of our districts. There was a great deal of traffic in some cases from a considerable neighbourhood to some of the country railway stations, and the parish in the immediate neighbourhood had to bear all the expense of keeping up the road. For some time he had observed that comparisons had been drawn between town and country expenses. It was said that the towns-people used the roads extensively, and did not pay towards keeping them up; but it must be borne in mind that people who lived in towns had to pay the paving and lighting rate, and heavy expenses for keeping up the roads, which country people when they came to the towns had the full benefit of. He thought, therefore, the towns and the county parishes might fairly cry quits over the matter. He thought the question would arise before long as to whether the whole traffic of the country should not be brought under a Government department. This was a subject that would be the strong question of the day before long. He referred to the railways and the traffic of the country generally. He asked whether the management of the railways was satisfactory, and, referring to the late Thorpe accident, said it would have been impossible for that accident to have occurred had the railways been under Government control, because they would not have tolerated a single line.

Mr. F. S. Corrance remarked that the opening sentences of the noble Lord reminded him that they had in this matter a very old grievance. It brought his mind back to the time when he and the noble Lord fleshed their maiden swords in the House of Commons. The noble Lord was appointed on a Highway Committee, and he (Mr. Corrance) knew no one better able than his Lordship to give advice on the subject now under consideration. Mr. Corrance than proceeded to remark that there were signs that this subject was likely to become a new grievance, that was to say the House of Commons was going to meddle with it. He could not help thinking of what the House of Commons had done in recent times, and of the measure which was successfully passed through the House of Commons and which he did his best to resist. The matter had been followed up by one party and the other, and we had always been getting nearer to an issue which was to the disadvantage of the ratepayers. He never approved of Highway Boards, and he thought the experience he had had of them proved that there was some reason to justify his dislike. He disliked the divided responsibility of the Board, which, he said, was formed on an area of its own which was not conterminous with any other authority. The highway-rate itself he characterised as an anomaly. The formation of these Boards facilitated the transfer of the new obligations which were thrust upon the parishes by the abolition of the turnpikes. As to the questions now submitted by the Central Chamber of Agriculture; with reference to the first, he should like to know in what direction there was to be an entire re-organisation. If by expressing any such opinion as that embodied in the first of the list of resolutions read by the noble chairman they were going to help her Majesty's Government, to bring the parishes into further difficulties, then all he could say was

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he would give a most decided negative to any such proposition. As to the second question, "Is a re-classification of all roads needed?" he should not so much object to that. He thought that the turnpikes ought properly to be thrown upon the counties or county-rate, and that there should be a proper revision of the rate in its present objectionable form. Then with regard to the third question, he did not object to bringing the parochial roads under a Board of Guardians, with a properly constituted committee. As to how the funds should be raised, he thought a county-rate ought to be one fund, and as to the other the present highway-rate, it was one of those things which if there was to be anything like a satisfactory settlement must be wholly revised, and it was one of those things which would tax the capacity of a great many of our legislators. In regard to the last question, as to what should be the constitution of the governing body, his answer would be a decided negative—namely, not a highway board under any possible circumstances.

Mr. HERMAN BIDDELL said that as his term of office as representative of this Chamber at the Central Chamber would not have expired at the meeting when these questions would be fully discussed, he hoped they would be induced to return direct answers to them, but not necessarily unqualified answers. The subject was here discussed from a general point of view, which he found was the course adopted by the majority of the Chambers of Agriculture. The subject had been brought before the Central Chamber more than once during the present year. The gentleman who had written to this Chamber brought this matter before the Chamber last year in London. He had some idea of inducing the Government to turn over to the road-rate fund certain of the assessed taxes raised in the district in the same manner that the house-tax was about to be appropriated to certain local funds by Mr. Goschen, in a measure brought forward some years ago, but the rapid changes that took place in our financial business before the measure was brought forward, engulfed some of the funds which Mr. Muntz had shadowed forth as the source of the future road-rate. Riding-horses kept in the neighbourhood was one of the things named, but before he had fully matured his plan the Chancellor of the Exchequer had taken away some of the taxes which were least expected to be taken, and left others which it was fully expected would be removed, and thus opposed Mr. Muntz's idea. He (Mr. Biddell) could not of course say what was his present idea as to the substitution of a road-rate. He expected they would hardly get the Government grant, and thought that Government grants for this sort of thing were likely to be closed for some time to come. He believed it would be found if a man were stationed at Bourne Bridge or Handford Bridge to inquire of passengers that though they mostly came from the neighbourhood, not one in ten contributed towards the keeping-up of the road they were using. He did not see how this was to be remedied unless the whole system was attacked, which would be a tremendous undertaking. They at present paid for the roads from the same source as they paid for the maintenance of the poor. It would require a very large effort to relieve them of that, but in very many districts an enormous charge had been added to this for doing away with turnpikes. He (Mr. Biddell) was not in any way affected by the abrogation of the turnpike trust, but several of his neighbours were. As occupiers having a long lease, and a long piece of turnpike constantly draining upon them, they were used very hardly. He need only go to the parish of Kesgrave, where, as he held no land, he was qualified to speak disinterestedly. Those who lived in the parish considered they would never be called upon to contribute to a road rate, being, as they believed, under a permanent system, endorsed by the Government as legal and right. The Act, however, allowed the Trustees to throw up the road, and the occupiers were, therefore, immediately saddled with the entire expense of this road through the parish. He contended that notice ought previously to have been given to these occupiers that at such and such a time the roads would be thrown upon the district. These matters that he had mentioned were grievances, but they need not upset the whole road system in England. They must look very carefully into the matter before giving an answer to the first question. He asked the Chairman to put these questions to the meeting *seriatim*, so that they might have a definite answer to give to the Central Chamber.

Mr. CORRANCE said that he did not like the idea of reconstruction, and until he knew in what direction they might look for the effects of such a measrue, he should be very chary in giving an opinion.

The PRESIDENT said that before putting the question he must say that he could not agree with Mr. Biddell. He was unwilling at present to see any reconstruction or any re-arrangement of the rates.

Mr. BIDDELL: What I meant was that I should look very closely indeed before doing it.

The PRESIDENT said that if Mr. Biddell had heard all the evidence that he had heard upon the subject, and the difficulties that people in other parts of the country had got into, he (Lord Henniker) thought that he would agree that the grievance to this particular parish of throwing the turnpike upon the parish was nothing compared with that suffered in the very populous districts. It had become really a very serious question during the last few years, and in consequence everybody in these parts were striving their utmost to induce the Government to bring in a measure to alter the whole management of the road system. He belonged to an association consisting of Chairmen of Quarter Sessions, which included many very excellent men of business from different parts of the country. A committee have been formed, of which Mr. Hugessen was a member, with several other gentlemen of great experience, who were doing all they could to persuade Government to bring in some measure to do away with the present anomalies. People had come from all parts of the country, and they had been urged on by others who were really suffering very much from the present arrangement, and he thought the Chamber ought to be careful before they gave a decided opinion against a reconstruction of the system.

Mr. HAWARD pointed out the difficulty of giving an answer that should be sufficiently distinct until the measure itself was brought forward and might be considered. As had been observed, the whole question was closely allied to that of local taxation, and the view that they would take with regard to the measure of local taxation would considerably affect the decision that they might come to on this subject. The management in, or by parishes as considered distinct from the highway boards had been satisfactorily compared with the reports of the latter, but the throwing of the turnpikes upon the parishes was undoubtedly a great hardship. It was his misfortune to be located in a parish which was seriously affected in that way, but of course as there was arterial roads there should be a general bearing of the burden which was for the general good.

Mr. Corrance proposed "That although a change is undoubtedly required previous to a conclusive answer to this question, it is necessary more clearly to understand what will be the nature and tendency of future legislation," and he added a rider at the suggestion of the President, "That it is desirable that the Central Chamber should bring the question before the Government, with a view of eliciting their opinion, and of inducing them to consider the subject on the first possible opportunity." This was seconded by Mr. Hempson, and Mr. Everett, thinking it desirable that the questions should be answered by this Chamber, proposed an amendment, "That the Chamber should take up the questions *serialim* and return answers to them." This was seconded by Mr. Biddell, and some further discussion ensued, in the course of which the President remarked that of course they might have one system for rural districts and another system for another part of the country, but he thought the Highway Act had many good points in it, and speaking personally he might say that if anybody were carefully to draw up a measure embodying some of the principles of that bill, it would have the effect of remedying a great many of the present grievances, and would be found to work very well.

His Lordship put the amendment, which was lost by 5 to 4, and the original motion was carried by 7 to 3.

At the annual meeting of the West Suffolk Chamber of Agriculture, in Bury St. Edmund's, Lieut.-Col. Wilson in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN said the Central Chamber had sent down certain questions to which they wanted answers from the various chambers of agriculture throughout the country. He, in order to start the question, had written out his own views as to the answers which he thought might be given to them. They were as follows:

1. That the turnpike system, except, perhaps, in very exceptional cases, should be abolished.

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2. That there should be but one class of roads.

3. That the parochial system is, on the whole, the most satisfactory.

4. That it is worthy of consideration whether this system might not be effectually worked with a surveyor to see that the roads in the various parishes were properly attended to by the parish authorities.

1st. As to Turnpikes.—The only justification for the turnpike system was that heavy through traffic existed, in which the intermediate parishes had no interest, and inasmuch as in almost any case the through traffic has been diverted by the introduction of railways, it follows that *all* roads or *none* should now be turnpike roads. But the system itself is extravagant and inconvenient, and as applied to all roads would be impossible.

2nd. A re-classification of roads is not desirable, and would only lead to extravagance from double government and confusion. Most roads lead directly or indirectly to large towns or railway stations; it is only a question of remoteness, and though the roads nearer the towns or stations have more traffic on them than those more remote, the value of the property is enhanced by the proximity to town or station, and may, therefore, be expected to bear its somewhat heavier rate.

3rd. Funds.—The turnpike system having been condemned, there remains only the system of rates alone, or rates with Government aid. If direct Government aid is given, it will be necessary to submit to Government inspection, which would be expensive and vexatious. If, again, grants are made in country districts, they must be made in towns also, but whilst in the former we calculate the expense of our roads at so many pounds a mile, in the latter they are calculated at so many thousand pounds a mile. It has been proposed that certain taxes should be remitted by Government to the road fund; but one of these, the horse-tax, is already gone, and if the tax on carriages were given to the roads, could the farmers' waggons and carts hope to be exempt?

4th. The Governing Body.—After our experience of highway boards we are not justified in advising their general introduction. Nor can we see that any advantage would be gained by making the boards of guardians the managers. There are, no doubt, some objections that might be removed, such as throwing the old turnpikes upon the general charges.

The Chairman remarked that he thought they would agree with him that whatever they might think as to who should bear the expense of the roads, nothing did them so much damage as the farmer's cart, especially when carting mangold. One of the great grievances of one of the Highway Boards was that the turnpikes were thrown upon the general expenses of the board, throwing part of the expense of them upon other parishes than those through which the turnpikes ran. He had made a proviso in his first resolution because he understood that in the North there were certain places where there was an amount of through traffic, and others where there was a heavy traffic from mines, and in these places he would still maintain the turnpikes as the only fair way of bearing the expense of the roads.

Mr. Biddell said he approved of all the Chairman's resolutions, with the exception of one—that in favour of the parochial system. If they reverted to that, he did not think the roads would be managed nearly so well as if they were formed into District Boards. He was strongly of opinion that the expenses of roads ought to be district charges and be governed by bodies elected from the district. He quite agreed it was advisable to get the roads under one control. At present they were under the control of six different bodies. The railway companies had to keep up the roads for a certain distance where they crossed them and had constructed arches. Here and there private owners had to keep up roads. The magistrates had to keep up the roads for a certain distance on each side of the county bridges, and of these he did not suppose there were above 25 or 30 that he would not throw upon the district. He did not see why all these should not be placed under one control. The great difficulty of abolishing turnpikes was said to be that of paying off their debts, but he thought this might be safely met by the State. They need not be paid off in one year, but by payments extending over a term. If they could not get the State to do it, he thought the different counties might pay them off. He should not in all cases pay them off in full, because many of the bonds are not worth anything like par, but would commute them at what might be assumed to be their full value. If they did revert to the parochial system he thought they would find now a greater reluctance on the part of surveyors to look after the roads. People were more commercial than they used to be, and would say they were only one ratepayer, and did not see why they should expose themselves to be found fault with and get no thanks for their trouble. They were always open to the charge of keeping the roads nearest their own residence better than those at a distance, and sometimes they had almost been accused of dishonesty (but he did not think there had been much of that, although there had sometimes been something approaching it). They would have some security in the inspector which the Chairman proposed, and whom they must have under any circumstances. He did not think one for the whole county would do. They would require three or four otherwise the expense of travelling would be heavy when they wanted him to look at some little thing or other. His own opinion was that the roads could be most satisfactorily worked by district boards; but, unfortunately, as people began to get used to them, they dissolved themselves. He thought it was a mistake of the magistrates to let them dissolve so easily. It was a very amiable thing for them to do, but he thought they displayed more kindness than judgment in the matter. The expense of the large bridges, or three-fourths of it, he would throw upon the county.

Rev. P. M. Stedman: Would you made each parish pay for its own roads?

Mr. Biddell: No, I would make it a district charge, extending over 15 or 20 parishes, but not so many as is sometimes included now.

The Chairman asked the meeting to deal with the resolutions separately, and to consider first that condemning turnpikes.

Lord Augustus Hervey, M.P., thought there was some difficulty in dealing with the question otherwise than as a whole. The fourth question was really the key to the matter. Unless they were prepared to say how the funds were to be raised, he did not know how they could see their way clear as to the other points. They were much obliged to the Central Chamber for bringing the subject forward, but he was not sure they would do wisely in saying they were really ready to give definite answers to these questions until the bill in anticipation, of which they were put, came before them in the usual form. Whatever solution was attempted to be proposed in the shape contemplated by these questions, it became very much a matter of detail. He had not had much experience in road management, but he thought that unless they could answer these questions categorically, they would do wisely to return some general answer, and await the bill that seemed to be expected. He thought it was very probable the question of distribution of parishes in respect to roads was only part of a much larger question, the subject of taxation generally, which was constantly coming up, and constantly assuming new shapes and forms. As soon as one tax was diminished or abolished, the incidence of the remaining taxation pressed in a different ratio to what it did before. Some years must necessarily pass before this could be rectified. He could only suggest that the minds of those interested should be constantly directed to the subject, and that when the matter was ripe for rectification, they should put that pressure upon their representatives which was proper.

Mr. Biddell thought Government might wish to have information from the Central Chamber, and so obtain the views of the country on the matter.

Mr. Paine thought they would be a useless body if they did not return answers to such questions as these. He approved of the Chairman's resolutions, except one. Those who had had experience with roads would say that the parochial management was very bad. To revert to that was almost the last thing they would like. He might differ from some of his neighbours, but he was himself inclined to desire more centralisation. He would suggest the division of the county into districts of six or ten miles wide, as the parishes might be, and that the repairs of the roads should be done by contract under the supervision of an inspector or surveyor-general mentioned by the Chairman. He had had a great deal of experience in the management of roads, and he always found the contract system to be the one that answered best. What was required was that some one acquainted with the management of roads should see the contracts properly carried

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out. This was better than having a paid surveyor or sub-surveyor and an irresponsible body of waywardens.

Colonel PARKER, M.P., said he felt he should not be doing his duty to those among whom he lived if he did not express his hearty support of the propositions of their chairman. The subject now before them reminded them of what took place some years ago, and would confirm the impression many of them entertained then of the unsuitability of highway boards to meet the requirements of this district. The expression of feeling by the waywardens, whether *ex officio* or elected, had been almost unanimous against them; and he was glad to hear the chairman, after the great experience he had had, say that he found the highway system, as applied under the Permissive Bill, had not met the requirements of the country. They now reverted to the old parochial system, and he should like to know what there was in that system that any one desiring good roads at a cheap cost could possibly find fault with. Was it for a moment to be tolerated that any one should say they did not understand the management of their own roads? They had teams and carts, and facilities for getting materials of every kind, and what should prevent them making the best of them? It had been hinted by the vice-chairman that sometimes roads were not equally good all over the parish, and that there sometimes was jobbery; but if the roads were not good there was under the old Act power given to two magistrates to enforce improvement, and not only that, but to inflict penalties upon the surveyors. The impression that it required a long, tedious process of indictment was quite erroneous. He need hardly say that the magistrates were always ready and desirous to do all they could, in common with the surveyors, to make the roads such as would meet the requirements of the country. They all wanted good roads, but at the same time they wanted to secure them at the cheapest cost. Was it not monstrous they should be called upon to pay people for doing what they could do themselves? They were ready and willing to do it; and were they to be superseded in their little localities by other people, and pay the cost? As a ratepayer and a farmer, he could not tolerate it. He was glad that, with the dissolution of the highway board, they were about to revert to the old parochial system. Those parishes or localities which desired to have a surveyor of their own were perfectly at liberty to do so under that Act. If two or three parishes wished to combine for that purpose, in a way not very dissimilar to the highway boards, they could not do so. While they retained under the old Act all these powers and all this liberty to do what they liked with their own, he advised them not to part with it. Long experience of ten or twelve years had shown them the Board system did not answer. They must, therefore, revert to the old system and reap the advantages the experience had given them.

The CHAIRMAN said he was originally in favour of the board system, and he was still of opinion it could be made to work; but at the same time, though he had done all he could to make it work, he was bound in honesty to say it had not worked satisfactorily. There were two reasons why the Blackbourn Highway Board was led to apply for a dissolution. They might devise the most perfect system of machinery possible theoretically, but if they had a hostile board it could not be made to work. They all knew the highway board system was not popular from the very first in this district, and to try to carry it on in the face of public opinion would be simple obstinacy. If the Act had been compulsory he thought they would have heard much less about it. The other cause for dissolving the Blackbourn Board was that Government thought fit to throw the charge of the turnpike roads upon the general charges where a highway board existed; but where one did not exist it was thrown upon the parishes They thought it was very unjust to saddle the general fund with this. There was a hardship, it was true, in throwing them upon the parishes through which they passed, but the hardship was a very small one. It was only that the roads were a little wider than they would have been had it not been for the old through traffic. He agreed with Lord Augustus Hervey that if they could not see their way clear they had better say nothing; but this seemed to be one of the subjects with which they were so practically conversant that they would not like to say they did not know what to do with their highways.

The first of the resolutions read by the chairman was unanimously agreed to. The second resolution also passed.

The question of the constitution of the governing bodies of roads was then discussed.

Mr. J. HARRISON thought the solution of the difficulty would be to make highway boards compulsory. He had proved to the satisfaction of the Blackbourn Highway Board that notwithstanding the expense of salaries and so forth, the cost was not above a farthing and half a farthing more, that after the turnpike was brought in, a trifle under a penny. Surely a man who has his own business to attend to would not grudge that. If the Act had been compulsory there would not have been half the "to do" there had been. It ought to be within the power of the board to dismiss the surveyor.

Mr. MANFIELD: So it is, but we never got a majority.

Mr. A. COLSON did not agree with the highway board system, because it had cost his parish about £22 a-year more than the old system, and they had had no new bridges or anything of the sort. The rates were very nearly double, and the roads were no better. He thought if each parish appointed a surveyor, and there was an inspector for every sixty or seventy parishes, the work being left in the hands of the surveyor or warden, it would work better. He did not think there was anybody better to manage the roads than some one on the spot. He had driven a long distance sometimes to the Blackbourn Highway Board, had heard a long discussion about a bridge he never saw, and did not understand, and was then asked to vote upon the question. To men who paid Income-tax under Schedule B their time would come to more than the bridge would cost.

Mr. HARRISON called attention to the fact that two years before the dissolution of the Blackbourn Board they passed a unanimous resolution that the Act was working well.

Mr. COLSON said it was a very small board meeting when that was passed.

Mr. MANFIELD proposed, and Mr. SMITH seconded, the adoption of the chairman's resolution on the subject.

The Rev. C. W. JONES thought that if they reverted to the parochial system some supervision would be necessary, because they knew that in some parishes they found good roads, while in the next they were just as bad. He knew there was a law to compel the surveyor to keep them in order, but it was an invidious task for a neighbour to put it in motion, and a public prosecutor would be very necessary. His experience was that the highway boards were cheaper than the old system. He knew cases where men when they were ill in bed had been paid under the old system for working on the roads.

Mr. SALMON cautioned the members against any system which would introduce a stranger to interfere with their roads.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the surveyor would always have to bring the cases before the magistrates, who would have to decide on the merits of the case.

Mr. HARRISON said he knew two miles of road under the old system that could not be put in proper repair for less than £25 a mile.

The resolution was then put to the vote, and six voted against it and three for it, therefore the appointment of an inspector was negatived.

Lord AUGUSTUS HERVEY, M.P., then moved "That this Chamber is further of opinion that any inequality of taxation to which the maintenance of roads as a charge upon real property contributes, should be met by a general adjustment of fiscal burdens."

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the purport of this was that if they took the burden of the roads upon themselves, that should be considered in regulating other taxation.

The resolution was seconded and agreed to, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

At an adjourned meeting of the York Chamber of Agriculture, in York, Mr. W. J. Ware in the chair, a circular from the Secretary of the Central Chamber of Agriculture was read, submitting certain resolutions which had been passed, and asked the opinion of the York Chamber on five questions, which were set forth. The first question was—Is an entire reorganisation of our road system in England, including the management and maintenance of turnpikes and highways, desirable? and on the motion of Mr. Peacock, seconded by Mr. Lett, it was answered in the affirmative, the latter gentleman observing that he did not agree with the present system, and that there was not a man in his parish who knew how to make a road. As to the second question—Is a re-classification of all roads needed?—Mr. T. Watkinson

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thought that such an arrangement was most important and desirable.

Mr. LETT said a re-classification of turnpikes was necessary, because since some of these had been taken away it was very hard upon some parishes, where the roads were used by parties who had nothing to pay for it. He could not see why it was necessary to have the parishes classified.

Mr. SMITH said that all roads on which her Majesty's subjects could pass without let or hindrance should be brought under one system of management; he would make no difference between high-roads, occupation-roads, or bridle-paths. Tolls would certainly be better done away with, because now, with the present railway system, they were a complete tax on some places, whilst others were exempt. He would have the cost of maintenance defrayed, one half by the county rates and the other half by the Consolidated Fund, and all the roads put on an even principle of management.

Mr. CHOLMELEY agreed that all the roads should be on one system. If the road was a turnpike the debt might be extinguished, and if an occupation road an arrangement might be made with the proposed object in view. If they had a divided responsibility between the waywardens, the highway board, and the occupiers, they would not know how to fix the liability for repairs, and they would go on as they were, and in many places they could not be much worse. All those places should be placed under one head.

A re-classification having been resolved upon, the third question was submitted: How many different classes of roads should be established under a new system?

Mr. CHOLMELEY repeated that they should, he thought, have not more than one class. Of course to do that the debt on the turnpike road would have to be extinguished by some means; and the occupation roads could not be taken without compensation, which could be done by arbitration. Those turnpikes which were in dispute ought to be maintained by the parishes first of all. He thought it was disgraceful that anybody should now be able practically to throw up a road, and the Act said they could do so. The main principle was that every public highway should be maintained by the public, and be made one system. In Ireland they had admirable roads, which were all under the county rates. He proposed that there be only one class of roads.

Mr. LINTON seconded the proposition.

Mr. T. WATKINSON moved as an amendment that there be two distinct classes—roads that were turnpike, and roads which were not.

Mr. DUNN seconded the amendment, remarking that he did not see how the matter could be equitably worked without dividing the roads of the kingdom into two classes. The main arterial roads were not made for local traffic but for general traffic, and it would seem hard and unjust where turnpikes were abolished that the expense of the main road should fall on the real estate and property of the neighbourhood. The introduction of railways had altered the aspect of the question very much, and before their introduction such a question would never have been raised; at the same time an arrangement should be provided by which the main arterial roads might be helped—they should have some fund for the purpose and not throw the expense altogether on the parishes.

Mr. LINTON thought that all the roads should be put under supervision of the highway board.

The amendment and resolution having been respectively put to the meeting, six hands were held up for each, and the numbers being thus equal the chairman gave his casting vote in favour of two classes.

In respect to the source whence to raise the funds for the maintenance of each class,

Mr. DUNN said with reference to the parish roads he would lay the expense as it was laid at present, but as to the turnpike and main roads his idea was that the taxes assessed upon carriages and different vehicles should be made over to each county or each riding, and that out of that fund one half the expense should go to maintain the arterial roads, and the other half be paid by the parishes and townships through which they passed. That would relieve the townships of the injustice of making the roads altogether. This seemed to be a fair and legitimate course.

Mr. LINTON: Would you tax the farmers' carriages?

Mr. DUNN: I would not put on them a single tax more than they have at present. What we already pay goes to the Consolidated Fund. Give the matter a local application and collection, and the arterial roads would be maintained from that fund; it would not be very much, but it would be something.

Mr. CHOLMELEY said he was in favour of the Irish system; the roads in that country, under the new Act, being simply admirable; in fact, he had never seen a bad road there. The expense was borne by the separate districts, which had their surveyors, or by what we would here call the different waywardens. They might give ten years' purchase for the roads, so as to get entire control over them.

Mr. LETT would not have the roads put into the hands of the county surveyor, because that would be taking them out of their hands.

Mr. WATKINSON: Suppose half the expense should be paid for turnpikes out of the county rates, and the other half by the districts?

Mr. KILBY said in the West Riding they objected to highway districts, each township supervising its own roads and paying its own expenses.

Mr. CHOLMLEY proposed that a fund be raised out of an increased area, and not under the parochial system. The parishes would not fail to see that the roads were properly kept, and there would be no inducement to "scamp" the roads by doing cheap work.

Mr. LINTON said they should take a broad view of the question, and lose sight of any particular locality or place. The Legislature looked to them, he expected, for these repairs, and there were at present four Acts of Parliament with which they ought to have been acquainted; he would be very glad if they had but one, which would be an advantage to the ratepayers generally, whether it would be to the lawyers or not. If they were to have highway boards then they could not do better than to levy the expenses over each district. He would do away with all parish boundaries, have an equal pound rate in each district, and have but one account. He had met with this difficulty, that the man who spent the least money no matter what damage he did to the highway or how he neglected his duty—if he saved a £5 note he was the popular man, who received the place, but the man who set to work to improve damages and set the foundations of the road right into dispute with the ratepayers, more especially if the surveyor was likely to change farms. In this manner the highway had suffered most materially, and under the circumstances always would so long as they had a constant change of surveyors without any reference to suitability, capability, or responsibility. He suggested that all parishes be done away with, that they have an equal pound rate, and all expenses be levied on each district, and not on each parish. He supported Mr. Cholmeley's proposition.

Mr. DUNN was in favour of Mr. Watkinson's suggestion.

Mr. KILBY moved that each parish pay for its own roads as at present, but there was no seconder.

On the question being put the motion of Mr. Watkinson that one-half the expense of maintaining roads be raised from the county rate, and the other half from the district with regard to turnpikes, was carried.

The fifth and last question was, What should be the constitution of the governing body of the whole or of any one class of roads?

Mr. KILBY proposed that the ratepayers should [illegible] governing body as at present, Mr. CHOLMELEY moving an amendment that a county surveyor be appointed, who should be responsible for carrying out the requirements of the Act. The original motion was carried.

A MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.—At the opening of the winter session of the Winfrith Farmers' Club, Mr. Waller, of the Home Cattle Defence Association, delivered an address in which he spoke against "a sham foreign market in London," and questioned the necessity of inspection. He asked, further, whether education and [illegible] should be inseparably associated? and if the interests of butchers, dealers, and retailers were to be considered paramount? He proceeded to advocate the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture, in which he was supported by Mr. Saunders, of Watercombe, and others.

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STEAM CULTIVATION.

[The following letter has been forwarded to us by Lord Kinnaird.]

Rossie Priory, Inchture, 3rd October, 1874.

DEAR SIR WILLIAM,—According to your request I send you some papers on steam cultivation. Not having made up a complete statement for the past two years, I jot a few hurried remarks which may prove of service for the purpose you mention.

I began to cultivate by steam in the year 1861 with one of Howard's roundabout sets of tackle, that is, with robe and anchor at each end of the field, and one engine. In that year, while engaged on the Mines Commission in the North of England, I made acquaintance with the late John Fowler, who had devoted many years and a large amount of capital towards developing the cultivation of land by steam power; and in the year 1862 he informed me that he had at last accomplished the object of his life and had seen the way to repay the large advances made by his friends. His health having broken down, he came to stay with me for a change of air, and brought with him a 14 (nominal) horse-power engine and tackle, consisting of a windlass which, being attached to an anchor at the opposite corner of the field, moved forward parallel to the engine as the work proceeded. This plan accomplished the work better and more expeditiously than the roundabout system, which I then abandoned, as it took up more time and required more men to attend to the anchors. Fowler's clip drum for catching hold of the wire rope was a most ingenious plan invented by a pianoforte maker in his employment. Poor Fowler, who was one of the most intelligent and enthusiastic engineers I had ever met with, did not live to see his plan brought to perfection by the adoption of the double engine system. At one time I contemplated the roundabout system on an extensive scale by the use of water-power in the middle of a farm. It is a curious circumstance that the first idea of cultivating land by other power than horses originated with a farmer in the Carse of Gowrie, who made use of his water-wheel to work the plough. If I mistake not, Fowler purchased his patent. Late in 1864 I ordered a second fourteen horse-power engine from Messrs. Fowler and Co., which, with the one I got in 1862, I have worked regularly up to the present day not only on the level carse but on the hillsides: these engines are in a more efficient state than when they were started. At the earlier stages we had various difficulties to contend with, such as keeping the water in the boiler while moving on steep inclines, signalling from the one engine to the other when rising ground intervened, &c. On one occasion one of the engines in crossing a bog would have disappeared altogether had it not been dragged out by its coadjutor. Such a difficulty is now met by a simple contrivance whereby the engine is enabled to pull itself out. What I suffered most from was the frequent breakage of tackle, and occasionally the giving way of parts of the engine got in 1864. The one I got in 1862 has required little or no repairs beyond a new fire box, showing not only the engine, but the implements even of every bolt should be made of steel, or the best Low Moor, or iron of similar quality. My only trouble now is with the tubes, which are injured by muddy water. The cry for cheap engines is a mistake, as the cheap engines are certain to become very expensive through frequent repairs—breakages being the only drawback, besides the original outlay, to the general adoption of steam cultivation. No set of engines should be without an experienced mechanic, who with the aid of a country blacksmith can execute any slight repairs, or replace parts which may be procured from Leeds on telegraph order. I have a small workshop, with an intelligent mechanic or engineer, as I am engaged in carrying out improvements in steam cultivation. I have successfully brought into use on my farms a combined harrow and roller, and expect to be able to turn out a drain plough, to cut drains 3½ to 4 feet deep, at a cost of only a few shillings per acre. The greatest advance, however, that I have made is by the purchase of two twenty (nominal) horse-power engines for the purpose of knifing, or subsoiling to a depth of from two to three feet, thus opening up the soil, taking off the water, and letting in the air without bringing the subsoil to the surface. I am satisfied that by this method one-half of the number of drains might have been dispensed with. The value of subsoiling or breaking the "pan" is now generally admitted. It not only lets the water filter away quickly, but facilitates the roots getting down to the fresh soil. In the case of wheat, these would, in congenial soil, extend as far down as the stalk rises above the surface. The knifing can be done on clay land, where there are no stones, at a cost not exceeding 5s. an acre for coals, oil, and men's wages. Indeed, I find that all other work can be done much more economically and expeditiously by these powerful engines than by the fourteen horse-power engines, which I intend to dispose of. With a 7 or 8-furrow plough, rollers and harrows 12 feet wide, engines 600 yards apart on a 20 acre field, will give you some idea of the expedition with which the work is done by the large engines. I can even undertake with the large engines to cultivate a greater extent of land than the 630 acres which I work with the fourteen horse-power engines, by which I save nine pair of horses and six men. Taking the present price of horses at £75 per horse, harness, ploughs, and implements at £300, makes a saving in stocking a farm of £1,650, or within a little of the cost of a double set of engines, with tackle complete, costing £1,300. The higher wages of the engine and ploughdrivers, with the amount paid for coals and oil, will bear no comparison with the keep of horses—besides, when the engines are idle they do not eat. The wire rope on clay land lasts five years. Put the cost of repairs at the outside at £70 or £100 per annum, which is much less than blacksmiths' bills, and the tear and wear of horse-flesh and implements, &c. The superiority of steam cultivation over horse work was characteristically put in the remark of a farmer for whom I had done some work, when he said, "the land has never forgot it." Under steam, the farmer is to a great extent independent of the weather, as he can take advantage of the favourable days to get his crops in with an expedition no number of horses can accomplish. The question still remains, What are farmers on clay lands to do, with wages and other expenses double, a scarcity of hands, and men nothing like so efficient as formerly? It is quite clear, however, that farming, like manufacturing, to pay must be on a large scale, and to a great extent, by steam power. Small farmers must either combine to purchase and work steam tackle, or hire. I may mention that I have added to my steam force a traction engine for conveying dung to the fields, and carrying stones, wood, and other work on the estate, and with which you will see by the enclosed extract, that I have cut down and carted home corn. I hope to hear of the Carrick farmers taking up the question of steam cultivation.—Yours faithfully, KINNAIRD.

Sir W. M. Cuningbame, Bart., M.P.,
Glenmoor, Maybole.

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STEAM PLOUGHING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—I much prefer the plough to the cultivator as a weed killer and land airer, especially in hot, dry weather. We know that in wet weather on stiff clays it must be used, for the cultivator then cannot work. The long 5-feet breasts of the plough have no under-soles to press down the soil, and no horse treadings; but the earth is lifted from its bed, hurried, twisted, and broken, and dropped bottom upwards; and it then lies so lightly and loosely, and unpressed, that the sun's rays and drying winds enter freely, and parch the roots of weeds, from which the soil has been wrung or shaken. In fact, in dry, hot weather there is nothing equal to the steam plough for making a clean fallow. The cultivator moves and pushes aside the earth, and lets down the fine portions; but it does not move or turn over all the earth, and all the weeds: scarifying should be used after the weeds have been uprooted and dried by the plough. Of course the ploughmen want looking to, for as they are paid a sum per acre over and above their usual pay, there is an inducement to hurry the work, or omit to replace the worn or blunted shares by new ones. In hard, dry, tenacious clays, the ploughs will come out of and slip over the soil unless the shares are sharp and the plough sufficiently weighted. In our case two or three men in addition to the plough steerer were required on the plough; they had to jump off occasionally where the engine was "pulled up" by the resisting clay, and we can imagine what the resistance must be to stop a 12-horse power engine working at 125 to 150 lb. to the inch. In fact, steam ploughing lays bare the shortcomings of the ordinary horse plough, where the ploughman has been obliged to "ease off" the work when the resistance was too great for his horses. After steam ploughing, the subsequent working of the land becomes, by comparison, a very easy affair. Commend me to the steam plough, and after that to cultivation. The steam plough economises greatly both horse and manual labour, and very much forwards the work of the farm. In hard, dry ground, plenty of steam plough shares should be provided, for some dozens per day are occasionally required. I look upon the contract system of steam ploughing as a great boon to British agriculture. The extra few shillings per acre are as nothing when compared with the advantages gained, and I consider it a great mistake to try to depreciate it, for we get a strong fellow to do all the hard work, rendering the rest easy. Especially it is useful to those who have only a certain small number of horses which cannot be dispensed with. Farmers with little crooked fields and small gateways are unfavourably placed, and must expect to be left out in the cold when competing for hired steam with those whose lands are more acceptable to the contractors. Landowners should consider this, and remove the difficulties. Farmers are exposed to great competition as among themselves. The occupiers of undrained, ill-shaped and over-timbered fields, with bad roads and insufficient buildings, suffer tremendously in competition with their more fortunate neighbours. The buyer of wheat makes no allowance for agricultural shortcomings.

Yours,

October 20th. J. J. MECHI.

MR. BRUCE'S SHORTHORNS.—Mr. John Cran, Kirkton, Inverness, has bought the whole herd of Shorthorns belonging to Mr. Bruce, Burnside, Fochabers, consisting of twenty-two animals.

THE LATE DUKE OF LEINSTER.—He was one of the original founders of the national system of education, and for many years acted as a Commissioner of the Board. He warmly supported the establishment of the Royal Agricultural Society in 1841, and filled the office of President until December, 1857. During the presidency of his Grace an incident occurred which threatened to upset the Society. During the famine years Mr. O'Connell became a member of the Society "for the purpose of using it to 'put the screw' on the Government. On his motion a resolution forbidding the discussion of political subjects was repealed after a long debate. The Duke, who was in the chair, immediately resigned, as he saw that the effect of so radical a change would create dissention in a society which had hitherto combined all parties for the good of the country, and that the effect would soon be to break it up altogether. His prompt and decisive action induced the members to retrace their steps, and the Society was saved." The Duke was also much interested in the prosperity of the Royal Dublin Society, and for many years was President of the Council. He was also President of the Royal Horticultural Society, and other public bodies of a non-political character. He was for over sixty years Grand Master of the Freemasons of Ireland, and in the Orphan School of that institution, and other charities connected with the Masonic body, he took a deep interest. As a landlord, his Grace was much respected by his tenants, among whom he spent most part of his life. Affable and courteous in his deportment, he was at all times accessible to those who desired to bring their affairs under his notice, and in this he made no distinction between the humblest and the most important of his tenants. His private charities were large. He taught that singularly tortuous tributary of the Liffey, the Wrye, on entering the demesne, to expand into a broad river, and this again into a large and beautiful lake, the waters of which, conducted over an admirably constructed artificial, and, withal, most natural-looking cascade, again to take their natural course, and broadly flow for a long distance through woodland and rocky scenery of a very imposing character. At spots suitable for connecting the splendid drives on its north and south sides he spanned this river with stately and elaborately constructed stone bridges. The Duke was very fond of arboriculture, and many a fine breadth of planting now forms a lofty and enduring monument to his memory. Though practically not so much of a horticulturist, or taking as much of an active and personal interest in gardening as in its kindred pursuits, Carton gardens and grounds were always kept up in the finest condition. The beautiful and imposing Italian garden adjoining the mansion was his Grace's creation, and formed at the cost of a great amount of labour and expense. For nearly forty years he was President of the Royal Horticultural Society—an office which he held to the close of his life. His habits were as active as they were systematic. He was very fond of walking exercise, and few of his friends after taking a spin with him would care to repeat it. He could handle the felling axe with the skill of a backwoodsman, and many an aspiring pine, lofty ash, and tough oak tottered with mathematical accuracy to the desired line of fall from the nicely-balanced swing and unerring strokes of his Grace's axe. He was most punctual in everything, and especially so in the matter of correspondence. No matter who had occasion to write to him, even the humblest applicant for his bounty, we doubt if ever, unless under most peculiar circumstances, they had to wait much beyond the return post for a reply. We have heard it said that on occasions when his house was filled with company he always rose at five a.m., in order to dispose of his correspondence and other matters, and have thus time to give his undivided attention to his guests. His punctuality as regards payments was of a piece with that in respect of his correspondence and all other matters. Annuities, subscriptions to public bodies, charitable institutions, and they were not a few, had never to be applied for. The first day of the new year was never allowed to be a night old before they were discharged. Indeed it was one of the joys of his life to lie down each night conscious of owing no man anything but good will.—*Irish Farmers' Gazette.*

A GOOD CROP.—There is a pear-tree in an orchard adjoining the Crown Hotel, Stoke Ferry, Norfolk, which has this year produced 160 pecks of fruit.

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FARMING IN WALES.

THE PRIZE FARMS OF DENBIGHSHIRE AND FLINTSHIRE.

The following is the report and awards for the best cultivated farms:

To the Committee of the Denbighshire and Flintshire Agricultural Society.

Gentlemen,—My inspection of the farms entered for your prizes commenced this year on the 10th August, and terminated on the 14th. I selected this period as being the most suitable for seeing the grain crops at their best and the stubbles at their worst. A good corn crop in a clean stubble is one of the best evidences of good farming. It is a certain testimony to the previous cultivation while under green crop, and an equal guarantee of good "seeds" and of clean "permanent pasture" when the land is laid down to grass. Last year the corn crops were neither heavy nor clean, chiefly because the season was adverse. This year they are above the average, and the heaviest crops are on the best farmed land. Land is very honest, "Clean it well, feed it well, and work it well," and it will respond liberally to the treatment. All the farms I have inspected this year have good corn crops on them; their green crops vary in character, as also do their seeds and pastures, but they are all under superior management. The first prize is offered for "the farm not less in quantity than 150 acres, including all the land held, which is properly subdivided with fences, and is in the neatest and best order, judicious draining, watercourses, roads, gates, stiles, farmyard, &c., included; the arable land under the most approved course of cropping, and also the grass land in the neatest and best condition, soil and situation considered.

Of the four competing farms in this class I select that occupied by Mr. John Roberts, Geinas House, Bodfari, as coming nearest to this description. It is the smallest of the four, and is not so compact or conveniently situated for the homestead as the others, being intersected by a railway, and having a large piece of land in the centre, on which the church and village stands; but all is done that is possible to counteract these disadvantages. Its extent is 176½ acres. Forty of it is mountain land, 35 being in pasture and 5 in clover; 30 acres were in corn, 18 of it wheat and 12 oats. The wheat in one field of 11 acres was remarkably good, thick on the ground, and the straw bright and well headed; in the other field of 7 acres there was some coltsfoot and a few annual weeds in the stubble, but the crop was a full average, and this was the only field to which any exception could be taken as regards cleanliness. The barley, 10½ acres, was a full crop, with a good root of seeds under. First year's clover, mowed, 20 acres, very good. Mangold wurtzel, 6 acres remarkably forward and well managed. Swede turnips, 6 acres, regular in plant and growing fast. Potatoes, 2½ acres, vigorous and clean. The pasture land lying near the homestead greatly improved by a dressing of bone manure, full of white clover, and free from all noxious weeds. The upland pasture very clean and sweet. The stock consisted of 200 breeding ewes and lambs, well suited in character to the high-lying land, 13 dairy cows of a very superior class, 16 heifers and 16 rearing calves, quite equal in quality, and 2 handsome pedigree bulls, 6 farm horses, 3 colts, and 8 pigs. The poultry yard and bee stands testified also to the attention of Mrs. Roberts, as also did the state of the dairy. The garden was neat, but not made as productive as it might be. Mr. Roberts says he uses about eight tons of bone and artificial manures annually, and 50 tons of lime, applies all the liquid manure of the homestead to his grass land, and ploughs under furrow all the farmyard manure his stock makes; and he claims to have made such permanent improvements as the eradication of 3,500 yards of old fences, and the planting and raising of 900 yards of new ditto. He has a very useful collection of farm implements, a fixed steam-engine, and a well-arranged farmyard and buildings. He is an enterprising man, and has evidently done his best to win, and he well deserves the prize. All the other claimants have made a great outlay in permanent improvements and in increasing the fertility of their soils. One has eradicated 1,850 yards of old fences on a farm of 227 acres, and has reclaimed upwards of five acres of land by grubbing up tree roots and filling up ditches, and has planted 628 yards of new fences. He also expends £100 per year in bone-dust and artificial manures, and all has been done so well that it has greatly improved the value of the occupation. Another, on a farm of 200 acres, has done even more work of a similar character, and has also made a new road of considerable length, re-formed a stack yard at great cost to reduce labour, built a stone wall 100 yards long, and expended a considerable sum on improvement of farm-house. He has also greatly improved the cultivation of one half the farm, which was much unhausted by ploughing and very foul when it came into his hands four years age, for all of which he deserves the highest commendation. He had one of the best fields of wheat I have seen this year. The third has gutted his farm of all its old fences, re-formed its fields into the most suitable size for convenience by planting nearly 6½ miles of new fences, his landlord giving quicks and providing substantial rail fences for their protection. He has also made many other improvements, and he must ultimately bring his farm into the prize list if he perseveres in the way he has commenced. Time, and sometimes a long period of time, is essential to substantial improvement of land and to its being made as productive and profitable as all good farmers desire.

There is only one claimant for the Silver Medal of the Society, offered to owners and occupiers for the best farm under the same conditions, but I have no hesitancy in awarding it to the claimant, Major Hughes, of Ystrad. His farm is fast becoming a model farm, and after a more practical manner than attaches to most of those which go by this name. There is some extra expense incurred for appearance sake in the buildings near the hall, but the profit and loss sheet is evidently kept well under eye. The farm is a light dry soil and consists of 343 acres, divided into thirteen fields: 88 acres were in wheat, 33 oats, 25 turnips, 12 mangold wurzel, 2 cabbages, 2 vetches, 30 mowing, 95 clover, and 40 grass, pastured with cattle and sheep. All the crops were remarkably good except the turnips, which had utterly failed through the dry weather, but had been re-sown and were now making a fair start. The stock consisted of 9 farm horses, 24 dairy cows, 40 heifers and bullocks, and 24 calves. The milk of the cows is churned by steam power and made into butter, and from 24 to 30 calves are annually reared on the farm. The sheep flock consists of 250 breeding ewes, supplemented by about 200 wethers, bought in the autumn and sold out in the following spring, 6 breeding sows, and about 30 store pigs. House feeding is largely followed with the horned stock. All clover and vetches used green are passed through the chaff-cutter and mixed with brewer's grains, bean meal, oilcake, &c. No hay or straw sold. This system yields a large quantity of manure, and places it where it can be most economically and advantageously dealt with. All the field labour, both team work and manual, is done by the piece, and a bonus is given for success in rearing lambs, poultry, &c. This system is worthy of more thought from farmers than it yet obtains. Wherever it can be applied it must be the fairest way of rewarding skill and industry in the labourer, and of stimulating and sustaining him in his efforts to rise both socially and morally, and by adopting it the farmer must get equal value in labour for his wages, and have his work done more quickly and equally well with proper supervision. Major Hughes says the plan works admirably, but he combines the practical with the theoretical on his farm more than most men, and carries out his plans with all the system and discipline of a soldier. His farming must have a beneficial influence in the neighbourhood, in showing both what can be done and how to do it.

For Premium 8, "Farms over 80 acres but under 150," there is no claimant; and for Premium 9, "Farms over 50 acres and under 80," only one—Mr. Edwards, the Brewery, Ruthin. His farm is situate about a mile from the town, and contains 52 acres, lying compactly together round the homestead. Since entering upon it last year, under lease, he has drained 6 acres, eradicated 125 yards old fences, marled 11 acres, repaired the occupation road and footpaths, which were

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in a neglected state, and set up and fixed 13 gates. He has also had a large fall of timber made since entering on the farm, in accordance with agreement made with the landlord, and the place, it is evident, is already greatly improved in appearance and value by these works. His barley (10 acres) was an average crop. Beans (3 acres) a light crop. Turnips (4½ acres) patchy in places, through the ravages of the beetle grub. Potatoes (2 acres) very healthy looking, and all the land clean and well cultivated. The pasture land (21 acres) had been much improved by draining and the application of marl and manure, and the clover (9 acres) was very good. The hedges had all been cut in and properly laid, so as to make good fences in a year or two with proper care. The stock (20 cattle, 20 sheep, and 8 pigs) were of suitable character, and the whole occupation was in commendable order.

THOMAS RIGBY, Inspector.

At Llanboidy Mr. PUGH, without trespassing on the province of the judges," might say that splendid specimens of the black breed were shown that day, and he believed that henceforth Llanboidy would be known as the home of the blacks. They were now establishing a *Herd-book* of the stock and he hoped they would take an interest in it; it would be a thousand pities to let such a splendid lot go by. "The proof of the pudding was in the eating," and he believed that the black breed would produce as nice a bit of beef as could be wished. For himself, he was fond of a bit of colour, and did a little in the way of Shorthorn. In his opinion every man should be allowed to do as he thought best, only he ought to try and keep the breed pure; he certainly thought there was something in that. They ought to thoroughly understand breeding. With regard to horses, they had a really splendid show that day. In a book he got hold of a short time ago it was stated, with regard to horses, that if a thorough-bred mare was put to a common horse, ever afterwards she lost her excellence, and would never breed racers again. This, he believed, was said to be the case not only with horses, but with other animals. Suppose, for instance, a man had a splendid Shorthorn cow worth, perhaps, £500 or a thousand pounds, not much in these days, and she came across a £10 black bull, then according to his doctrine she would never again breed anything worth having. He did not say that this doctrine was true, but it was worth some consideration; in the meantime he would ask them to take care of their fences, and let those who had good animals try to keep them up.

The Rev. Mr. MORGAN was very happy to find that a new feature had been added to this Society—an horticultural show. About four years since he paid a visit to North Wales, and noticed that the houses of the labouring classes, especially those employed at the Penrhyn quarries, were extraordinarily clean. On inquiring the cause of this, and how it was that the gardens were so well kept, he found that Lord Penrhyn encouraged the cottagers to keep their houses clean and tidy by giving prizes. He had not the least doubt that this new feature of the agricultural society—the horticultural society—would be of much use and benefit in the future.

Mr. LEWIS (Gurrey), one of the judges of the cattle, said that Mr. Ormond and himself had had a very difficult task to perform, particularly with regard to the black cattle. He had heard a great deal about the Llanboidy show, but had never had the pleasure of attending it before that day. The black cattle exhibited in the yard he would have been glad to possess when he was farming, and the two-year-old heifers formed a stock which no man need be ashamed to own. In speaking thus he did not refer to the two-year-olds more than the remainder of the blacks, for Mr. Ormond and himself recommended the whole of the classes as good. When he (Mr. Lewis) did more farming he kept to the black cattle, but since he had retired he had been trying other breeds—Shorthorns, Ayrshires, and many others; but of one thing he was certain, that he had found nothing to equal the black for a dairy cow. Mrs. Lewis had said to him the other day, "If you are going to let me have a few cows, let me have good ones," and although he had tried other breeds, he was now going to fall back upon the black breed. He had tried an experiment with each cow, separately, with the aid of a lactometer, an instrument he would recommend them all to procure, and then they would be able to see what difference there was in the quality of the milk. By not referring to the quality of the milk, it was impossible to know what the value of the produce of the cow was. He could not speak highly of the coloured cattle in the yard. He hardly expected to see good coloured cattle, for they were not in the same position as his neighbour, Mr. Pugh, who could buy some of the best pedigree stock in England. In his opinion more prizes ought to be given for the stock shown.

Mr. JAMES (Haverfordwest), one of the judges for the horses, they said when asked him to act he had no idea there would be such a good show. He was afraid their patience had been tried in the horse show, but the various classes was so good that the judges really could not decide. The yearling colts and the two-year-old hunters were especially good.

Mr. GIBBY (Copy Bush) referred more particularly to the sheep, which were extraordinarily good. In the district from whence he came the Llanboidy sheep had always had a good character. When he went home he should be able to tell the farmers that in the future they need not go to Shropshire or Wiltshire for sheep, and he should advise them to go to Llanboidy where they could get animals of sound constitution well worth the attention of any man. He had some sheep which he should be happy to exhibit in any show but Llanboidy; he could not bring them there, for he was certain he should be beaten. He had no doubt that once he got back the farmers in his district would never go anywhere else for their animals but to Llanboidy. He could not say so much for the pigs; the long-eared sows and the short-eared sows were very good, but the boars ought to be much better. Pig-breeding, if properly carried out, was not a small item in the profits of a farmer. He found the Berkshire breed the most profitable, and believed, if they gave it a trial, they would find so too. In the course of a few years they would have to come to Llanboidy for the best things in the country.

Mr. ORMOND (Wedlock) said it was the first time he had ever acted as judge at Llanboidy, and he was really surprised at the show of sheep; it was first-class. The boars were not up to the mark, and some ought not to have come into the yard at all. The sows, however, were very good.

Mr. THOMAS (Derllys) said some years ago it was enough to bring an ordinary animal and take the prize; but now the horses must be brought in good condition, reared well from the time they were foaled. It was the same with sheep and cattle; if they did not bring good things they had no chance of winning at Llanboidy. The sheep were, as the judges had remarked, first-class, and they were getting better. Three or four years ago they never saw a sheep trimmed; now he proposed that the Society should offer a prize for the sheep that was best trimmed. Next year he himself intended offering a prize of one sovereign for the best trimmed sheep in the yard.

Mr. BUCKLEY, the Vice-chairman, said this was the first exhibition of this society at Llanboidy that he had yet attended. Agricultural shows of this kind were very interesting to him, as farming had always been one of his hobbies. The stock shown at their show was well worth looking at. He had kept a large quantity of Shropshire sheep, and had bought some at Mr. Preece's sale in Shropshire, but in his opinion the sheep exhibited in the yard to-day were as good as those, and were quite fit to go to Shropshire, and cut a very respectable figure there.

Mr. POWELL, the Secretary, said with all the improvement which societies such as these created between landlord and tenant, and with all the improvements made in stock, there was yet one class which had not changed for the better in this country. The class to which he alluded was one of the most important to the farmer, without which he would not be able to carry out his affairs; he meant the labouring class, the most helpless and dependent of any class in the county. As long as health and strength and work remains everything was right, but let sickness or old age come on, the whole machinery was put out of gear, and he had to depend upon the charity of others, or to tender mercies of a board of guardians. To provide against that there had been established in this county—in fact, in the three counties—a society which he hoped would better the class to which he referred. He would no further detain them on this point, but would earnestly beg and entreat the serious attention of all farmers to this society. He was sure that if they once put it to their hearts they would give it their warmest support. The president of this meeting, and the vice-president also, had allowed their names to be added to the list of trustees, and they were also liberal supporters of the scheme. He believed that the Society would do a vast amount of good; it would enable the labouring man to provide for sickness and old age, lay by an

annuity for himself or his children, and make provision for death. He was happy to say that Mr. Buckley had undertaken to occupy the chair at a meeting to be held at St. Clears.

Mr. Buckley said, as Mr. Powell mentioned his name in connection with this Friendly Society, he would like to make a few remarks on the matter. He had put his shoulder to the wheel in connection with it, because he thought it would be a most excellent thing for the labouring classes. The labourer of this part of the country, as far as he could judge, seemed to be pretty comfortable, but the thought must sometimes occur to him, "What will become of my wife and family if I am overtaken by illness? we have nothing but the workhouse before us." That was a very gloomy thought, and must hang continually like a cloud over the labourers' mind. He (Mr. Buckley) had taken the opportunity to speak on this subject, because most of the gentlemen present had it in their power to help forward this great Society, for the three counties. He believed this Society was a most admirable one, and one that would work an immense amount of good. He should like to mention what he considered a serious omission in the proceedings. No notice had been taken of the beautiful flower show, under the tent in the field near the school, which had been got up at very considerable labour and expense. The wonder was how such a show could have been brought together, and he was sure the visitors would have been more numerous, had not the weather militated so much against it. The fruit show was very fine, and was much to the commendation of the neighbourhood. There were also some beautiful flowers, and the cottagers' exhibits of wild flower devices were really so beautiful, and so tastefully got up, that they excited the admiration of all present, who were best able to form an opinion on such things.

Mr. Thomas, the secretary of the United Counties Friendly Benefit Society, said, long before this Society was commenced, he had thought of something of the kind. The time for talking about it was now gone by, the time for action had arrived, and they were now working in right earnest. Still everything could not be completed at once; the work was being done as fast as possible, and a good deal of necessary routine matter had been completed. He had visited Cardigan in the course of the week for the purpose of establishing a branch there, and he was glad to say the Society would meet with a good reception in the town of Cardigan. He was surprised to find that in that town there was only one society, a branch of the Odd-fellows, and a small club. This fact would serve to show the great need there was in three counties for a society of the kind they were establishing, and he had no doubt it would work its way in a short time.

At Carmarthen, Mr. Pugh, the High Sheriff, expressed his great satisfaction with the show as a whole; the blacks, the horses, and the sheep were all first rate. He read a short extract from Youatt on breeding, which set forth the danger that lay, in using a poor stallion with a good mare, of ruining that mare for ever, and making her quite unfit even if the best stallion obtainable were afterwards used, to give a pure racer. He had referred to this fact at Llanboidy, and now gave them the exact words of the writer he quoted. He strongly urged them all to keep to pure blood.

Lord Emlyn, the Chairman, desired to say a few words on some important subjects which interested them, and this without entrenching on the rule of the Society. A question greatly affecting agriculture, which had been the subject of considerable controversy and discussion, and the cause of annoyance and difficulty in this county, it was proposed to deal with by Act of Parliament last Session. This had not been done. Now, before blaming the Government for not bringing forward the subject, they had to remember the circumstances under which they came into power. Whoever deserved blame for the present Government not coming into power sooner it certainly was not the Government themselves, and it would, therefore, be unfair to blame them. They had no recess in which to prepare their important plans, and nothing had been done last session in this matter. Mention, however, of such a bill might be looked for on the House re-assembling. There could be but little difference of opinion as to the necessity of some such measure as he referred to; of course, he spoke of a measure for in some way allowing the tenant the benefit of unexhausted improvements. He hoped that before they met here again on the occasion of the annual show that some measure of that kind will have been passed by Parliament. The concessions that had been made by the budget in the relief of a farmer from various imposts could not but be gratifying to them; they were, besides, promised a consideration of the whole question of Local Taxation next session.

Mr. Jones, M.P., congratulated the Society on the show held that day and the excellence of the cattle, reminding the farmers of the great value there was in the rearing of Herefords, which he should like to see spread more over the country than was the case. He referred briefly to the capabilities of the country for cattle breeding and came then to speak of matters parliamentary. This last session the Government had been blamed for making it uninteresting; it might have been uninteresting to those who were bound up in the sensational legislation of the times which had gone before; but it could not be said with truth, that there had been little doing to advance the interests of the country; that had indeed been asserted, but the complaint was not founded on any correct estimate of what had been accomplished, as he believed could be proved by a few words. The expense of lunatic paupers to the local ratepayers had been very much lessened; the tax on agricultural horses had been abolished —a great and undoubted boon to the farmers, which he hoped would be followed before long by the removal of the tax on sheep dogs as well. The consideration of the whole question of Local Taxation would be a prominent work of the next session. There was an undue preponderance of the rates he thought falling on the land. As to the lessening of the Income-tax, he was of opinion that Schedule D was the only one as to which there was just ground for complaint; were Schedule D modified, he would not object to the rate, nor to seeing it one levied at 6d. in the £.

At Tarpoley, Mr. Tollemache, M.P., believed, on the whole, they might congratulate themselves on their agricultural prospects this year. During the spring he was engaged in London, but if he had been down in Cheshire during the very dry weather which then prevailed, he feared he would have availed himself of the truly British privilege of grumbling. But matters afterwards turned out better than we thought, and we knew there had been a very good harvest throughout the country. In Suffolk the wheat crop had been most excellent, and he believed it was also very good in Cheshire. Barley was good, and the potatoes very promising. We might, he feared, be rather short of hay, but he hoped we should not have a severe winter. We had plenty of grass at present, stock was generally healthy, and if proper precautionary measures were used we might continue to remain in the same satisfactory condition. Some years ago his father tried an interesting experiment, which perhaps Mr. Rigby and others would remember; he had two yearling heifers vaccinated after which he sent them to stand for some weeks between animals affected with pleuro-pneumonia. Notwithstanding their proximity to the infected animals the heifers returned home perfectly sound, and although he knew there were great differences of opinion on the subject of vaccination, still he could not help feeling that if vaccination received a fair trial it might prove an effectual safeguard. He had referred to the harvest in Suffolk. In the west the wheat crop might not be so plentiful, but at the same time they had not shared the difficulties there which the east had with regard to labour. Although not a single labourer on his father's Suffolk estate joined the Union, there was no doubt whatever that there was a better feeling between employer and employed, and he trusted that the warning they had from their Eastern Counties friends might not be lost upon them. He hoped employers would show increasing forbearance, foresight, and kindness in relation to the employed, and thus establish a permanent bond of union between them.

Sir Philip Grey Egerton, M.P., dared say that some of his friends who saw him scrambling about in the vales, endeavouring to put salt on partridges' tails, thought he might be better at home instead of idling his time away like that, and perhaps they might be right in one sense; but while he was rambling across the country in search of wild partridges, endeavouring to put salt on their tails, he was also taking care that no one should put salt on his tail. He read a story in his youth, "Eyes and no eyes," which materially helped to induce in him the habit, whether hunting, shooting, or walking about, of using his eyes; and though ostensibly in search of sport, he had opportunities of seeing what he could not see otherwise. He thought he could tell them where to find a field of docks and rushes, or a field of good white clover; and he not only

knew the field, but the farm where it was. Of course he went into every field, because if he missed one he might miss a covey of birds. He thought he knew, too, every ditch that wanted cleaning out and every gate that wanted repairs—and he might tell them that whenever he found a gate tied with a withy he always cut it. It was a slovenly, idle plan which he could not endure. If he were a farmer he would never go out without a small hammer and a few nails in his pocket. As a geologist he had been accustomed to carry a hammer, and he was quite sure he had often carried more fossils than the weight of a few nails would be. One nail might help to make up a gap, or save a gate, which it would cost a good deal to repair afterwards. Therefore he did not devote himself entirely to sporting, but took note of what he saw, and remembered it too, and perhaps his neighbours might hear of it some day or other. He knew fields which would be very much advantaged by draining, and he knew fields where there was as fine grass and clover as anyone could wish to see. Then the search for sport gave him an opportunity of seeing what damage was done by hares and rabbits, so that he could give his keepers instructions respecting them; also the opportunity of seeing what trees were killing the fences, and which should be removed, and he took note of that. He could also see what mischief had been done by the hounds in the previous season, and without taking that for granted, he could see where wires had been run through fences, and assured them that if an accident happened as the consequence of that, and he were on the jury, he would never quit it until a verdict of wilful murder had been returned. All these matters he might tell them in confidence came before him in walking across country, and he did not trust to one pair of eyes, for his friend Mr. Beckett, who was fond of sporting, generally went with him. And he would say this much, while upon what he had seen, that the general effect of what he had seen was highly satisfactory, and he did not think there was any county in England where agriculture was more extensively and judiciously carried out than it had been in this for the last few years. With reference to the present season, though they had had a very serious drought—and when he went afloat in Lord Ducie's yacht, he felt very downhearted at the prospect—he never in his life had seen such fine crops, such splendid pastures and clover, as he had seen this season; and if it was only open wheather this side of Christmas, he thought the deficiency of the hay harvest would not be felt. He thought proof of what he had been saying was afforded in the condition of the animals exhibited, for he had never seen finer, and he trusted the show would continue to be what it was, one of the best local shows in the county.

Mr. Tomkinson, the chairman, congratulated them upon the prosperous season they had passed. In Leicestershire and other counties they had suffered more than in Cheshire, for which we here had reason to be thankful. Lastly, he congratulated them upon the absence of those differences between employers and employed which culminated in the disastrous strike in the Eastern Counties, and which so embittered the mutual relations which previously existed between the various classes of society.

Mr. Finchett, in responding for the "Successful Exhibitors" strongly condemned the practice of over-feeding, and thought the most fastidious could not find fault with the stock exhibited at the Tarporley show. As an exhibitor of cattle, he gave it as his opinion that the pure-bred Shorthorn was not the best adapted for dairy purposes; at the same time he would advise every farmer to purchase a thorough-bred bull as a crop to the stocks now kept in Cheshire; the progeny of this crop if not good milkers were much improved for feeders—a fact not to be lost sight of in these days of dear beef.

At Ruthin, Major Cornwallis West, the chairman, had often heard it asked among his friends, "Do these societies do any good to the small Welsh farmers?" That was the question for them to decide. If they did not, he would say let them try to make such an alteration that the small farmers could compete in separate classes, and not oblige them to compete against the tenants of large farms, who possessed nearly the same advantages as landed proprietors. The importance of agricultural pursuits was growing with the question, How shall we provide for the increasing population of the country? Thank God we had a harvest this year the yield of which had been almost unprecedented, not only in this country but in France, and it would be an immense gain to the people. What did it mean? It meant that this year we should not be obliged to purchase so much corn as we should have had to purchase otherwise; in fact, we should have to purchase two million quarters less, which represents a sum of £12,000,000 that will go into the pockets of the working men of this country. He hoped that they would be the better off for it, that they would at least indulge themselves, their wives and children, in some harmless luxuries, instead of spending their money upon an article the sale of which was becoming an increasing item in the revenue of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he meant the consumption of spirits, for which a sum of £15,000,000 was spent last year. He would not attempt an amateur lecture on farming, for it would be absurd to do so, but he might observe that, owing to the fickleness of our climate in a great measure, no positive rules could be laid down in regard to successful agriculture. Next to the climate, it depended so much upon the industry, ability, and intellect of the farmer. They could not say what crops should be grown in a particular district, and whether a farm should be large or small. It was ridiculous to suppose that in mountainous districts people could be found with capital who would take a farm of any size. He recollected a friend of his said he was farming on a large scale, and, when asked how many fields, he said, "Only three." Well, that did not sound like a large farm, but he explained that the fields were 600 acres each. It would be absurd to have such farms as that in Wales. He congratulated them upon the absence of such disturbances as had taken place in the Eastern Counties. He believed that the labouring classes in those parts were better paid, more contented, that they had nothing to fear on their part that there would be any such rising. Let it not be supposed that he was saying a word against the right of any labouring man to better his condition, if he could do so. What he deprecated was the interference of those loquacious emissaries who went about setting class against class. But at the same time—and in that his friend Mr. Scott-Bankes could bear him out—all who knew anything of the frightfully-abject condition of the labourers in the south must admit that they had a right to do what they did. Speaking next of the tenure of farms, he thought it of so much importance that he had offered a trifling prize for the best agreement, and no doubt upon that a few remarks would be made by Mr. Sandbach, and, as Mr. Osborne Morgan would have to speak to the toast, he (the speaker) ventured to express the hope that the Legislature would do nothing but what was fair and just in regard to contracts which should bind landlord and tenant. He would not prolong his speech except to say that he believed the general condition of that part of Wales was improving, for the last statistics issued showed that the rates were diminished, and that there were fewer paupers than in any other district of the United Kingdom. He was delighted with the change which had been made in regard to the dinner, as it had resulted in such a large assemblage as he saw before him, landlords and tenants, and their wives and daughters, sitting down together irrespective of differences upon political and other matters. He hoped that would still be the case.

Mr. H. R. Sandbach, for the judges, speaking of the farm agreements which had been sent in to compete for the President's prize, said that one thing which struck them was the extreme variety, each differing from the other. He did not think any two were the same as to the period of entry, and with regard to the one which they thought to be decidedly the best, there were two points upon which he wished to make some remarks. They considered the science of agriculture a progressive one, and thought, therefore, that the tenant should not be obliged to observe one stereotyped method of farming, as that would bar his progress. The fewer restrictions placed upon the tenant the better, until the period when he had notice to quit, and then it was necessary to protect the interests of the landlord, as between out-going and in-coming tenant. The agreement to which the prize was awarded was that signed by Mr. Jones, of Aberystwith, but in that they thought the notice to quit was too short: it was six months, and it should be twelve months. The other point was as to the cartage which the tenant engaged to do for the landlord. A blank was left in the agreement, but a note suggested that the tenant should do a day's carting for every £20. They thought that a day's carting for every £40 would be sufficient. He mentioned those two points because the Society would wish probably to obtain all the benefit they could from the publication of the agreements. The date of

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entry was the 29th of September, one not very usual, but that was not of much consequence, providing it could be made to coincide with the entry of the in-coming tenant. The condition was that the whole crop being then on the land the landlord should have the option of taking it at a valuation. The 2nd of February, the 25th of March, and 25th of November, were among the dates of entry which they met with in the other agreements.

Mr. Osborne Morgan, M.P., had lived amongst Welsh farmers from childhood, and had often noticed the kindly relations which existed between the farmers and labourers of Wales. He did not think there was another part of the kingdom in which there was such a kindly understanding as in that part. In a letter to *The Times* a correspondent had adverted to the fact, and it was supported by his own experience, that the same was the case between landlords and tenants; and he could not help thinking that one of the chief objects, and one of the chief uses of meetings like that—of course the first object was to encourage agriculture—was to promote friendly feeling between landlord and tenant, to make the landlord something more than a mere receiver of rent, and the farmer something more than a mere producing machine.

At Welshpool, Mr. Hanbury Tracy, M.P., thought that the state and prosperity of the country was a matter of congratulation. As to the show, they were also to be congratulated on the many excellent productions it contained, but he regretted that there was no competition for implements. Had there been, the show in that department would have been much larger, and he certainly should have been pleased with a larger show of implements, because the present and future welfare of agriculture depended almost entirely upon them. But machinery was daily progressing and creeping into places where it was never seen before, inasmuch as farmers were seeing the necessity of it. They had had a serious strike of agricultural labourers in the country, but it had not come to their county, because both farmers and labourers work well together. He thought that strike had shown one or two things, and one of those things was that where they had a fixed rent to pay, the wages ought to be fixed also, if they had to keep up a certain number of labourers all the year. Farmers might be able to pay higher wages with a smaller number of labourers, but they must be skilled labourers. The introduction of machinery was, as it had ever been, the result of strikes, and there could be no doubt that machinery was gradually finding its way into agriculture, from the steam harrow to the steam thrasher. He and his colleages were well aware that they had gone ahead in Montgomeryshire with machinery, some of which, it must be confessed, was very unpopular; and he need scarcely tell them that he alluded to that very unpopular specimen of it—the Forden traction engine. There had been no end of correspondence on this subject, and complaints of the nuisance the engine was, but for all that he or Mr. Wynn could do, as yet, the Forden traction engine was still on the road. A bill was introduced into Parliament too late last session to be of any use to remedy these nuisances, and it fell to the ground. He might be allowed to remark, in closing, that he believed machinery was re-organising and settling the question of labour more effectually than any strikes ever could do.

Mr. W. W. Wynn, M.P., the chairman, thought the county could not support three or four societies of the kind, and for that reason he advocated concentrated support. Machynlleth had one for a short time, but it fell through, and the Llangollen society could not hold its meeting this year, and was languishing for want of pecuniary assistance. He could not think that so many societies could offer prizes worth competing for. He hoped they would become a circulating Society, and then they could support one good one. These things may not be palatable; but as president of the society he thought they were wholesome truths that it was his duty to tell them. He was sure the two larger towns of Newtown and Welshpool would know that in doing what he had he had done what he could for the best. He hoped, in settling the show of 1875, they would be actuated by the liberal feeling of give and take, and see whether it would not be well to try one of the other smaller towns next year. He thought, on the whole, and considering the drawbacks to which he had adverted, that the show this year had been a tolerably successful one. Amongst the ponies, from 11 to 14 hands, he saw nothing worth looking at. There was room for a good deal of improvement in the cobs, and he thought a large quantity of grass land in that county could be profitably used in rearing good ones. Prices for this class of horses were very high. Ponies that he could have bought 20 years ago for £20 to £25, were now fetching with ease £50. But of all the stock that in his opinion paid well, he thought nothing could equal their Montgomeryshire waggon horses, and every colt that a farmer bred from these horses was a good bank-note in his pocket.

Mr. Alderman Withy, the President, did not seem to take a very flattering view of the show, but it should be borne in mind what a bad season—from the long drought—it had been for cattle. In fact, it was doubted at one time whether they should have a show at all. They had certainly a larger number in some classes than last year, but there were some splendid sheep and cattle in the show for all that.

At Penybont, Radnorshire, the Hon. A. Walsh, M.P., said measures were passed during the last session for reducing local taxation, for which he believed that next year all ratepayers would feel the benefit. There was besides the repeal of the duty on horses, and he did not know any class who would be more benefited by that measure than farmers in the grazing districts, whether of cattle or of sheep, because it was a necessity for the farmer to have a horse to ride over his farm, and to look after and herd his sheep; in fact, in those mountainous districts it would be impossible for a sheep farmer to carry on his business without. They were as much a beast of labour as the cart horses. The rates had been lightened also by the rating of plantations, game, and mines, although—and he wished there were more mines in the county—he feared that rating of mines would not so much benefit the ratepayers of Radnorshire as it would those of some other counties. He believed that from the sources he had mentioned there would be a great alleviation in the rates next year. There would be many questions that would have to come before Parliament next session in the interest of the farmer, but he would forbear to enter into them, not wishing to disturb the serenity of the company. They would entail many questions which could not be mooted in an unpolitical spirit, and therefore he would not go into them. Turning to the subject of the show, he must remark with pleasure on the increased attendance over last year, and he was told by competent judges that the show generally that day was very good indeed. He must say, however, that he should like to see a little more competition. He knew that the committee had very great difficulties to contend with, because it was hard to draw a line between the different districts to compete one with the other. It was quite ridiculous to say that farmers from the Valley of the Wye, from whence the chief winner that day—a personal friend of his, though not a political one—had come, could compete on equal terms with the higher portions of the country and those farmers whose lands were not so valuable by nature, but he did hope that the committee, having the advantage of practical men to guide them, would be able gradually to institute different prizes for those districts, so that they would be able to see the hard-working farmer who worked for his livelihood, and spent his whole capital on one of the less favoured farms, competing for and receiving the best rewards for the most meritorious animals. It could hardly be supposed that an association only two years old should be brought to perfection in that time, and he had no doubt that every succeeding year would bring a fresh stimulus to it. So long as the farmers supported it, so long would the gentry do so, and they would all go hand in hand in trying to keep the association on its legs, totally irrespective of politics, and with a view to increasing the value of the stock on the farms in the county. The Radnorshire Company had this year given a prize for turnips, and he understood it was the intention of Mr. Price, of the Mill, to give next year a £5 cup, because they must all remember how much the cattle depended for their winter feeding upon those and other roots. They must, therefore, give their attention, not only to the best breed of animals, which might fail for want of subsistence, but also attend to the feeding of the same. He should therefore like to see, another year, additional prizes given for roots.

Mr. Severne, the chairman, said one of its most interesting parts had been the trial of sheep dogs; and, *apropos* of them, he must say he should certainly like to see the tax upon such dogs removed. Mr. Walsh was in Parliament he believed when that tax was put on, but he then represented Leominster, where the people did not care for those dogs, and

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perhaps would rather have the tax levied upon them. As for any reductions of taxation he believed that those reductions were suggested by the permanent officials of the Inland Revenue and adopted by whatever party might be in power, so that no party was responsible. As a humble individual his opinion upon the subject was powerless, but as the president of the Radnorshire Agricultural Society his voice perhaps might have some weight, and he must say that a more shameful tax than that upon sheep-dogs was never imposed. He did not think that a farmer ought to keep a dog or starving curs to run all over the country and bark about the neighbouring houses at night, but it might be left to the magistrates to say how many sheep-dogs were required on each farm. No doubt Mr. Walsh would take credit for his friends the present Government, and to a certain extent they were his (the Chairman's) friends too, though he was no party politician, for having removed the tax upon horses, but in his (the Chairman's) opinion they ought rather to have taken off the tax upon sheep-dogs, and put them on the same footing as sporting dogs. The tax upon sheep dogs he considered ought far more to have been removed than that upon horses, and he was satisfied that the present anomalous state of things upon the subject could not long continue. The tax was in fact equivalent to a tax upon a man's tools of trade. As for the Radnorshire Agricultural Society, he thought they had placed it upon such a basis that it would be an institution of the country. Soon after it was founded, Mr. Dansey Price had communicated to the secretary that a gentleman would give £500 towards it, provided that it was to be moveable to Knighton and Presteign. The founders of it had, however, invested their money upon the principle of its being held in a central position at Penybont, and to that effect a reply had been sent to Mr. Dansey Price. He was sorry to say that the gentleman who offered the £500, and who appeared to be a well-wisher to Radnorshire, was very much hurt at the reply. The committee were unable to ascertain who that gentleman was.

Mr. Dansey Price, in returning thanks on behalf of "the unknown gentleman" who was a well-wisher to the interests of the Society, said he was excessively pleased to see how much the Society was progressing and promised to report to his unknown friend accordingly. The offer, as the Chairman well knew, was a *bona fide* one. It might, he thought, be modified in any way to suit the feelings and wishes of the Society, and was one that would, he was sure, if accepted be the means of making the Society a permanent institution of the country. It must not be omitted that in asking for the Society to be considered a county association they were giving up the meetings that were held at present at Knighton, Presteign and Wye-side. What his unknown friend proposed was to make the Society to a certain extent migratory. He dared say, however, the offer might be modified, and that the gentleman would not wish to make a hard and fast bargain. If the Society carried out the object it was endeavouring to do—namely, to get the proprietors of both the upper and lower districts to send their cattle to one show, and could afford both like advantages, so as to please all parties, it would be doing what a county society ought to do—namely, improving every part of the county from one end to the other, and especially those districts which most required improvement. He hoped the Society would try to come to an agreement with his unknown friend, and so try to put the Radnorshire Agricultural Society on a firmer basis than ever it had a chance of being before.

Mr. W. Hawkins (Weston), a judge, had been at two or three other shows this season, but he did not know that in the cart-horse classes he had seen better horses at any of them. They were good enough to be shown at any exhibition in England. In fact he had never seen better in his life.

Mr. W. Ball (Kington) confirmed Mr. Hawkins' remark. Although he knew the county well, he was certainly very much astonished to see the horses exhibited that day, and he must compliment the gentlemen of the upper part of the county on the class of cart horses they had produced. He wished he could say the same of the other classes.

Mr. P. Rogers (Coxall) thought in some classes the stock shown last year was better than that which he and Mr. Evans had been called on to judge that day. He thought that another year it would be well for the committee to get other than Herefordshire men to act as judges, although some of them were Radnorshire men; he was himself for one, and he still thought there was not a better county in all England Still it was better that in some classes—the mountain sheep especially, which were very important stock in Radnorshire—there should be gentlemen of greater experience of them than Herefordshire men to judge of their merits.

The Hon. A. Walsh, M.P., explained that there was no man in Radnorshire had a greater hatred to the tax on sheep dogs than himself, as he thought it was a most unjust tax, and he was fully prepared in that session, if no one else had done it, to move that that tax should be abolished, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in introducing his Budget, stated that next year he would hand over the tax on sheep-dogs to ratepayers, for them to do what they thought fit with it; and, therefore he (the Hon. A. Walsh) and other members who represented feeding and sheep breeding counties determined to wait until next session, to see if he (the Chancellor) would redeem his promise. If he did not, then they would bring forward a motion upon the subject, and would fight it to the last.

TOLL ON STEAM AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS —A case came on at the Steyning Petty Session in which George Woolgar, of the Bramber Turnpike Gate, summoned the Penshurst and Chiddingstone Agricultural Steam Company (Limited) for refusing to pay toll in respect of two steam road locomotive engines, containing within themselves (using the words of the Act) the machinery for their own propulsion, together with certain carriages or implements annexed thereto. Mr. Lamb, of Brighton, appeared for the toll-gate keeper and Mr. Goodman, also of Brighton, appeared for the Company. Mr. Lamb opened the case for the prosecution by putting in the Local Act obtained in the year 1860 by the trustees of the Bramber-road, in which certain tolls were authorised to be taken in respect of agricultural road steam engines and carriages drawn by them. Mr. Lamb also referred to what is generally termed the "Locomotive Act, 1871," by which it is enacted that all clauses and provisions of any Local Act relating to turnpike roads shall apply to locomotives so as to render the owners liable (notwithstanding the General Act may have been passed subsequently to the Local Act) to those tolls specified in such Local Act. It should be stated that in the General Act referred to tolls are authorised to be taken by trustees of local turnpike roads, as follows: "Such a toll for every two tons weight that the locomotive shall weigh, as shall be equal to the toll by the Local Act made payable for every horse drawing any waggon, &c., with wheels of a width similar to those of the locomotive." Mr. Lamb then called the gate-keeper to prove the passing through the gate, on the 10th ult., of the two locomotives, attached to one of which was a van used for sleeping purposes by the men, but admitted not to be for agricultural purposes. Mr. Lamb also put in the Acts of Parliament relating to exemptions from toll, which were afterwards referred to argumentatively by Mr. Goodman, as will be seen below. This was stated to be the case for the complainant, with the exception of a point raised by Mr. Lamb as to whether a contract for ploughing land could be considered as a *hiring* of the implements by the person contracting. On this point the magistrates expressed an opinion, as it did not immediately arise. Mr. Goodman then addressed the Court in an able manner on the part of the defendants. He contended (citing several cases in support) that the mere fact of a person contracting with another to do certain work did not make the one who engaged the other a hirer in respect of the articles and goods employed in carrying out the contract, for inasmuch as no action of trover in this case could have been maintained by the farmer against any one who might have removed the engine, there could be no bailment. It was also contended that inasmuch as toll had been tendered and refused in respect of the van no liability attached, and that as the locomotive was drawing implements of primary importance in agriculture, toll was not payable on the locomotive drawing the van. Mr. Goodman quoted several Acts of Parliament, and cited several cases, the most important of which was "Reg. against Matly." The magistrates retired to consider their decision, and on their return the Chairman stated the justices were of opinion that the exemption from toll attempted to be made out in respect of the van had not been proved, and also that the liability to toll of the locomotive drawing the same had not been established. Accordingly toll had to be paid for the van and not for the engine. A clergyman, the Rev. J. Gorring, was Chairman of the Bench.

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NORTH SHROPSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT NEWPORT.

Of horses there was a large show, but as regards quality not hardly equal to what had been seen on one or two previous occasions. Over 220 animals were shown, and they were divided into 17 classes. The Shorthorns formed a large class, but were a good deal mixed. The entries of Messrs. Sneyd, Bradburn, Horton, Radcliffe, Bennion, and Bickford were good specimens; while the Duke of Sutherland's bull's pedigree was not given. Of Shropshire sheep there was really a great show; the number of entries was 120, and the animals were divided into seven classes, namely —Aged rams 11 entries, shearlings 10, ram-lambs 22, seven pens of ewes of 20, five pens of five ewes each, nine pens of five each each, lambed in 1873; ten pens of five ewes each, lambed in 1874; or, in all, 303 Shropshire sheep. The names of the winners—Griffith, Mansell, Beech, Nock, Yates, Smith, and Wilkes, are guarantees of the character of the stock. The pigs made a poor show; there were only eight entries, comprising twenty-four pigs, certainly a bad muster for a show which embraces so wide a district. Of cheese and butter there was also a rather limited show; but in wool some good competition. Of implements the show was the largest ever seen at an exhibition of the Society, and holding a conspicuous place in the showyard was a collection by Messrs. Corbett and Peele, of the Perseverance Iron Works, Shrewsbury. Lewis and Co., of Shrewsbury, also showed an assortment of implements, and Underhill, of Newport a very large stand; while Corbett and Son, of Wellington, also had a large assortment. Gower and Son, Market Drayton, another varied collection. G. Aston, Newport, showed a number of Bradford's washing machines. E. Webb and Sons, of Ivy Mills, Wordsley, Stourbridge, had a stand of seeds, manures, and agricultural produce; and Proctor and Ryland a collection of bone manures for autumn use, and several fine samples of roots.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—Agricultural Hunting and Hack Horses: Mr. J. Lea and Mr. J. Belcher. Cattle: Mr. Jackson, Mr. J. Heatley, and Mr. Groves. Sheep: Mr. J. Evans, Uffington; Mr. Keeling. Pigs: Mr. Burgess and Mr. Eardley. Implements: Mr. Stanley and Mr. Gouldbourn. Cheese and Butter: Mr. G. Lewis, Market Drayton; Mr. Platt, Manchester. Wool: Mr. Thompson, Shrewsbury; Mr. Smith, Shrewsbury.

HORSES.

Stallion for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £8, W. Williams, Dryton, Wroxeter. Highly commended: I. Lowe, Donington, Newport. Commended: W. Allen, Cherrington Manor, Newport.

Mare with foal, for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £7, R. C. Pooler, Adney House, Newport; second, £3, S. Lea Castle Hill, Spoonley, Market Drayton. Highly commended: T. Jackson, jun., Sowdley, Market Drayton. Commended: S. Bourne, Goldsmith House, Burleydam, Whitchurch.

Pair of horses for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £6, S. Bourne; second, £3, W. Hunter, Offoxey, Shifnal. Highly commended: J. Heatley, Old Springs Farm, Market Drayton.

Horse for Agricultural purposes.—First prize, £4, T. Booker, Sutton, Newport, Salop; second, £3, J. Swift, Weston Jones, Newport, Salop. Highly commended: T. Ratcliffe, Cheswell Grange, Newport, Salop. Commended: G. McKnight, Mossey Green, Oakengates, Wellington.

Colt for agricultural purposes, foaled in 1871.—First prize, £4, R. Heatley, Eaton Grange, Market Drayton; second, £2, H. Pooler, Cheswell, Newport. Highly commended: J. Attwood, Weston Jones, Newport.

Colt for agricultural purposes, foaled in 1872.—First prize, £3, S. Lea; second, £2, J. Hammonds, Heath Hill, Newport. Highly commended: W. D. Turner, Oulton House, Newport. Commended: Mrs. M. Davies, Harrington, Shifnal.

Colt for agricultural purposes, foaled in 1873.—First prize, £3, J. Paddock; second, £2, B. Wainman, Whitley Manor, Newport. Highly commended: J. Lockley, Little Hales Manor, Newport.

Stallion for hunting purposes.—Prize, £5, A. Bayley, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES.

Brood mare, with foal at foot.—First prize, a silver cup, 10 gs., C. R. Liddle, Highfield, Newport; second, silver cup, T. Williams, Albrightlee, Battlefield, Shrewsbury. Highly commended, W. H. P. Nock, Burlington, Newport. Commended: A. H. Gordon, Brineton, Newport.

Hunter, five years old and upwards, the *bonâ fide* property of a member of the Society since March, 1874.—First prize, silver cup, 7 gs., and second, 3 gs., R. Ogle, Kinnersley Manor, Wellington. Highly commended: G. Waine, The Rowney Farm, Market Drayton,

Hack or roadster, 15 hands or over.—First prize, £5, T. Radcliffe, and highly commended; second, £2 10s. T. Powell, Cotton Farm, Hodnet.

Cob, hack, or roadster, under 15 hands.—First prize, £5, R. M. Leeke, Longford Hall, Newport; second, £2 10s., J. Deane, Betley, Crewe. Highly commended: R. N. Heane, Newport., Commended: — Kemp, Market Drayton.

Colt, foaled 1870, within the limits of the Society, likely to make a hunter.—First prize, £5, W. Bradburn, Wednesfield; second, £3 10s., G. T. Phillips, Sheriffhales Manor.

Colt, suitable for hack or roadster, foaled 1871—First prize, £4, W. Davies, Hinstock, Market Drayton; second, £2, J. Bourne. Commended: G. Waine.

Colt, for the same purpose, foaled 1872.—First prize, £3, and second, £2, W. H. P. Neck.

Colt, for the same purpose, foaled 1873.—First prize, £3, H. Jones, Wrockwardine, Wellington; second, £2, M. Lester, Petsy Farm, Hodnet. Highly commended and commended: J. Paddock.

Pony, under 13 hands.—First prize, £2, Mrs. A. Bird and Son; second, £1, J. Attwood. Commended: Mrs. A. Bird and Son.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull of any age, age to be taken into consideration.—First prize, £7, and silver cup, the Duke of Sutherland, Lilleshall Home Farm; second, £3 10s. T. Williams, Albrightlee, Battlefield, Shrewsbury. Highly commended: F. S. Broade, Betley Hall, Crewe. Commended: S. Dicken, Little Ness, Baschurch.

Bull, calved 1872.—First prize, £7, B. Wainman, Whitley Manor, Newport; second, £3 10s., S. L. Horton, Park House, Shifnal. Highly commended: T. Lester, Ollerton, Market Drayton. Commended: R. W. Ralph, Honington Grange, Newport.

Bull, calved 1873.—First prize, £5, W. Bradburn, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton; second, £2 10s., J. Morrey, Sutton, Market Drayton. Highly commended: H. Walker, Lilleshall Hill Farm, Newport. Commended: T. Radcliffe, Cheswell Grange, Newport.

Bull, calved 1874.—First prize, £3, T. Radcliffe; second, £2, W. Bradburn. Highly commended: Rev. W. Sneyd, Keele Hall, Newcastle, Staffordshire. Commended: T. Booker, Sutton, Newport.

Cow, of any age, age to be taken into consideration, having produced a calf in 1874.—First prize, £5, O. Bennion, Creswell, Stafford; second, £3, Rev. W. Sneyd. Highly commended and commended: W. Bradburn.

Pair of heifers, calved 1872.—First prize, £4, J. Bourne, Arbour Farm, Market Drayton; second, £2, Rev. W. Sneyd. Highly commended: W. Yates, Grindle House, Shifnal.

Heifer, calved 1872.—First prize, £3, S. L. Horton, Park House, Shifnal; second, £2, J. Bickford, Moseley, Wolverhampton. Highly commended: S. Wilkes, Brewer's Oak Farm, Shifnal.

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Pair of heifers, calved 1873.—First prize, £3, S. L. Horton; second, £2, and highly commended, R. Dicken, Aston, Wellington.

Pair of heifers, calved 1874.—First prize, £2, W. Bradburn.

Bull, calved 1872.—First prize £7, W. R. Corser, Moorhouse, Much Wenlock.

Cow, of any age, age to be considered, having produced a calf in 1874.—Prize, £5, M. Williams, Dryton, Wroxeter. Highly commended: E. H. Davies, Patton, Much Wenlock. Commended: R. C. Pooler, Adney House, Newport.

Heifer, calved 1872.—Prize, £4, E. H. Davies. Highly commended: W. R. Corser.

Pair of heifers, calved 1873.—Prize, £3, M. Williams.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES.

Alderney or other Channel Island cow, in milk, having produced a calf in 1874.—First prize, silver cup, value £5, Rev. J. Hill, The Citadel, Hawkestone; second, £2, Mrs. D. Hudson, Cheswardine Hall, Market Drayton. Highly commended: Rev. J. Hill. Commended: Mrs. D. Hudson.

Cow of any breed for dairy purposes, having produced a calf in 1874.—First prize, £5, J. Bickford; second, £3, J. Booker, Wilbrighton, Newport. Highly commended: J. Booker. Commended: W. Bradburn.

Fat ox, cow, steer, or heifer.—First prize, £4, Rev. W. Sneyd; second, £2, E. H. Davies.

SHEEP.

Ram of any age (age to be considered).—First prize, £7, and second, £3 10s., H. Griffin, Pell Wall, Market Drayton. Highly commended: T. Mansell, Ercall-park, Wellington. Commended: E. H. Davies, Patton, Much Wenlock.

Ram, lambed 1873.—First prize, £7, Mrs. S. Beach, The Hattons, Brewood, Staffordshire; second, £3 10s., W. H. P. Nock, Burlington, Newport. Highly commended: H. Griffin. Commendded: T. Nock, Sutton-house, Snifnal.

Ram lamb, lambed 1874.—First prize, £4, Mrs. S. Beach; second, £2, T. Nock. Highly commended: W. Yates, Grindle-house, Snifal. Commended: S. Wilkes, Brewer's Oak Farm, Snifnal.

Twenty ewes, of any age, each having produced a lamb in 1874.—First prize, £10, T. Mansell, Ercall-park, Wellington; second, £5, Mrs. H. Smith, New-house, Sutton Maddock, Snifnal. Highly commended: M. Williams, Dryton, Wroxeter. Commended: W. Yates, Grindle-house, Snifnal.

Five ewes of any age, each having produced a lamb in 1874.—First prize, £6, Mrs. S. Beach; second, £3, Mrs. H. Smith. Highly commended: M. Williams, Dryton, Wroxeter. Commended: J. C. Burton Borough, Chetwynd Park, Newport.

Five ewes, lambed in 1873.—First prize, £5, S. Wilkes; second, £2 10s., W. Yates. Highly commended: T. Mansel: Commended: W. H. P. Nock, Burlington, Newport.

Five ewe-lambs, lambed in 1874.—First prize, £4, Mrs. S. Beach; second, £2, W. Yates. Highly commended: M. Williams. Commended: W. H. P. Nock, Burlington, Newport; W. Nevett, Yorton-villa, Shrewsbury.

Long-wool ram of any age (age to be considered).—First prize, £4, and highly commended, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwick. Commended: T. Radcliffe, Cheswell Grange, Newport.

Ram lambed in 1873.—Prize, £2, J. Wheeler.

Five ewes of any age, each having produced a lamb in 1874.—First prize, £3, T. Furber, High Offley, Newport.

PIGS.

Boar, large breed, of any age.—First prize £3, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour; second, £2, B. Wainham, Whitley Manor, Newport.

Breeding sow, in pig, or with farrow of sucking pigs not exceeding ten weeks old.—First prize, £3, T. Radcliffe, Cheswell Grange, Newport; second, £2, W. Earp, Lower Bar, Newport. Commended: S. Wilkes, Brewers' Oak Farm, Snifnal.

Boar, small breed of any age.—Prize, £3, J. Wheeler.

Breeding sow, in pig, or with farrow of sucking pigs, not exceeding ten weeks old.—First prize, £3, J. Wheeler; second, £2, and commended, C. D. Hudson, Cheswardine Hall, Market Drayton. Highly commended: R. Cooke, Chipnal, Market Drayton.

Three sows, of any breed, of the same farrow, about four and under eight months old.—First prize, £3, J. Wheeler; second, £2, T. Radcliffe.

Fat pig.—First prize, £2, J. Wheeler; second £1, J. Bray, Weston, Snifnal.

EXTRA STOCK PRIZES.

HORSES.

G. H. Haslam, Market Drayton.

CATTLE.

J. Bickford, Moseley, Wolverhampton—white calf (Any). G. T. Phillips, Sheriffhales Manor, Newport—red-and-white Shorthorn heifer.

CHEESE.

Thick cheese.—First prize, £5, J. Heatley, Old Springs, Market Drayton; second, J. Bourne, The Arbour, Market Drayton. Highly commended: E. Massey, The Pool Farm, Adderley, Market Drayton.

Thin cheese.—First prize, £5, G. Pierce, Guild Farm, Newport; second, Mrs. A. Podmore, Chetwynd Grange Farm, Newport. Highly commended: J. Paddock, Chetwynd Aston, Newport. Commended: Mrs. Busby, Haughton Cottage Stafford. The cheese was the manufacture of the exhibitor in the year 1874, was not expressly to show, but a fair sample of the dairy, and not less than 1 cwt.

BUTTER.

First prize, £1, G. Pierce; second, W. W. Derington, Chetwynd Villa, Newport. Highly commended: Rev. C. F. C. Pigott, Edgmond Rectory, Newport. Commended: C. D. Hudson, Cheswardine Hall, Market Drayton.

WOOL.

Five fleeces of Shropshire wool.—First prize, £5, W. Fowler, Acton Reynold, Shrewsbury; second, J. Broughall, Sutton Maddock, Shifnal; third, T. Rider, Edgebouldon, Shawbury. Highly commended: W. H. P. Nock, Burlington, Newport. Commended: J. C. Burton, Borough, Chetwynd Park, Newport.

IMPLEMENTS.

1st Class Medals.—W. S. Underhill, Newport, for general assortment; Corbett and Son, Wellington, for an improved two-horse gear; Lewis and Co., Shrewsbury, for Emperor combined mower and reaper.

2nd Class Medals.—W. S. Underhill, for six-horse steam engine; ditto, for six-horse thrashing machine; Corbett and Son, Wellington, for a R.A.S. grinding mill; Corbett and Peele, Shrewsbury, for Eclipse combined blowing and winnowing machine; also for combined corn barrow drill; A. W. Gower and Son, Market Drayton, for nine-coulter corn drill.

At the dinner, the President, Mr. C. C. COATES, M.P., said, there had been proposals made in certain quarters that societies like that should be merged in a large society which should include in its area the whole of this and possibly one of the adjoining counties. That, however, was not the place for the discussion of that question, but he hoped after the success of the show that day, both as regards the number of people who were present, and the quantity and quality of the stock that was exhibited, that the claims of Newport as a place suitable for holding the show, whether of the North Shropshire or any other agricultural society, would always be fairly and favourably considered. With regard to the present show, he believed that they had good reason to congratulate themselves on the fact that, not only had the North Shropshire Agricultural Society this year held its own, but that it had made a great stride of progress. He had, himself, only seen three shows of the Society; the first, two years ago, at Wellington, the second, last year, at Market Drayton, and the present show; and he must say that, whether they regarded the number or the quality of the entries, this show was far superior to any of the Society he had witnessed. The horses and cattle were good, and the sheep classes presented such an appearance as was seldom to be witnessed at a local show. There was one question to which he wished to allude before he sat down, and which had been touched upon earlier in the evening by a gentleman who was well qualified to do so, and whom they always listened to with pleasure, either in public or from the pulpit—the rector of Edgmond. It was a question of the very highest importance to the agricultural community, and was occupying a considerable amount of attention at the present time. Happily, so far as he knew, in that district there had been none of those unfortunate disputes which had for some months convulsed almost the whole of the Eastern Counties. He earnestly trusted that no cause for dispute would hereafter arise, but that those amicable relations which had so far existed between employer and employed, those social ties which had hitherto bound them together (more valuable in his opinion than any mere commercial agreement), would be long

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maintained, as he considered that if they were carried out in a spirit of equity and fairness both sides would reap the benefit. He did not like to look forward to the prospect of any such differences arising, and he hoped that that day might be far distant. But should they unfortunately arise, and disputes should take place between employer and employed, he earnestly hoped that both sides would be wise enough to be guided by their own counsels without having recourse to those who came from a distance, and who were, to say the least of it, imperfectly acquainted with the facts of the case. He had been very much struck by the fact that in the recent dispute in the Eastern Counties, gentlemen, eminent in the mercantile world, had come forward to speak authoritatively on the agricultural labourers' question, with which they could have no practical acquaintance. He thought that were the cases reversed and were he and his friends to take part in matters which affected the mercantile interest they would at once be told that they knew nothing of the matter with which they were attempting to deal. Now that the struggle was over he hoped that the conquerors would use their victory with moderation, and that, as far as possible, the kindly feeling which had previously existed would return, and that no business or spirit of retaliation would be shown by either side in the future.

Mr. Ormsby Gore, M.P., had never seen a better show of sheep—the rams were fine, and so were the ewes, while the lambs were more than fine. He was glad to see the crops were so good in this neighbourhood, and in Wales he had never seen finer crops than they had had this year. With reference to the malt, he might say he had had a conversation with Mr. Bass, M.P., and that gentleman assured him that there would be good returns of barley this year. With reference to the proposed amalgation of this Society with others, or with the merging of it into a general society for the county, he did not agree. If it was desirable there should be a society of the latter description, well and good; but why should the existence of such a society interfere with the existence of the North Suropshire as a district Society? Seeing the district Society had done so much good, let them continue, rather than give it up.

Lord Newport, M.P., said there was one thing the Chancellor of the Exchequer had refused to deal with, and which he himself would like to have seen repealed—the Malt-tax. [Mr. Mansell: "We want it off."] He was pleased with the abolition of the horse-duty, for that would be a great boon to agriculturists. The recent legislation with regard to local taxation would also be welcomed by the agricultural community, and he might say that her Majesty's minister's had been advised, in another session, to deal with the question in general.

NORTHALLERTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Horses and cattle were not as largely represented as usual. The roots were quite a feature of the exhibition, forming the best show of the kind come across this season. Horses included a representation of the best animals in the North Riding, and for the cup given by the member for the borough there was a keen competition, the class including some well-known prize-winners.

PRIZE LIST.

HORSES.

HUNTERS.

Colt foal for the field.—First prize, T. Heugh, Romanby Farm, Northallerton; second, W. Clarke, Asenby, Thirsk.

Filly foal for the field.—First prize, R. Mothersill, Brockholme, Northallerton; second, J. and H. Ward, Fairholm, Nothallerton.

Yearling gelding for the field.—First prize, G. Lancaster, Morton Grange, Northallerton; second, T. and G. Knowles, Windy Hill, Hutton, Rudby, Yarm.

Yearling filly for the field.—First prize, J. Weighell, Whitby; second, G. Potts, Greenhow Hill, Great Ayton, Northallerton.

Two years old gelding for the field.—First prize, J. Sedman, Wilton, Pickering; second, T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick.

Two years old filly for the field.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, T. and G. Knowles.

Three years old geldings for the field.—First and second prizes, G. Lancaster.

Three years old for the field.—First prize, A. Brigham, Settrington, York; second, M. Raw, Piercebridge Grange, Darlington.

COACHING.

Colt foal.—First prize, W. Sidgwick, Knowles Farm, Kirkleavington; second, J. Wood, Park House, Gilling, York.

Filly foal.—First prize, J. Pattison, Brompton; second, J. Reader, Beacon Farm, Holme, York.

Yearling gelding.—First prize, W. Watson, Cockerton, Darlington; second, G. Lancaster.

Yearling filly.—First prize, J. Campion, Overdale Farm, Lythe; second, J. Pattison.

Two years old gelding.—First prize, J. Smith, Gyll Hall, Catterick; second, G. Meynell, Wardle House, Patrick Brompton, Bedale.

Two years old filly.—First prize, C. and J. Smith, Broadgate, Westerdale, Yarm; second, J. and J. Welford, Newton Mulgrave, Hinderwell, Saltburn.

Three years old gelding.—First prize, T. Plummer, Birdforth, Easingwold; second, I. Scarth, Mount Pleasant, West Rounton.

Three years old filly.—First prize, J. and F. Hill, Nether Silton, Northallerton; second, T. Dobson, Easington, Saltburn.

ROADSTERS.

Colt or filly.—First prize, E. Shepherd, Aiskew, Bedale; second, A. Kirby, High Grange, Market Weighton.

Yearling gelding or filly.—First prize, Kirby, R. Kirby Sigston, Northallerton; second, W. Dixon, Sharow, Ripon.

Two years old gelding or filly.—First prize, M. Harrison, Water, Pocklington; second, M. Morton, Leak Hall, Thirsk.

Three years old gelding or filly.—First prize, T. Foster, Allen's Grange, Piercebridge, Darlington; second, R. Kirby, Kirby Sigston.

AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Colt or filly foal.—First prize, T. Pick, Street House, Newsham, Thirsk; second, Mrs. Kitchen and Sons, Whorlton, Swainby Stokesley.

Yearling gelding or filly.—First prize, Mrs. Kitching and Sons; second, T. Potts, Swainby Mill, Northallerton.

Two years old gelding.—First prize, W. Kitching, Summerfield; second, D. Sanderson, Richmond.

Two years old filly.—First prize, W. Appleton, Balk; second, W. Wilkinson, South Kilvington.

Three years old gelding.—First prize, R. Lee, Ferryhill; second, R. Tweedie, Catterick.

Three years old filly.—First and second prizes, Mrs. Heddon, Baldersby.

Pair of horses of either sex.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, Mrs. Heddon.

BROOD MARES.

Mares for breeding hunters, with a foal or stinted.—First prize, W. Johnson, Bagby; second, W. Clarke, Asenby.

Mare for breeding coach-horses, with a foal or stinted.—First prize, M. Robinson, Hauxwell; second, J. Reader, Holme.

Mare for breeding roadsters, with a foal or stinted.—First prize, A. Kirby, Market Weighton; second, H. R. W. Hart, York.

Mare for breeding agricultural horses, with a foal or stinted.—First prize, R. Watson, Stockton-on-Tees; second, T. H. Hutchinson.

SPECIAL DISTRICT PRIZE.

Mare for breeding agricultural horses, with a foal or stinted.—Prize, J. Smith, Northallerton.

HORSES TO BE RIDDEN IN THE RING.

HUNTERS.

Four years old gelding or mare.—First prize, D. and R Batty, Helperby; second, T. Darrell, West Ayton; third, T H. Hutchinson.

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SPECIAL PRIZE.

Hunter, gelding, or mare, not exceeding eight years old, by a thorough-bred horse, capable of carrying 14 stones with hounds, and that has been regularly hunted with an established pack of foxhounds in the counties of Yorkshire or Durham.—First prize, Cup, T. H. Hutchinson; second, D. and R. Batty; third, T. Darrell.

HACKNEYS.

Hackney mare or gelding, under eight years old.—First prize, W. H. Blackman, Wressle; second, W. Stephenson, Cottingham.

PONIES.

Pony not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, W. H. Blackman; second, Viscount Castlereagh, Stockton-on-Tees; third, Mrs. Barnes, Warlaby Lodge.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull, above two years old.—First prize, G. Yeates, Studley, Ripon; second, I. Garbutt, Farndale.

Bull, above one and under two years old.—First prize, C. and J. Smith, Broadgate, Yarm; second, N. Russell, Northallerton.

Bull-calf, under twelve months old.—First prize.—H. Clay, Northallerton; second, E. and W. Dovener, Bedale.

Cow, in calf or milk, having had a calf within twelve months.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick; second, T. H. Hutchinson.

Heifer, under three years old, in calf or milk.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, H. Clay.

Heifer, under two years old.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, T. Strickland, Thirsk Junction.

Heifer, under twelve months old.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, W. White, Bedale.

DISTRICT PRIZES.

Cow, in calf or milk, having had a calf within twelve months.—First prize, G. K. Harland, Northallerton; second, N. Russell.

Heifer, under three years old, in calf or milk.—First prize, T. Strickland; second, W. White.

Heifer, under two years old.—First prize, T. Strickland; second, H. Clay.

Heifer, under twelve months old.—First prize, W. Bearpark, Ainderby Steeple; second, C. Wailes, Northallerton.

A cup, given by Mrs. Elliot, for the best heifer exhibited and bred in the district.—Prize, H. Clay.

DAIRY COWS.

Cow for dairy purposes, in calf or milk.—First prize, G. K. Harland, Northallerton; second, R. Kirby and Son, Northallerton; third, J. B. Braithwaite, Northallerton.

Cow for dairy purposes, the property of a cottager.—First prize, J. Wilson, Thirsk; second, T. Gill, Thirsk.

FAT BEASTS.

Fat beast.—First prize, M. and W. Boville, Ormotherley; second, M. and W. Boville.

SHEEP.

LEICESTERS.

Ram, one shear.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, T. H. Hutchinson.

Ram, aged.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, R. Tarbotton, York.

Tup lamb.—First prize, R. Harrison, Richmond; second, R. Harrison.

Pen of five ewes, having suckled lambs in 1874.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, E. and W. Dovener.

Pen of five gimmer shearlings.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, R. Tarbotton.

Pen of five gimmer lambs.—First prize, T. H. Hutchinson; second, R. Tarbotton, Corton.

OTHER LONGWOOLS.

Ram, one shear.—First prize, R. Harrison; second, F. Heugh, Northallerton.

Ram, aged.—First prize, F. Heugh; second, G. Lancaster, Northallerton.

LEICESTERS OF LONGWOOLS.

District Prizes.

Ram, aged.—First prize, F. Heugh; second, E. and W. Dovener.

Ram, one shear.—First prize, E. and W. Dovener; second, F. Heugh.

Tup lamb.—First prize, W. Clapham, West Harsley, Northallerton; second, W. Clapham.

Pen of five ewes, having suckled lambs in 1874.—First prize, W. Hall, Thirsk; second, E. and W. Dovener.

Pen of five gimmer shearlings.—First prize, E. and W. Dovener; second, Thomas Carter, Thirsk.

Pen of five gimmer lambs.—First prize, T. Kirby, Northallerton; second, Thomas Carter.

Pen of five fat sheep.—First prize, W. Robinson, Morton-on-Swale; second, W. Robinson.

PIGS.

Boar, large breed.—First prize, J. Wilson, Rainton, Thirsk; second, D. Sanderson, Richmond.

Boar, small breed.—First prize, T. Strickland; second, D. Sanderson.

Sow, large breed, in pig or milk.—First prize, J. Tutin, Brompton Moor, Northallerton; second, J. B. Braithwaite, North Otterington, Northallerton.

Sow, small breed, in pig or milk.—First prize, D. Sanderson; second, George Hamilton, Northallerton.

Fat pig.—First prize, D. Sanderson; second, T. Strickland.

Pig, the property of a cottager, being a householder, whose total rental does not exceed £8 per annum.—First prize, Thomas Dickens, Romanby; second, James Eden, Thirsk; third, John Thackeray, Yafforth.

SPECIAL PRIZE.

Black pig, the produce of his breed.—Prize, Thomas Dickens.

ROOTS.

Six swede turnips grown by exhibitor.—First prize, G. Oliver, Northallerton; second, T. C. Booth, Warlaby.

Six turnips, any other variety, grown by exhibitor.—T. C. Booth; second, R. Leak, Bedale.

Six mangolds grown by exhibitor.—First prize, T. Pick, Thirsk; second, Hon. G. E. Lascelles, Thirsk.

Twelve kidney potatoes grown by exhibitor.—First prize, W. Harker, Northallerton; second, G. J. Hinchcliffe, Northallerton.

Twelve round potatoes grown by exhibitor.—First prize, R. Leak; second, W. Bell, Thornton-le-Moor.

Collection of roots grown by exhibitor.—First prize, W. Shipley, Thornton-le-Moor; second, G. J. Robinson, Thirsk.

SPECIAL PRIZES: Twelve swede turnips.—Prize, J. and H. Ward, Northallerton.

Collection of roots.—Prize, G. Lancaster, Northallerton.

Collection of roots.—First prize, J. S. Atkinson, Northallerton; second, G. Lancaster; third, W. Shipley.

LONG SUTTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—HORSES: W. Barber, Routh, Beverley; L. Nicholson, Gosberton, Spalding; C. Banks, Holbeach Marsh. BEASTS, SHEEP, and PIGS: J. Parish, Toynton, Spilsby; C. Mason, Beechamwell, Swaffham, Norfolk. IMPLEMENTS and ROOTS: S. W. Campaign, Deeping St. Nicholas; J. A. Clarke, Long Sutton Marsh.

HORSES.

Cart stallion.—First prize, J. Tomlinson, Lutton Marsh, Long Sutton; second, R. Kilham, Folley, Long Sutton.

Cart mare, with foal.—First and second prize, J. Tomlinson.

Pair of draught geldings or mares.—First prize, J. Tomlinson; second, W. and G. Horn.

Two-year-old cart gelding.—First prize, F. Howard, the Crosses, Long Sutton; second, L. Egar, Wryde, Thorney.

Two-year-old cart filly.—First and second prize, W. and G. Horn.

Cart foal.—First prize, J. Cropper, Long Sutton; second, J. Tomlinson.

Hackney stallion.—First prize, W. Giddens, Hill House, Walpole, Wisbech; second, T. Upton, Gosberton.

Hackney horse or mare, not under 14 hands 2 inches.—

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First prize, W. Giddens; second, E. B. Bettinson, Manor House, Gedney.

Harness horse or mare, not under 14 hands 2 inches.—First prize, J. Baker, Wisbech; second, S. Campaign, jun., Deeping St. Nicholas, Spalding.

Gelding or mare, over 13 hands and under 14 hands 2 inches.—Prize, W. Johnson, Walpole, Wisbech.

Pony, not exceeding 13 hands.—Prize, G. Snarey, jun., Old Market, Wisbech.

Hunter, not under four years old.—First prize, J. G. Hobson, Long Sutton; second, S. S. Mossop, Long Sutton.

CATTLE.

Bull, any age.—First prize, C. Beart, Stow Bardolph, Downham Market; second, T. Y. Sindall, Fulney Hall, Spalding.

Cow in-calf, or in-milk.—First prize, W. Johnson; second, J. H. Barker, Holbeach.

Heifer in-calf or milk, not exceeding three years old.—First and second prize, W. Johnson.

Pair of steers, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, W. Wright, Latton; second, W. Naylor, Long Sutton.

Pair of fat oxen, cows, or heifers.—Prize, J. Bett, Holbeach.

Heifer, not exceeding two years old.—First prize, R. Parker, North Creake, Fakenham; second, W. Wright.

Heifer calf, under twelve months.—Prize, W. Wright.

SHEEP.

Five longwoolled breeding ewes, any age.—First and second prize, W. Wright.

Five longwoolled shearling ewes.—First and second prize, W. Wright.

Five shearling wethers.—First prize, J. Cooke, Pode Hole, Spalding; second, G. Bettinson, Latton.

Five heder lambs.—First prize, Mrs. Portugal, Tydd, St. Giles, Wisbeach; second, W. Webster, Gedney Marsh.

Five ewe lambs.—First prize, Mrs. Portugal; second, G. Fletcher, Holbeach Hurn.

Extra class.—First prize, J. Cooke; second, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., Sandringham.

PIGS.

Boar, small breed.—First prize, T. Y. Sindall; second, H. A. Kilham, Tydd St. Mary.

Sow in-pig or suckling, large breed.—Prize, H. A. Kilham.

Sow in-pig or suckling, small breed.—Prize, H. A. Kilham.

Three pigs, under six months old.—Prize, W. J. Wright, Latton.

Extra class.—Prize, G. and R. W. Oldershaw, Gedney Marsh.

ROOTS.

Ten swede turnips.—Prize, W. Wright.

Ten long mangolds.—Prize, J. G. Hobson, Curlew Lodge, Long Sutton.

Ten globe mangolds.—Prize, J. T. Bettinson, Gedney, Long Sutton.

Ten kohl rabi.—Prize, J. Snushall, Fleet.

Ten drumhead cabbages.—Prize, J. C. Anderson, Long Sutton, Marsh.

Peck of potatoes, any kind.—Prize, G. Clarke, Latton Marsh.

IMPLEMENTS.

Stand of implements.—Prize, Barford and Perkins, Peterborough.

General purpose drill.—Prize, Barford and Perkins.

Set of harrows.—Prize, C. Hardy, Latton.

THE ROYAL AND CENTRAL BUCKS AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT AYLESBURY.

Amongst the Shorthorns Mr. J. A. Mumford was first in the bull class with his Notley, which last year was second; in the class of bulls under two years the first prize went to a bull belong to Mr. Sharp, of Kettering; in the class of single cows in milk or in calf, Mr. T. L. Senior's Devon Moss Rose was first in a good entry of eight. For the three cow prizes, Mr. J. A. Mumford and Mr. T. Kingsley took first and second, while for in-calf heifers Mr. T. Hewer's Shorthorn Huntress and Mr. Senior's Moss Rose were the best, the Shorthorn standing first. In the class of heifers, in pairs, under two years, Mr. Mumford's pair obtained first prize and Mr. J. Sharpe the second, with a third pair shown by Mr. J. Denchfield highly commended. In the two fat cattle classes the entries were not numerous, and Mr. Senior carried off the first prize for fat cows and both for oxen; the two steers were one Devon and the other half-bred. The competition in the sheep classes was not so large. In the ram class there were six entries, and Mr. John Treadwell took the first prize, his most formidable competitor being Mr. George Street, of Maulden, who came second; and was first in store ewe lambs for breeding purposes, as also in those for fat shearlings and breeding theaves. The cup for the best pen of breeding ewes or theaves, and likewise the cup for the best pen of sheep in the yard, were also both awarded to Mr. Street, who has this year competed at these shows for the first time. The pig classes also were not very largely filled. Mr. J. Wheeler won the first prize for boars, while the second was taken by Mr. Bulford, of Winchendon. In the two sow classes, Mr. R. Fowler carried off both prizes for Berkshires, and Mr. J. Wheeler for any other breed, while the fat pig prizes were awarded, the first prize to Mr. Biggs, of Cublington, and the second to Mr. Elliott, of Hulcott. For cart stallions two valuable cups, presented by Sir A. de Rothschild, attracted a total of fifteen entries; and the judges awarded the first prize to Nonpareil, a five-year-old chestnut, shown by Mr. John Manning, of Orlingbury; with the second prize to Mr. W. Coles's King Lincoln. Mr. E. Denchfield won for working horses, as he did also for mares and foals; and there was a good entry of cart yearlings, the first prize falling to Messrs. Richman, of St. Ives. In the hunter class there were nine entries, Mr. C. Elliott, of Hulcott, standing first, and Mrs. White, of Pollicott, second. Of the remaining horse classes, the nags had an entry of fourteen, and Mr. J. Tompkins, of Ivinghoe, stood first; while Mr. Lepper was the winner of Baroness M. A de Rothschild's cup for the best yearling nag colt, with a son of Rapid Roan. Despite the exceedingly unfavourable season for root cultivation, Thursday's show produced a very creditable entry.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—PLOUGHING AND PIGS: W. Hawkes, Thenford, Banbury; W. Denchfield, Banbury. HORSES: J. K. Elliott, Heathencote, Towcester; T. Betridge, Ratley, Kineton, Warwick; — Plowright, jun., The Hall, Pinchbeck, Lincoln. CATTLE: M. Savidge, Sarsden Lodge Farm, Chipping Norton; C. Hobbs, Maisy Hampton, Cricklade. SHEEP: A. F. Milton Druce, Twelve Acres, Eynsham; G. Bagnall, Westwell, Burford. BUTTER: H. Pybus, jun., 16, Charterhouse-lane, London. ROOT CROPS: J. Crouch, Court Farm, Aylesbury; R. Fowler, Broughton. ROOTS: J. Crouch; C. Elliott, Hulcott.

HORSES

FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Cart stallions, 3 years old and upwards; the winners of the first and second prizes to remain at Aylesbury at least three nights in each week during the ensuing season. Members of the Association to have the privilege of sending mares to be served at the rate of £1 11s. 6d. each, including groom's fee.—First prize, £50, J. Manning, Orlingbury, Wellingborough; second, £25, W. Coles, Long Crendon. Commended: S. Davies, Woolashill.

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Geldings, three years old and upwards.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., J. P. Terry, Pultowes; second, £2. Commended: J. P. Terry.

Geldings, under three years.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., W. B. Clark, Uppings, Weedon; second, £2, E. J. Clift, Weedon. Commended: J. Hughes, Stone.

Mares, over three years.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., E. Denchfield, Burston; second, £2, E. Terry, Buckingham-road, Aylesbury. Commended: E. Terry.

Mare and foal.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., E. Denchfield; second, £2, W. R. Rowland, Creslow. Commended: T. Birdsey, Leighton Buzzard.

Mares, under three years.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., W. and J. Rose, Eythrope; second, £2, J. Hughes, Stone. Commended: Harris and Biggs, Cublington.

Yearling cart colt or filly.—First prize, a silver cup, value £10 10s., H. Reynolds, The Idover, Dauntsey, Chippenham; second, £2, J. R. Simons, Berryfield. Commended: W. R. Rowland.

Horses or mares, for hunting purposes.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £7 7s., C. Elliott, Hulcott; second, £3 3s., Mrs. M. White, Pollicott. Commended: W. Hawkins, Edlesborough.

Nag geldings and mares, for riding and general purposes.—First prize, £5, J. Tomkins, Ivinghoe; second, £2, J. P. Terry, Putlowes. Commended: Mrs M. White.

Hunters.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £21, J. Pettit, Leighton Buzzard; second, £5 5s., W. Hawkins. Commended: T. Pain, Lower Pertwood, Hindon, Wilts.

Sucking colt or filly.—For the best sucking colt or filly, by either of the Vale of Aylesbury Horse Company's horses—Prize, a silver cup, value £10 10s., E. J. Clift, Weedon.

A silver cup, value £10 10s., for the best cart-horse or mare in the show yard, was awarded to W. B. Clark, Uppings.

A silver cup, for the best yearling nag colt, G. A. Lepper, Aylesbury. Commended, J. Denchfield.

CATTLE.

Bulls, any breed, two years old and upwards.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., J. A. Mumford, Chilton; second, £2, T. Kingsley, Boarscraft. Commended: G. Underwood, Little Gaddesden.

Bulls, under two years.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., J. J. Sharp, Broughton, Kettering; second, £2, T. Hewer, Hylesham, Lechdale. Highly commended: J. Denchfield, Burston. Commended: J. A. Mumford, Brill.

Cows, in milk or in calf.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., T. L. Senior, Broughton House, Aylesbury; second, £2, J. J. Sharp. Highly commended: J. Denchfield; T. Kingsley, Boarscraft.

Three cows, in milk or in calf.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £10 10s., J. A. Mumford, Chilton; second, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., T. Kingsley. Highly commended: J. Denchfield.

Heifers, in milk or in calf, under three and over two years.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., T. Hewer; second, £2, T. L. Senior. Highly commended: F. R. Denchfield, Aston Abbotts. Commended: F. R. Denchfield.

Heifers, in pairs, under two years.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., J. A. Mumford; second, £2, J. J. Sharp. Highly commended: J. Denchfield.

Fat heifers or cows.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., T. L. Senior; second, £2, R. Fowler, Broughton.

Oxen (any breed).—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., T. L. Senior; second, £2, T. L. Senior. Commended: T. Taylor, Aston Rowant.

Extra Stock.—Commended: T. L. Senior (Devon ox); H. Wyatt, Walton, Aylesbury (heifer).

A silver cup, value £5 5s., for the best animal, bred by the exhibitor, exhibited in the classes of horned stock, was awarded to T. L. Senior.

A silver cup or piece of plate, value £10 10s., to the best horned animal in the yard, being the property of a tenant-farmer within twelve miles of Aylesbury, was taken by J. A. Mumford, Chilton.

SHEEP.

Rams, any breed.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., J. Treadwell, Upper Winchendon; second, £3 3s., F. Street, Harrowden House, Bedford.

Five store ewe lambs, for breeding purposes.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., G. Street, Maulden, Ampthill; second, £2, G. Street. Highly commended: F. Street.

Five fat ewes, any breed or age.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., J. Treadwell; second, £2, R. Fowler, Broughton.

Five fat shearlings.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., G. Street; second, £2, Z. W. Stiggs, Adderbury Grounds, Banbury.

Five ewes, of any breed, intended for breeding purposes.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., N. Stilgoe; second, £2, R. Fowler. Commended: E. Denchfield, Burston.

Five theaves, any breed, intended for breeding purposes.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., G. Street; second, £2, G. Street. Highly commended: F. Street.

Ten ewes, for breeding purposes, any breed.—Prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., J. P. Terry, Putlowes. Highly commended: E. Terry, Buckingham-road, Aylesbury.

Ten ewe lambs, any breed.—Prize, a silver cup, value £5 5s., J. F. Perkins, Chilton.

A silver cup, value £5 5s., to the owner of the best pen of breeding ewes or theaves in the yard, was awarded to G. Street.

A gold pencil-case, value £3, to the owner of the best pen of fat sheep, was taken by G. Street.

Best pen of sheep in the yard.—Prize, silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., G. Street.

PIGS.

Boars of any breed.—First prize, £3 3s. J. Wheeler, Lower Compton, Shipton-on-Stour; second, £2, R. Fowler, Broughton. Highly commended: J. Bulford, Upper Winchendon.

Sows, Berkshire, either in pig or with litter, of which the young pigs shall not be over eight weeks old.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., and second, £2, R. Fowler. Commended: E. D. Lee, Hartwell House.

Sows of any breed.—First prize £3 3s., and second, £2, J. Wheeler. Commended: P. Payne, jun., Walton, Aylesbury.

Three fat pigs.—First prize, £3 3s., J. Biggs, Cublington; second, £2, C. Elliott, Hulcott.

BUTTER.

Twelve pounds of butter, in 2lb. lumps.—First prize £3 3s., A. Roads, Rowsham, dairymaid £1; second, £2 2s., R. Fowler, dairymaid 10s. Highly commended: T. Matthews, Waddesdon. Commended: J. R. Simonds, Berryfield.

ROOTS.

For the best crop of mangold wurtzel, of not less than three acre (the whole of the mangolds on the farm to be taken into consideration).—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £7 7s., E. Denchfield, Burston; second, £3 3s., T. Birdsey, Leighton Buzzard.

To the member who shall grow the best crop of mangold wurtzel of not less than three acres, within 12 miles of Aylesbury.—Prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £5 5s., E. Denchfield, Burston.

To the member who shall grow the best crop of Swedish turnips, of not less than five acres, within 12 miles of Aylesbury.—Prize, a silver cup or plate, value £5 5s., E. Freeman, Chilton.

For the best crop of swedes, of not less than six acres (the whole of the swedes on the farm to be taken into consideration), for tenant-farmers only, within 12 miles of Aylesbury.—First prize, a silver cup or piece of plate, value £7 7s., J. P. Parrott; second, £3 3s., J. Bulford, Upper Winchendon.

Collection of not less than four varieties, to include Sutton's new Golden Tankard Yellow Fleshed Mangolds.—Prize, a silver cup, value £5 5s., J. Bates, Aylesbury. Highly commended: T. Birdsey, Leighton Buzzard.

Twenty-five mangolds, taken from a piece of not less than two acres.—First prize, £2, E. Denchfield; second, £1, C. Hatton, Chinnor. Reserved: J. Bates, Aylesbury. Commended: J. H. Guy, Whitchurch.

Twenty-five swedes, taken from a piece of not less than two acres.—First prize, £2, J. H. Guy; second, £1, J. H. Guy.

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At the dinner, Mr. J. K. Fowler said: The House of Commons had a great deal to do, notwithstanding that the past one had been called a barren session, and perhaps before the next one there would be no harm in their learning the opinions of their constituents upon some of the legislation which might have to be dealt with by them. It was not for him to introduce general politics at the meetings of that association, but there were certain questions of agricultural politics which they had a perfect right to discuss on these occasions, which were the only ones they had of communicating their views to their members. One of the first of those agricultural questions was Tenant-Right. It was all very well to try to put that down, but it must and would come to the front sooner or later, and would have to be considered. He rejoiced that they had in the present Government a gentleman, Mr. Clare Read, who was a great champion of the farmers, which ought to be an earnest that their claims would be considered by the Ministry of which he was a member. It was to be regretted that they had lost the parliamentary services of Mr. James Howard, for he and Mr. Read were in themselves a power second to none in the House of Commons; and their opinions were shared by farmers throughout the length and breadth of the land. It was said by many who supported the Tenant-Right Bill, that the great cause of opposition to it was the twelfth clause, and that that clause would have to be altered. He believed, however, that both the farmers of this neighbourhood and of every county in England were of opinion that in any efficient Tenant-Right Bill that clause must be maintained, though his friend John Treadwell and he had differed upon it on several occasions. It was quite true that tenants might remain under the same landlord all their lives, but if they were tenants at will they were always liable to be turned out, of which what occurred on the very estate on which Mr. Treadwell was tenant was an instance. The property had changed hands, and Mr. Treadwell and all the other farmers upon it might have had notice to quit, if it had not fallen into the hands of one of the best families in this kingdom or any other. The estate might have been purchased by some northern manufacturing millionaire, whose only thought was to screw as large an interest as he could on his investment, and therefore both its tenants and the neighbourhood might congratulate themselves upon the coming amongst them of another member of a family whose kindness and liberality were so well known throughout the district. He contended, however, for all that, that that the tenant-farmers would never be in the position they ought to be so long as they were liable, at six months' notice, to be turned out of their farms without compensation for any improvements they might have made in them. He asked the gentlemen who were now present, and who were representatives of both the great political parties, to give this subject their careful attention, for he was quite sure it deserved it. Then there was the labour question. That was, perhaps, hardly a subject for legislation, but it had forced itself upon them. For his own part he thought the labourers had been down-trodden too long, and that their wages had been too small. He thought that the great rise which had taken place in the value of money during the last twenty years should also have raised the value of labour, and therefore the question was a pressing and important one, even though it one with which the legislature could have little to do directly. As, however, it had been proposed by one of the members of the county to introduce Mr. Arch to members of the then Government, it was evident that he must have received some support from those members themselves, and he would ask them to give the same attention to the labour subject as they would give to others.

Mr. M. N. De Rothschild, the chairman, said his friend Fowler, as they all knew, was much in the habit of riding his hobby to death—sometimes the Malt-tax—sometimes compensation to farmers. After all, however, agriculture in England was flourishing, as it flourished in no other country. As a proof he would point to those agricultural implements which farmers did not now know how to dispense with. He doubted if in any other part of the world the science of agriculture had made the strides it had in this country, or was upon the whole so flourishing. A great many loose statements had been made lately about the waste lands of the country, and it was said that these waste lands were held by the landlords and kept out of cultivation for their own purposes. He had looked over the blue books and found the statistics upon that subject required some consideration. They had been told that there were seven millions of acres of waste lands in the kingdom, of which five millions were in the six northern counties. In reality, however, there were not more than four millions, the remainder being occupied by houses and gardens, in towns, and by-roads, hedges, railways, and canals. He mentioned this because it always struck him that the proposal to cut up the country into small farms and allotments would not, after all, tend to increase the actual productiveness of the soil, but, on the contrary, would rather diminish it.

Mr. J. Treadwell was emphatically what his friend Mr. Paxton would call "a showman," for he believed thoroughly in agricultural shows. He knew some farmers were of a different opinion, but he would ask them how any man could look into the showyard, and see the competing animals, without coming to the conclusion that competition must of necessity tend to improve the stock of the district. He believed when people went to a show, and there saw animals calculated to improve their own stock, they would be induced to purchase them for that purpose, and he was certain that since these shows had become so numerous, stock had been very much improved. He could not believe when they saw those Shorthorns, and sheep, and pigs, they would not themselves like to possess them, and be induced to make exertions to equal, and if possible, surpass them in the animals on their own farms. That was in his opinion one of the great advantages of these shows. There was another way in which agricultural shows did good. They brought together the farmers and gentlemen of the district. He always rejoiced to see the country gentlemen present, especially when they were of the right sort, and should have been very much pleased if they had had more at the present meeting. He was not going to follow his friend Fowler into matters which he thought had better be discussed elsewhere, but there was one thing which was worth touching upon, and that was the question of waste lands. From what he had seen of the returns on that subject, he thought they were most fallacious and misleading. Only lately he had seen in a return of the waste lands in this county, a statement of waste lands in a parish where he knew they had been enclosed and in cultivation for years and years. If one item was wrong, others might be wrong also, and the return would be really worth nothing at all. He was glad the President had mentioned that subject, because it gave him an opportunity of saying a few words on it, and of expressing the opinion that the sooner all ideas derived from those returns were exploded, the better.

Mr. G. Street did not know that anything gave him more pleasure than the success of his men in the competition for the prizes for length of servitude. They had taken about £25 for length of service within little more than a week. When so much had been said about the way in which farmers treated their men, that was a fact which gave him special pleasure. Those men had attended this show, two of them all the way from Maulden, at some inconvenience to himself, to receive the prizes the Bucks Association had so liberally offered. He had also been much pleased with some of the remarks which had been made about waste land. They had heard a great deal about waste lands, and a good deal had been said about Government taking them into its own hand, and allotting them for cottage cultivation by the labourers. It was said by that means a larger amount of crops would be raised for the benefit of the nation, but he had a most decided view that there was no country in Europe better cultivated than England, and he believed under no system of land management would it be likely to produce more.

A HARVEST FESTIVAL.—The Rev. C. C. Sharpe, vicar of Bucknell, Shropshire, was charged before the county magistrates at Bishop's Castle, with having at a harvest festival for his parish sold ale at a supper which took place in the schoolroom. On the 9th September Mr. Sharpe had thanksgiving services in his church in the morning, and in the evening a supper took place. Tickets were sold at half-a-crown each, and during and after the supper the guests were supplied with ale. For the defence it was alleged that Mr Sharpe was ignorant of the law, and that if he had broken it at all, he had not done it wilfully or with the object of making a profit out of the sale of the beer. The defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 1s. and 12s. costs, and the chairman said he thought the charge a bit of sharp practice.

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THE DERBYSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING AT DERBY.

There were a good many vacancies in some of the cattle classes, which it is supposed were owing to the prevalence of the foot-and-mouth disease. A fat ox, shown by Mr. Towle, of Draycott Hall, was the prominent feature of the show. The horses were numerous, and the hunter, hack, and harness classes were well filled; three classes being specially commended by the judges. The show of dairy stock was small, with only four competitors for the three prizes for lots of four cows, and one in the pairs of dairy cows. Mr. Chamberlain took first prize with a good bull and three useful dairy cows, and Mr. J. Langley second. There was a fair show of sheep, both of long and shortwoolled; and amongst the latter Mr. Baker stands pre-eminent with his Shropshires. He was first and second in breeding ewes, first and third in the theaves, first in the ewe lambs, the only exhibitor in the aged rams, third in the shearlings, and first and second in the ram lambs. Of pigs the entries were not sufficient to fill all the pens allotted to the departments; and the entries of cheese were scarcely equal in number to former years. For factory cheese the judges awarded the prize to the cheese made at Mickleover, and two guineas were given to each of the factories at Derby and Longford, and one to the Holme Factory. There was but little competition in wool, there being only five competitors for the prize for longwool, and two for that for shortwools.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE: J. Widdowson, Hucknall Torkard; R. Hall, Borough Fields, Walton-on-Trent. AGRICULTURAL HORSES: J. Manning, Orlingbury; — Saint, Alkmonton. HUNTERS AND HACKS: — Grummett, Westby, Grantham; — Colton, Newark. SHEEP AND PIGS: H. Dudding, Panton House, Wragby; C. Keeling, Yew Tree Farm, Penkridge. ROOTS AND GRAIN: S. Robson, Melbourne; U. Sowter, Derby. CHEESE AND BUTTER: G. Smith, High-street, Burton; — Daniels, Ashby. IMPLEMENTS: — Abell, Engineer, Derby; E. G. James, Thurlston; J. Rose, The Ash.

CATTLE.

DAIRY CATTLE.

Four cows for dairying purposes, belonging to members keeping more than twenty cows; they must have calved between the 1st of January and 1st of May. Also a silver cup, value £5.—First prize, T. H. Oakes, Riddings House; second, W. T. Carrington, Croxden Abbey; third, M. T. Hopkinson, Woodthorpe, Tupton.

Two cows for dairying purposes, belonging to members not keeping more than twenty cows.—Prize, E. Vale, Rose Hill.

Pure-bred Shorthorned cow, having had a living calf since January 1st, 1874.—First prize, F. Cartwright, Drakelow; second and third, T. H Oakes.

HEIFERS.

Pair of heifers under three years old:—First prize, E. Vale; second, T. H. Oakes; third, — Tomlinson, Alvaston.

Pair of in-calf heifers, belonging to a tenant-farmer dairying not less than twelve cows.—First prize, W. T. Carrington; second, W. S. Woodroffe, Normanton-on-Soar.

STIRKS.

Pair of stirks, in milk, not exceeding two years and eight months old, belonging to members not dairying less than 12 cows, and bred by exhibitor.—No entry.

Pair of stirks under two years old, most adapted for dairy purposes, belonging to a tenant farmer.—First and second prizes, E. Vale, Rose Hill.

Pair of stirks under two years old, most adapted for dairy purposes, belonging to members not dairying less than 12 cows, and bred by exhibitor.—First prize, F. Cartwright, Drakelow; second, C. R. Chamberlain.

CALVES.

Two rearing cow calves, bred by the exhibitor since January, 1874.—First prize, C. R. Chamberlain; second, C. R. Morewood, Alfreton Hall. Highly commended: F. Cartwright. Commended: S. Robson, Melbourne.

BULLS.

Shorthorn bull, three years old and upwards.—First prize, J. Rose, The Ash; second, J. J. Crofts, Staveley; third, C. R. Chamberlain.

Shorthorn bull, two years old and not exceeding three years.—First prize, A. M. Mundy, Shipley Hall; second, C. R. Chamberlain; third, J. Brooks, Shottle House.

Yearling (or not exceeding two) bull of the pure Shorthorn breed, most suitable for breeding purposes, and which must be, and has been, the property of the exhibitor six months previous to the day of exhibition.—First prize, J. Vernon, Spondon; second, J. Harris, Rolleston Park.

Bull-calf, not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, C. R. Morewood; second, F. Cartwright.

FAT STOCK.

Beast of any breed.—First prize, J. H. Towle, Draycott Hall; second and third, C. R. Chamberlain.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Bull and three females of any age, the property of one member; any of the females above eighteen months, to be in milk or in calf at the time of show.—First prize, C. R. Chamberlain; second, J. Langley, Derby.

HORSES.

Brood mare and foal for agricultural purposes.—First prize, H. Thompson, Chilwell; second, W. Hollingworth, Dale Abbey; third, S. Porter, Locko. Highly commended: W. Hollingworth. Commended: M. Audinwood, Weston.

Two years old gelding for agricultural purposes.—First prize, W. Hollingworth; second, M. Audinwood, jun. Highly commended: J. Grammer, Sawley. Commended: J. Hollingworth, Barton Fields.

Two years old filly for agricultural purposes.—First prize, T. Orme, Hoon; second, J. Hawsworth.

Pair of horses for agricultural purposes.—First prize, S. Porter, Weston-on-Trent; second and third, C. R. Chamberlain. Highly commended: J. Poyser, Swarkestone.

Brood mare, best fitted for breeding hunters and having with foal at her foot.—First prize, E. Harrison, Allestree; second, P. Wallis, Derby. Commended: S. J. Clegg, Eaton.

Hack above four years.—First prize, J. J. Crofts; second, H. Bullen, Ashby.

Harness horse above four years old.—First prize, J. Kay, Derby; second, W. R. Dick, Ticknall.

Gelding or filly, of the value of £50, not thoroughbred, above three and under four years old.—First prize, M. Audinwood, sen; second, C. Smith, Kirk Langley. Highly commended: T. Cowley, Smisby.

Two years old for hunting purposes.—First prize, S. Parker, Alvaston; second, T. Martin, Derby. The class commended.

Cob not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, C. Smith; second, A. Ford, Quarndon. Highly commended: C. J. Thulston.

Hunter four years old and upwards, equal to 15 stone.—First prize, J. Hanson, Burrows; second, T. Radford, Norton; third, G. Meynell, Langley. The class commended.

Best hunter in either class, four years old and upwards, equal to 12 stone.—First prize, W. Boden, Derby; second, S. Robson, Melbourne; third, Mr. Flower, Derby. The class commended.

SHEEP.

LONG-WOOLS.

Five breeding ewes, having had lambs in 1874, and rearing them up to the 1st of June.—First prize, R. Johnson, Ireton; second, M. Scorer, Scarcliffe. Commended: J. Cox, The Cottage; R. Sybray, Ambergate; J. B. Shottle.

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Five theaves.—First prize, R. Johnson; second, M. Scorer; third, A. Bryer, Quarndon. Commended: A. Bryer; W. S. Woodroffe, Normanton-on-Soar.

Five ewe lambs.—First prize, M. Scorer; second, A. Bryer. Commended: S. Robson, Melbourne.

Ram of any age above a shearling, bonâ fide the property of the exhibitor at the time of entry.—First prize, R. Johnson; second, R. Lee, Kniveton; third, R. Lee.

Shearling ram, bonâ fide the property of the exhibitor at the time of entry.—First, second, and third prizes, R. Johnson. Highly commended: R. Lee. Commended: R. Lee; R. Johnson.

Ram lamb.—First prize, R. Johnson; second, M. Scorer. Commended: M. Scorer.

SHORT-WOOLS.

Five breeding ewes, having had lambs in 1874, and suckled them up to the 1st of June.—First and second prizes, W. Baker, Moor Barns; third, T. C. Smith.

Five theaves.—First prize, W. Baker; second, C. Smith; third, W. Baker.

Five ewe lambs.—First prize, W. Baker; second, C. Smith.

Ram of any age above a shearling, bonâ fide the property of the exhibitor at the time of entry.—First and second prizes, W. Baker.

Shearling ram, bonâ fide the property of the exhibitor at the time of entry.—First prize, C. Smith; second, A. Findlay, Wingfield Park; third, W. Baker. Commended: J. Lea, Sudbury.

Ram lamb.—First and second prizes, W. Baker.

Five fat wether sheep, of any breed, not exceeding twenty-two months old.—Prize, M. Walker, Stockley Park.

PIGS.

LARGE BREED.

Boar of any age best adapted for general use.—First prize, M. Walker; second, J. Harris.

Sow of any age.—First and second prizes, M. Walker.

Three breeding pigs of one litter, not exceeding eight months old.—First prize, J. Harris; second, M. Walker. Commended: J. Wood, Spondon.

SMALL BREED.

Boar of any age best adapted for general use.—First prize, M. Walker; second, F. W. Meynell, Coxbench Hall.

Sow of any age.—First prize, M. Walker; second, F. W. Meynell.

Three breeding pigs of one litter, not exceeding eight months old.—First and second prizes, M. Walker.

Pig, the property of an agricultural labourer.—First prize, T. Poxon, Alvaston; second, J. King, Hartshorn; third, J. Moley, Thulston.

ROOTS.

Collection (bonâ fide the growth of the exhibitor), to consist of long and globe mangolds, Swede and common turnips, and cabbage: six specimens of each sort to be exhibited.—First prize, J. Greatorex, Stretton; second, J. Startin, Hooper's Farm, Hartshorne.

GROWING CROPS.

Swede turnips, to consist of not less than three acres.—First prize, J. Smith, Lullington; second, J. H. Joyce, Blackfordby.

Mangold wurtzel, to consist of not less than two acres.—First prize, T. M. Ward, Craythorne; second, J. Greatorex.

Cabbage, to consist of not less than two acres.—First prize, W. Hollingworth, Stanton Grove; second, J. Greatorex.

CHEESE.

Cheese of not less than 1 cwt., made by exhibitor in the year 1874.—First prize, J. Felthouse, Grendon House, Atherstone; second, W. T. Carrington, Croxden Abbey; third, J. Brooks, Burrows.

Cheese, of not less than 1 cwt., made by the exhibitor in 1874, to be competed for only by those persons who, being members of the Derbyshire Agricultural Society, shall not have made any cheese on the Sunday after the 14th June, 1874—Factory cheese, Mickleover Cheese Factory. 2 guineas each to Derby and Longcat Factories; 1 guinea to Holme Factory.

BUTTER.

Milk butter (not less than six pounds) made by the exhibitor.—First prize, A. M. Mundy, Shipley Hall; second, A. F. Hurt, Ravenstone.

Milk butter (not less than six pounds) made by the daughter of a member.—First prize, W. Jackson, Atlow; second, J. Greatorex.

WOOL.

Three fleeces of long wool.—Prize, R. Johnson, Kirk Ireton.

Three fleeces of short wool.—Prize, J. Rose, The Ash, Etwall.

GRAIN.

Sample of red wheat, three bushels, and to represent a bulk of not less than ten quarters, to be subject to the inspection of the judges.—Prize, J. Greatorex.

Sample of white wheat.—First prize, J. Greatorex; second, W. Woodroffe.

Sample of barley.—Prize, J. Greatorex.

Sample of oats.—First prize, J. Greatorex; second, J. Startin.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Selection of implements for agricultural purposes.—First prize, J. and G. Haywood, Derby; second, G. Ratcliffe, Derby.

Messrs. Ratcliff and Co. also obtained a silver medal for a reaper, the inventor of which was Mr. Earl, of Melbourne. A medal was also awarded to Messrs. Hathaway, Chippenham, for a churn.

At the dinner, Lord Scarsdale, the chairman, believed he might congratulate all present upon having witnessed a very good show. The cattle classes were unfortunately short in numbers, but he had been told they were very good in quality, and he was afraid that the paucity of numbers arose from the prevalence of the foot-and-mouth disease, and very possibly from the shortness of keep owing to the dry season through which they had just passed. The show of sheep had been a very good one, the animals being large in number and excellent in quality. He had also been told that the classes of agricultural horses had been exceedingly good, better, perhaps, than had ever been seen in Derby before. He should like to suggest that, if possible, a few more prizes should be given, and that the competition in some cases might be extended, perhaps to all England. He believed that during the past year there had not been any papers read or lectures given upon subjects connected with agriculture, at the committee meetings of the Society, which was to be regretted for many reasons, and he hoped that during the coning year the Committee would see their way to remedy this defect, if it was one. He wished to say a few words respecting the great extension of the factory system of cheese-making in Derbyshire, and he was sure it would be a great source of regret to all present that the Hon. Mr. Coke and Mr. Crompton, who might be looked upon as the founders of this movement in Derbyshire, were absent on the present occasion, for they would have given a great amount of useful information on the subject, and Mr. Crompton would have been prepared with a great many interesting details. One great advantage which had accrued from the factory system of cheese-making was that it had opened the eyes of farmers to the value and importance of co-operation, and he hoped that was a fact which would not be lost sight of by them; for he believed the co-operative system was capable of far greater development than it had at present attained, and might be of considerable advantage to the farmers in their business. If it would meet with the approbation of the Committee he should be very happy to offer a prize of ten guineas for the best practical paper on co-operation amongst farmers. Another advantage arising from the factory system was that it tended to bring landlords and tenants together; they met together in committees, and exchanged ideas upon subjects in which they were both interested; it improved the relations between them, and it enlightened the one as to the requirements of the other; and surely everything that tended to the benefit of the landlord must also be to the advantage of the tenant, for their interests ever were and would be identical. He wished also to allude to the use of the steam plough. He believed two of these implements were in operation in the neighbourhood of Derby; they had had plenty of work to do, and were likely to be kept fully employed, and he looked upon this also as a sign of the progress of agriculture in this county. It was a matter of congratulation that in this district they had

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been free from those disputes between employers and employed which had agitated many districts, especially in the Eastern Counties. Certainly the wages of agricultural labourers here were higher than were given in some parts of England, where, he must admit, it was only right and proper to raise the scale of the labourers' wages. In this neighbourhood, however, he believed the labourers had been properly and fairly remunerated for their work, and had been justly dealt with by their employers; and it had always been a pleasure and the wish of the farmers to contribute to the happiness and welfare of their labourers. He only wished that in many parts of the country the labourers were better housed, for he believed that to be the source of the dissatisfaction which had lately existed amongst them. They were all aware of the extreme difficulty of cottage building in these days, and if there were only some means provided of building habitable cottages at a less cost it would be a very great advantage. He ought perhaps before that moment to have referred to the abundant harvest with which they had been happily blessed, and for which they ought all to be thankful to Providence, and also for the exceedingly favourable weather which had been experienced during the gathering of the crops. Bread would be cheap and plentiful, which, with the prospect of winter before them, would be of great advantage. He wished to say a few words with regard to the sale of milk in this district, which had lately assumed considerable proportions. This was a very important matter, inasmuch as a large supply of milk was furnished from this district to the large and populous centres of industry, and it was very desirable that the commodity thus supplied should be pure. He thought the Society might be of use in collecting information in relation to various questions affecting the milk supply, such as the price of milk in various towns, the carriage of milk by rail, the best mode of conveying it, and the proper temperature at which it should be conveyed, so as to keep as long as possible. All such matters as these might come under the observation of the Society, and their investigation would be of great benefit. He had had pleasure in walking through the horticultural show, but he should like to have seen a larger number of entries, though the show was a good one as far as it went. In one corner of the horticultural show he saw a plan of the Mickleover Lunatic Asylum; he did not quite understand that, for he did not think that horticulture was likely to cause people to lose their reason.

Mr. T. W. Evans, M.P., proposed "The Chairman." From the fact that he had lived so long in the immediate neighbourhood, he had had opportunities of knowing what his lordship had done with respect to his land better than those farther removed. He would, then, say that he had never seen any property which had undergone such a great and remarkable improvement as had Lord Scarsdale's during his possession of it. Since he had taken it in hand, great improvement had become manifest; he had just taken up draining as a most important point, and then the erection of houses, setting, in this respect, a most excellent example. By this means not only was the land made of greater fertility, and tenants enabled to benefit by this greater power of production, but it was of advantage to the entire community.

Mr. Coleman had been struck with the greater prominence and merit lately assumed by the cart-horse, which was now regarded as of more importance to the farmers. Competition must improve the articles brought together; if a man thought his things were better than anyone else's there was nothing like letting him compare them with his neighbours'. As to the Mickleover cheese factory, they might not go to Mickleover for the greatest sense in all matters, but when they found that cheese from that place could produce 86s. 6d. at six weeks of age, they would see that it could do some thing.

Mr. Alderman Roe was of opinion that the operations of the Society ought to be extended, and recommended that the show should be open to all England; the horticultural department was not successful until a similar step was taken with regard to it. He recommended that a prize should not be awarded when only one animal was exhibited in any class, believing that that would tend to cause a larger number of entries, neither would he allow a person to take a prize above once for the same animal.

Mr. M. Walker here interposed, and said the nearer the Society confined its operations to the county the better. As an exhibitor of this Society, and a travelling exhibitor visiting many shows in the country, he could say that those county societies which opened their exhibitions to all England, were all going to the ground. Last year he did not exhibit any pigs at the county show, and he believed it was in consequence of that circumstance that there was such a good show of pigs that day. He had observed to some of his neighbours that he must "sweep the deck" of prizes, and if he had done so he should not have come to the show again, preferring to allow other persons to have an opportunity of gaining the prizes, for when it was known that such competitors as himself, whether in the cattle or pig classes, were about to exhibit, it prevented outsiders from competing. Shropshire sheep were not so well represented as they ought to be, which he attributed to the fact of Mr. Baker taking the whole of the prizes in that class. [Mr. Walker was about to make some further observations when there were loud cries of "Chair," and his Lordship requested Mr. Walker to give way.]

THE NORFOLK CATTLE PLAGUE ASSOCIATION.—A testimonial was never better earned than the one which has been voted by the Norfolk Cattle Plague Association to their chairman, Mr. Clare Sewell Read, M.P. The work of the Association is happily now a thing of the past, but the Committee know how indefatigably Mr. Read worked when the occasion required, and how well he won a title to a recognition of his services. We cannot conceive it possible that any single member of the Association will demur to the course adopted, with respect to a small portion of their money, not only with reference to the presentation to Mr. Read, but also the deserved acknowledgment to the painstaking secretary, Mr. C. R. Gilman; and can only hope that the occasion will not again arise to call for the disturbance of the large amount now vested in the Funds.—*The Norfolk Chronicle.*

TENANT-RIGHT FOR SCOTLAND.—At a dinner and presentation to Mr. Davidson, late farmer, Culbae, Wigtownshire, in responding for the tenant-farmers of Wigtownshire, Mr. M'Cracken said that in his recollection, through enterprise, energy, and the application of manure, the tenant-farmers of the district had many times multiplied their capital. Their stock had so much increased in value, and they had to expend so much more in labour, manure, and implements, that the capital has increased perhaps four-fold in many farms; and, therefore, these tenants should have a far greater security for their capital than they have. The circumstance that had brought them together that night was one of the strongest proofs that they could have of the necessity for that security. If they had a law in the country to give a tenant compensation for his improvements, he questioned very much if they would have seen their friend Mr. Davidson going out of the country. He could recollect seeing when a boy bogs and banks of briars and thorns on the farm of which their guest was lately tenant, and now on the same farm there had sprung up smooth green pasture. And as far as he could understand, all that was done at Mr. Davidson's own expense. Certainly in these circumstances, a man's labour and improvements ought to be taken into account, or the State, in some shape or other, should step in to protect him from being turned to the road without any consideration for the improvements he has effected. If we had a law giving compensation for these improvements, then the agriculture of the country could go on steadily. There was an old saying in his part of the country, "He that stints, stints, and he that improves, flits." He thought if tenant-farmers would only set themselves to examine that question, and remember it when certain gentlemen come round asking Parliamentary favours, he thought they might come to bring about an improvement on that point.

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AYRSHIRE FARMERS' CLUB.

THE RELATIONS OF LANDLORD AND TENANT.

At the annual meeting, held in Ayr, Mr. J. P. Willison, Maxwellton, in the chair, the subject for discussion was, "The Present Relations between Landlord and Tenant."

The CHAIRMAN read the following paper: The earliest information history gives of the cultivators of the soil tells us that they were in a state of villenage or slavery, and at the unlimited disposal of the owners of the land for life or for death. How they obtained their liberty is not very clear. I believe the Church of Rome claims the merit of getting it for them, and there appear no good grounds for proving that they obtained it by any other means. Their next state seems to have been that of steel bow tenants; the landlords providing the farm stock and implements of husbandry and the tenants the labour, the production of which was equally divided between them. In this state the tenants were enabled to acquire capital. With the increase of commerce and national wealth the tenants by degrees obtained the means to stock the land with capital of their own, and to be in much the same position in relation to their landlords as they are now. Yet this third stage, although similar in many respects to that of the present day, was in others very much different. This might be called the patriarchal stage. At this time the value of land was very low, and yielded but a small income to either landlord or tenant. The tenants might still be styled, as they were in the second stage, "the poor bodies who tilled the land." The competition for farms was not great, and the habits of both lairds and tenants were much more plain and simple than they are now. It was very rare that an industrious tenant ever dreamed of leaving his farm or of a laird parting with an industrious tenant. The lairds might be said to dwell among their own people. There is much in this stage that is picturesque. Of course there was much "scraping and bowing" on the one side, but on the other there was also much real interest felt and kindly communing. The tenant looked upon his laird as his only governor and protector, and the laird on his tenant as something that was really a part of himself. As wealth and commerce increased, and of course the value of land, the lairds began to see that the state of things was not good, and that, for the benefit of the tenants no doubt, rents must be raised, and they by that means stimulated to make greater exertion. None of us, I am sure, can find fault with this, because without some such stimulant no progress can be made in anything whatever. Our just complaint is, that while the landlords have withdrawn the patriarchal wages, they still continue to demand the patriarchal service. Now, this is hardly fair. The landlord is not now a patriarch, he is simply a land-merchant, who, according to the strict rules of political economy, sells his land in the dearest market. The changes that have taken place in the relation of the different classes of society to each other during the last forty years have been very great. No one class can be said to be dependent on another except the tenant-farmers; indeed they may be said to be the only class that is not yet emancipated. As a proof of this, I have only to remind you of the contracts which we sign; contracts containing clauses the like of which are not to be found in any other contracts under the sun, and above all this, we are expected to pay the wages of complete political subservience, and to acknowledge at least by silence that the government of a landed aristocracy is the only government that is good. You may naturally ask me "Where is the remedy for all this?" I believe there is a remedy if we seek it in the right direction, but not in the direction we have hitherto sought. It is held to be a maxim that the interests of landlords and tenants are exactly alike, but before that maxim can be applied here, we must first find out whether both parties have agreed as to what is their common interest. I have no doubt landlords, as a rule, are anxious to have their land well farmed, but, unfortunately, they want something more, and that something is far more precious in their eyes than the other. They want as much game as their land will feed; and they want their tenants' votes at county elections. Said an English squire the other day in public—"I respect my tenants as much as any man can do, but if I must part either with my tenants or my game, I will not part with my game." These few words of this frank, outspoken English squire leave nothing to be added on this head. The interests of landlords and tenants are alike! Are they? Let me recall to your memory a few incidents in Parliament and out of it. I shall not go very far back in time, and I think you will distinctly remember them all. Not long since, Lord Derby told an assemblage of English farmers that the land of England did not produce above half what it ought to do under good cultivation. I think you will agree with me in saying that if there is one man in Britain who is more remarkable than another for common sense, that man is Lord Derby. Lord Derby must have known that before the tenants could be expected to employ more capital in the cultivation of the land, they must first have some security that they would reap the benefit. But Lord Derby did not tell them, nor, so far as I know, has he since told them, that he would grant them leases and assist them in securing Tenant-Right. Very lately, Lord Malmesbury called for a return to Parliament of all the ground game sold under licence in England, for the purpose of showing what a boon the labouring classes were receiving, in being able to get so much cheap and nourishing food. I never heard, though, of Lord Malmesbury having called for a return of the cost at which that game was reared and fattened by the English farmers. I will here put a question to Lord Malmesbury, which, I hope, somebody will be good enough to convey to him. Supposing all the field fences over England were levelled to the ground, and all the sheep and cattle allowed to roam at pleasure, would their beef and mutton be a cheap food to the British nation? If Lord Derby is remarkable for common sense, surely Lord Malmesbury must be remarkable for some other kind sense. You will not have forgotten a gun bill and a farm dog bill, which costs each farm fifteen shillings a year, and some a great deal more. It is the only tax that I know of on implements of labour of any kind. It may be said that the landed party in Parliament did not bring in these bills. True, but why did they not oppose them; they can always muster strength enough to strangle a game bill. If the interests of their tenants are so dear to them as they pretend sometimes, here was a famous chance for proving it. Some outspoken people said that they rather liked these bills, as they would afford more protection to their darling game; and certainly they would have some grounds for saying so. Our member for South Ayrshire is a Conservative, but is said to be a very liberal one. On the eve of the last general election, what did he say on the game question? He said "he would give the ground game to the tenants by law; but would not interfere with right of contract." The honourable gentleman must have known that the English tenants have possession of the game by law just now, and we all know what it is worth to them. He very much reminded me of the old farmer who, when his servant complained to him of his food, said, "My good fellow, you will have no need to complain again on that score, instead of giving you potatoes and herring, I will now give you herring and potatoes." Yet this is the gentleman we have sent to represent us in Parliament. For my part, I have come to the conclusion that we have been altogether wrong in our way of dealing with the game question in trying to carry out what is called Mr. Loch's bill. I pay no heed to the argument about the sacredness of the right of contract. There is not a year in which Parliament does not interfere with the right of contract in some way. In fact such legislation has been a favourite hobby with the landed party for the last forty years. They have carried it into ships, mines, manufactories, truck shops, and almost into every shop but their own shop. We must confess, however, that it has never been applied to any class so high in the social scale as we are. Besides, I do not see how it might not be evaded in some way as it is evaded by the truck merchant. Farther, what can we say to the other working classes of the nation, who may well argue, as they do, that if game preserving is an evil, by Mr. Loch's bill that evil would only be taken out of the hands of the landlord, and put into the hands of the tenant. We all believe, of course, that no tenant would preserve game to do injury, but still the argument is just enough, and we have no proper answer to

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give it. They say, too, and very justly, if these Game-laws are so very oppressive, why not get quit of them altogether? The power is in your own hands. Parliament long ago gave you the franchise, and now, that you may act independent of your landlords, it has given you the ballot. If year after year you send members to Parliament who are determined at all hazards to preserve these laws, you at least have no reason to complain. I would have dropped this part of the subject here had I not read some remarks on this question spoken the other day at Maybole by the member for Ayr burghs. Sir Wm. Cunninghame said, "Farmers seem to have forgot that the Game-laws conferred many benefits on the general public, who had a right to have their interests considered as well as the farmers. There could be no doubt that the preservation of game had a great effect in keeping country houses occupied, for many such houses would be vacant if it were not for the amusement of shooting, which induced the proprietor not only to reside there himself, but often to collect a large party to fill his house." Now I for one protest against the picture that we are obliged to draw from words such as these of the Scottish landed gentlemen. Is it possible that he can have no love for the hills over which he may have first seen the sun rise; for the stream which he waded when a boy, and in which he may have caught his first little trout; for the trees which were then like himself, little saplings, now sending out their branches high and wide to the breeze—an emblem of passing time, and well fitted to beget the reflection, "What am I doing, what have I done." Is there no allurement in all the charms of nature where nature is most lovely, a prize for which thousands amid dust and smoke are daily toiling, and which few succeed in getting? High above these things, can he feel no interest in the people who work and toil on these lands of his—lands which though but yesterday may have been the product of so many bales of cotton, or so many tons of iron, yet a people to whom he is bound by all moral ties as firm as parchment could bind him to his acres? Is there no suffering among them that he can help to alleviate? are there none whom he can help onward and upward? May there not be some from whom he can learn? If all these things will not allure and attach him to his country home, then, I say, away with him, he is of no manner of use here; off with him to the jungles of India, let him have shooting and killing to his heart's content; there at least his sport will have the dignity of toil and danger. Sir William further says, "Every village carpenter, grocer, doctor, smith, and trades of every kind were benefited, more or less, by the Game-laws, to say nothing of the benefit and healthful exercise it afforded to those who were in a position to take advantage of them." My answer to this may be very short, for I never knew of any village carpenter, blacksmith, or grocer getting twenty shillings' worth of benefit from the Game-laws, unless he was a poacher; and the exercise of shooting being such a healthy thing there must be a very few windfalls for the village doctor. Sir William must have been thinking at the time of some wilderness of man's making in the Highlands, where some cotton lord may rule over fifty or a hundred thousand acres, and where there is not a living soul but himself and his gillies to employ tradesmen of any kind. Again Sir William says, "There was also a benefit which should not be forgotten, the greater amount of occupation the Game-laws gave to labourers and working men, not merely gamekeepers and gamewatchers, but gardeners, grooms, and odd men." Sir William surely does not know that there is such a thing as political economy, and that all intelligent men understand and believe in it. If a political economist came to ask anyone here, Where is the product of your year's labour? your answer would not be far to seek; indeed you need hardly speak at all—you might only point to your stackyard, the mason and carpenter could point to the houses they had built, but I do not know what answer he could get from the employer of grooms and gamekeepers. To be sure he might say I have enjoyed myself and got a good appetite, as for the rest, I suppose it is none o your business. When we hear the Game-laws upheld by such arguments as these, one is apt to feel more sorrow than anger, and no one who is not a bitter enemy to the landed aristocracy could ever wish to hear them repeated. I at one time entertained the hope that the signs of the times would have educated a number of clever young lairds in every county, and that they would have come forward and volunteered to lead us and champion our cause, but so far from this being the case, we have experienced exactly the reverse. Many of the young reform chiefs have gone over to the other side; and if we may judge from the attitude of some of the older ones at the last general election, they even have no great stomach for reforms in our line. This, I believe, is counted by some as an omen of great strength and long life to the Conservative cause. I do not share in that opinion. I look upon it rather as an omen of great danger, which if it goes on, must ultimately tend to unite the tenant class into one compact political body, and then I would say landlords need not bother themselves much longer about politics. When I think of the present position of the landed class, there is a picture that often rises in my mind. It is that of a captain about to go into battle while the crew of his ship is in a state of mutiny. Whether landlords like it or no, the Game-laws must go, Hypothec must go, and Tenant-Right must come; and if they do not wash their hands of these things, there will be a mutiny some day. One day talkative Boswell said to the famous Samuel Johnson, "Sir, don't you think the people were happier under feudal rule than they are now?" "No, sir," returned Samuel; "and the proof of it is they wished to get out of it, and have no wish to return to it." Burly Sam, sturdy Tory though he was, had too much regard for the truth to give his countenance to a falsehood. We have now no specimens of the feudal rule, but we may still look upon its offspring, the patriarchal. In some of the fairest and most fertile counties of England, where baron's castles, squire's halls, and lawns, and parks, are the finest—even where rosy, well-paid churchmen are plentiful, tell me how it is you will there see the land worst farmed, and the farm labourer a spectacle of poverty and ignorance. Naturally one would expect to find there every man sitting under his own vine. Hodge, the other day, found fault with his beans, and rebelled against his master, the English farmer. Hodge had not enough of wind in him, and has been beat in the struggle. Now, it is rather an important question—What is to be the future of poor Hodge! Is he to continue the same half-starved ignorant drudge that he has been? No! I have much better hopes for Hodge. I hope and believe he will emigrate to lands where he will find the fitting elements for his growth to manhood. This, too, I believe, is the best thing that could happen for the English tenants. They will then be forced to direct their energies to the right object—that of procuring leases and Tenant-Right—and will find out by-and-bye that they have a somewhat nobler mission to perform in this world than rearing game for their landlords' amusement. I doubt not many conscientiously believe that the government of a landed aristocracy is the best. Be that right or wrong, of this I am certain, it is a thing which we Scotch tenants have not the slightest interest in upholding. Our real interest is to get liberty to cultivate the land in such a way as we may find most profitable, and to get security for the money and labour we expend on it. It is clear we shall never get that, so long as we send the present kind of members to Parliament—I am speaking of neither Whig nor Tory. I mean that our work is just like other people's work, if it is to be well done, it must be done by ourselves; or, as our friend Sir William says, "We may wait in vain till the 'crack of doom.'" The time is not far distant when no man, however high born or wealthy, will be trusted and followed as a leader who does not employ himself in some useful pursuit. It is for our young lords and lairds to look to this. If they allow the Government of the country to pass out of their hands, they may not get it back again, though they seek it with their tears. I do not know in this wide world a field for work like that possessed by the British landowner—a work, which, by all wise and good men, is considered the highest and noblest. He has a little kingdom of his own, which contains all the elements for thought and study that is contained in the biggest kingdom in Europe. He can tell his people, like Lord Derby, that the land might be able to produce double; but he need not stop there. He can say "Come with me and I will assist you in finding out how it is to be done, and then I will help you to do it." I beg a parting word to the young men of us who are just beginning the work. According to my view, the time may not be far off when their influence may have much weight for good or for evil in the destinies of our country. If they study with care the science and literature of their calling—if they carry into their business the utmost integrity, diligence, and skill they can command—they will find that they have received the best education

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that can be got for giving efficient aid in the government of the State.

Mr. Cunningham (Chapelton) was exceedingly pleased with the paper just read. The subject—the relations between the landlord and tenant—was a most important one, and he thought the tenants would do well to consult that relationship and on their part do everything that lay in their power to meet the views of the landlords consistent with the spirit of the age. It had been justly brought out in the paper that there had been something like serfdom in their profession. They were certainly now in a better position, and though he believed the most of them had good landlords, still owing to the state of the existing law it was almost impossible for a landlord to be a just man. There was the greatest need for an alteration of the existing laws both for the benefit of the landlord and tenant. He fondly hoped the day was not far distant when our legislators would see the necessity of doing something on behalf of the landlord and tenant, and therefore on behalf of society at large. He had not the smallest doubt the outside world was as great a sufferer as they were themselves by the present system.

J. B. Lindsay (Irvine) said that, to maintain a harmonious relationship between landlord and tenant is much to be desired, and is favourable to the prosperity and comfort of both parties. Land as a subject of property, while capable of much improvement, is also liable to serious depreciation. It is, therefore, a serious matter for a proprietor to alienate from himself his property for nineteen years. In doing so he requires protection, and it has hitherto been for the most part sought in the many clauses and restrictions of leases. I venture to doubt if all the clauses and restrictions yet devised will compel the improvement of land or afford the protection sought. I would respectfully suggest that a far more efficient protection is to be found in a well-devised scheme of compensation for improvements, and not only would protection be found, but it would afford to the landlord a legitimate source of enrichment, while at the same time bring comfort and security to the tenant.

Mr. Bruce (Auchengate) said this question is one which requires to be handled with delicacy, and very carefully considered. It is important that the relationship existing between landlord and tenant be harmoniously maintained, and the solution sought in a spirit of equity. The landlord has risks during the currency of a lease—for instance he may let a farm to a tenant who shortly afterwards becomes insolvent. As a set off to this, hypothec is at present the landlord's safeguard. But it is very doubtful if such protection is equivalent to that which would be gained by a well-approved system of compensation for permanent improvements. Under the present arrangements the land is too often deteriorated in value, especially at the expiring of leases. Whereas a compensation scheme providing for the safety of the tenant's expended capital would effect an increase in the letting value of the land, bestowing as it would undoubtedly do, a reciprocal benefit on the outgoing tenant, incoming tenant, and landlord, through the most powerful of all motives, that of self interest. I am of opinion that if a tenant reduces the value of a farm it is proper that the landlord get full damages. Whereas if a tenant can show improvement he ought in equity to receive compensation for such when quitting his holding.

Mr. Howie (Law, Dreghorn) said that they were apt to expect far too much from Parliament. He did not see that the farmer could be very much bettered by Parliament. He believed that compensation should be given to the farmer at the end of the lease for improvements, and that landlords should receive compensation if the farm had been deteriorated.

Mr. Wallace said the subject was one which was allowed to be a very critical one to deal with. It was a pity that is should be so, because there was a tendency to make mistaked about it. It gave rise to one mistake. Landlords were apt to think that farmers as a class liked to go against them, and they might be a little selfish. It was a very natural thing when the proprietor did as they did—went to the market where he would get the greatest price. But he thought proprietors might make a mistake, and in some cases they did, in thinking too much of how they could deal with this and that bargain. If they wish to do it all to their own advantage, they would try to chalk out the bargain in such a way that they might profit by it. But the great deal that had been said in the public political arena, that the farmer was against the landlord, only required to be tried. He thought if people would look into the matter and give it a trial they would find that the farmers were not against them, and what they differed upon would really be for the advantage of both. He thought the proprietors had the same interest, although they were in different circumstances. It was natural they should have a great interest in the land, and for that reason great sympathy for and in the interest of the tenant. He was convinced that they (the farmers) had lairds who were ready to sympathise and encourage them, and though they (the landlords) might not be in a position to give them money, he did not think it was necessary. The farmers could not expect them to give away money without some benefit from it. If they got intelligent proprietors—men with whom it was easy to deal, who understood what was a right and what was a wrong thing, and encourage them as far as in them lay by their countenance, it was a great help to them to go on doing what they could towards their land, and themselves. He thought they should take up the question in a broad light, and not take any selfish view of it. It would expedite matters if they were to do something to disabuse people of the idea that they were there separately as a class.

Mr. Dalgeish (Templant Mains) said one did not like to say anything about their superiors; but still there was no doubt that there were great faults in their landlords in the way they conducted their estates, and the usage they gave to their tenants. But he had no doubt that by the process of riddling they would get as much hair grass and fully as many weeds among the tenantry as amongst the landlords. To begin to legislate he did not know would make a decided settlement. As long as human nature was as it was presently, they might look for nothing but faults and failings amongst the rich as well as the poor and middle classes. Instead of legislating to make alterations in the relations between landlord and tenant, he thought if they could diffuse a spirit of equity and honesty, reciprocal by both parties, it would be far better than taking up an attitude of force or defiance. At the same time it was necessary to have regulations to secure parties to a certain extent. But a tenant taking a farm for nineteen years under certain stipulations—that he was to plough under a certain rotation, and would grant that that rotation was actually the best adapted to the circumstances of the farm, that he would manure up to a certain quantity—he often found it—at least in the leases with which he (the speaker) was acquainted—to his own profit to go beyond the landlord's stipulation in manuring rather than to keep within them. And when a person took a farm they ought to calculate what was to be the consequences during the currency of their lease, and what was to be the issue at the termination; and while they improved the farm, they improved their condition besides, if the improvement was conducted on a proper footing. At any rate, it would pay the tenant better to improve his farm during the currency of his lease than to impoverish it; for the moment that he attempted to impoverish his farm he would impoverish himself. It was very far wrong to remove the regular quantity of manure at the end of the lease; and in proportion as he withdrew his support to the farm he will withdraw the support from himself. He would advise, however, that instead of using a great deal of farm manures it would pay well enough to take artificials at the latter end. It was perfectly natural in the increase of the value of everything that the landlord should look for a rise of rent at the end of the lease, provided that he was up to the times. For the landlords had their expenditure to meet as well as the tenant, and really he did not see well what could be done. The matter must stand as it was, and they must take the good and the bad as they came. He for one would rather have our aristocracy as they were than have the lands put into the hands of the Government, and to submit to the supervision of the Government officials. Amongst very many of the landlords there was the greatest sympathy and kindness to the tenants. He would be very dry himself in receiving the Government official when he came round to see that every nicknack was as it ought to be. He rather thought they would not meet their case better than by letting things take their natural course. There was a great many faults that they might find with the management of and contracts in lands one way and another, but then, if they looked at the tenantry who were of widely different characters, it was absolutely necessary that the landlords should secure themselves against the conduct that may be practised by them, and the case with regard

to the landlords might be stated as just *vice versâ*. So it was not easy to lay down rules that would be generally permanent and good in their effect, so long as society had so much selfishness mixed in it.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM (Chapelton) wished to state that he thought there was no desire on the part of the present or any other farmers' club to injure the landlord, nor yet to have his land under-valued. He thought they could not be accused of attempting to under-value his land: he thought their intentions were the very reverse of that. He should be sorry that they should meet together to read papers and discuss them, to find out any way to cheapen land. They only wanted to give a fair field for the benefit of the landlord and tenant when they showed themselves anxious to negotiate or propose any arrangement different from what at present existed. It would be a mistake to leave such an idea unassailed, because he really believed that in the present time landlords were as much fettered as the tenants were through the existing laws.

Mr. YOUNG (Kilwinning) said some people thought the present subject just a little too political for the Farmers' Club. He shared in that opinion to a certain extent. His opinion in regard to the relation between landlord and tenant was that it might be improved in three respects, not only with advantage to the landlord and tenant, but also to the public. He was persuaded that the law of hypothec should be abolished, and the Game-laws modified to the extent that every occupier of land should have the right in common with his proprietor to kill all wild animals, which would enable him to protect his crops, which were his own, and for which, in his humble opinion, every tenant ought to have protection. The other point was Tenant-Right, or what was better called, compensation for unexhausted improvements. He hoped the landlords would take these subjects into their consideration. He was satisfied that no class in the community would derive greater benefit from a change in that direction than they. At present, if the majority of farmers knew that they were not to continue on the farm, they did not farm in the same way in the last two years of their lease. The most of them carried that too far, and the consequence was that the proprietor had his land to let, and he was desirous of doing so with the farm in the best possible condition when it was found in the worst. He was glad to see that in England the large proprietors had already admitted the justice of the proposals he had referred to, and were quite willing to give their aid in getting a fair and reasonable measure passed which would give compensation for unexhausted improvements. On the other hand, he felt it was quite right and proper whenever a tenant through his negligence and bad farming depreciated the natural fertility of the soil, he ought to be compelled to pay for such depreciation. The chairman made some allusion to the Game-laws, which was the only point upon which he could not agree with him. He (the chairman) seem to have thought that if the tenants had the right to the game, probably they might keep a large head of game. Now, he ventured to say that not one in fifty tenants would try to keep up a large head of game. They could not afford it, and were not so foolish. The game destroyed eight or ten times more than they ate. The only other point to which he would refer was the fact that the interests of the landlord and tenant were mutual, more so than the chairman seemed to hint. He believed what was good for the one was good for the other.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM (Shields) said the subject seemed one not very prolific of discussion amongst farmers. There seemed to be a feeling abroad that there was a danger in saying much or anything in regard to the relations between landlord and tenant. He could not see why that should be so. There was undoubtedly uneasiness amongst the tenant-farmers in regard to this question. There was considerable discussion, writing, and talking in reference to those questions concerning the landed interest, and it was their bounden duty and privilege to meet together to talk over those matters which concerned their welfare, and to devise means whereby the evils with which they were beset might be partly removed or altogether abolished. The chairman traced the relationship of landlord and tenant down from the very commencement, and he showed that early in history the tenant-farmer was in a state of serfdom, and if he (the speaker) understood him right he showed that in the 19th century and Christian land of Scotland they were in a great measure still in the same condition. He quite agreed with him, and it was quite a mistake talk in such a way as if there were not a more independent class existing than the tenant-farmers. He denied that *in toto*. So long as they were compelled to sign leases on the conditions that were frequently attached to them, they were virtually serfs. They could call themselves nothing else, and they could not help themselves until those questions in connection with land were legislatively settled. He quite believed, and would verify the statement of Lord Derby, that the land of this country might yield double it did at present. There was not the slightest doubt about this if there was sufficient capital, and there would never be sufficient capital until they had security for the capital, and were placed on an equal footing with their landlords in making their bargains. It was well known that if a landlord and a tenant made an agreement, it was always one-sided, because the landlords, having the making of the laws, made them for themselves. In regard to the question of the Game-laws, it was an impossibility to have high farming and a large head of game. He believed that was thoroughly experienced by the late Marquis of Ailes. He found it utterly impossible to farm well and keep up a large stock of game. Therefore, if they were to have over-preservation of game they might bid adieu to high farming or farming to pay. He believed very few tenants would complain of game unless there was considerable damage done. But what they had to complain of was that instead of any improvement in the young landlords it was worse. The hand dial instead of going forward was going back. It had been said that there was a prospect of this game question being settled. The party was in power who would do it; and therefore there was no doubt that if farmers would just be a little more moderate in their proposals, and by doing very little and saying almost nothing, the thing would soon be settled. All he had to say was that if it was to be settled in the way in which it was talked about, they would settle it for themselves. That put him in mind of some strangers from a foreign country who were attending the Ayr races. They were amused with the actions of the light-fingered gentry who were endeavouring to inveigle a plain countryman. But the countryman was not to be done, and the strangers were particularly amused at the answers he gave to the light-fingered gentlemen—"Ye can play wi' yoursels." So it was with the party who were to settle the matter for the farmers; they must do it themselves, and he did not think the farmers would be inclined to go into the matter. As to game being a blessing to the country, it was rather a curse. He believed there were statistics, but he had been unable to lay his finger upon them. He knew, however, the number of criminals these Game-laws occasioned. And they all knew that when once a countryman was imprisoned, it did not matter for what it was, he ran the risk of his character being ruined for life; his whole life, as it were, was pilfered away from him by these iniquitous Game-laws, and the other day there was a case in point in Aberdeen where a very heavy penalty was inflicted, and the Sheriff himself was obliged to admit that the penalty was far too great for the offence. The law that punished a man so iniquitously—for he had never been brought to see that the killing of a hare or rabbit was a crime—should not be on the statute book of a Christian land. In regard to what had been said about the Conservative party being the party to grant relief, and that the Liberals had done nothing, and it was not their interest to do it, he would read a game clause of a landed proprietor, who was a Liberal, and also a clause of his successor on the very same estate, but who was now a Conservative. The game clause of the Liberal landlord was to this effect: "And reserve to the landlord the exclusive right to hunt, shoot, and fish by himself, or any person having his power and authority." The clause of the Conservative landlord was somewhat as follows: "That he shall reserve to the landlord the whole game on the said land with the exclusive right to hunt, and those having his authority, and no claim shall be raised for damage done by game, and the tenant binds himself to protect the plantations, preserve the game, and, so far as in his power, prevent poachers and others from trespassing on the land." He should leave that to any one who should like to judge which of the two landlords was likely to command the respect of the tenant farmers, and those who had to do business in the way of land. As regards the other question, he was glad to see that a number of the proprietors themselves were moving in the matter, and they had good reason to believe that the Marquis of Huntly, who last year introduced a bill on the subject, but they knew with what reception from the landocracy, meant to re-introduce it. He

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was the more glad because he (the speaker) believed it was framed in accordance with equity to both landlord and tenant, and would be the means if passed by the Legislature of improving the relations between landlord and tenant, and of setting at rest a great many of those questions at present irritating one another.

Mr. RILLIE said the statement of Mr. Cunningham with regard to the keeping of game on the farms of the late Marquis of Ailsa was scarcely accurate. When Mr. M'Call had the farm referred to, the rent of it was only £700, and there was a great deal of game upon it then. He had occasion to pass it frequently, and he did so only the other day, and the game seemed more abundant now than ever, and the present rent was more than £1,000, and the present tenant seemed thriving, looked well and smiling.

The CHAIRMAN remarked he thought he had been misunderstood in his statement about farmers rearing game. He qualified his statement by saying that it was not at all likely that farmers would rear game, although he believed there were certain foolish farmers who might rear game. They must admit there were foolish ones amongst them. As to Mr. Young's observation that the subject was too political for a meeting like the present, he (the chairman) found the subject so mixed up with politics that he did not see how he was to separate them, and he could not do otherwise if he were to treat the subject again.

This concluded the discussion.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.

DEPUTATION TO THE DUKE OF RICHMOND.

Te Duke of Richmond has received a deputation from the local authorities of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, within the Gordon Schools, at Huntly, for the purpose of hearing representations regarding the operation of the Cattle Diseases Acts. The deputation consisted of Sheriff Comrie Thomson, Mr. J. W. Barclay, M.P., and Col. Innes, of Learney, as representing the Aberdeenshire Local authority; Sheriff Gordon representing Banffshire; and Dr. M'Lean, Provost Cameron of Elgin, and Mr. Geddes, Orbliston, representing Morayshire.

SHERIFF THOMSON introduced the deputation, and explained that they represented the local authorities of the three counties who thought it desirable to submit to his Grace their views as to the amendment of the cattle diseases legislation. Deputations from the several local authorities now represented had met at Keith on Saturday last, and agreed upon certain suggestions to place before his Grace. As one of their number had been a member of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on this subject last session, and had much experience in practically dealing with the subject, he proposed that Mr. Barclay should state the views of the local authorities.

Mr. BARCLAY said he should endeavour very briefly to state the reasons which the local authorities had in support of the suggestions which he had now the honour of submitting to his Grace, but before doing so he might be allowed to observe that the suggestions were not of the nature of theoretical objections to the cattle disease legislation, but practical difficulties and hindrances which the local authorities had experienced in proceeding to carry out the Acts and Orders in Council with efficiency. The first suggestion was that the period of thirty days, provided by the pleuro-pneumonia regulation, was not sufficiently long, and the meeting at Keith were unanimously of opinion that this period should be extended to sixty days. They did not say that even this lengthened period would be altogether sufficient to determine whether disease continued to exist at the infected place or not. Pleuro-pneumonia was in his opinion much more difficult to deal with than rinderpest. The period of incubation, or the time during which disease might exist in an animal without manifesting external symptoms, was sometimes very protracted, and they had instances where three, four, or even more months had elapsed before the disease again manifested itself. But if the period were to be extended beyond sixty days, very grave hardship would arise to the owner of cattle, and it might easily be the case where one animal took it after another at considerable intervals, that the farmer might be prevented from removing apparently healthy stock from his farm for twelve months. Looking at the question practically, they were of opinion, in the whole circumstances, that sixty days was the period to which the control of the local authorities should be extended. The second suggestion, that the slaughtering provisions of the Act should be carried out the same in Ireland as in England and in Scotland, was, he believed, by far the most important question which he had to submit. In urging this point, the local authorities did not assert that there was more disease in Ireland than in this country, neither were they actuated by any hostility towards the Irish farmers. Indeed, he believed that the slaughtering-out of pleuro-pneumonia in Ireland would be of greater advantage to the Irish farmers than even to the English and Scotch. He was quite satisfied that he was speaking within the due limit in stating that the value of Irish store cattle was depreciated not less than from ten to fifteen per cent. by the suspicions which existed in regard to their being affected with disease. Experience had shown so strongly the danger of purchasing Irish cattle that it was considered to partake of recklessness on the part of farmers to purchase them, unless they had within themselves facilities for keeping such animals isolated for a considerable period from the rest of their stock. But Irish store cattle could not be dispensed with in the Southern counties. The farmers were as glad to have them as the Irish farmers were to sell them, and it was therefore very evident that any measure which tended to increase confidence in the health of Irish cattle would be quite as beneficial to the farmers in Ireland as it would be to the farmers on this side of the Channel. The local authorities were quite satisfied that the disease in these northern counties was due to the import of cattle—particularly of Irish cattle—and he did not make this statement without being able to support it by facts. The local authority of Aberdeenshire had instructed their inspectors to investigate the circumstances of every new outbreak of disease, with a view to ascertain its origin. The inspector, in consequence, had inquired into the various cases of disease, and his report was to the following effect: In 1871 there were 30 new outbreaks of pleuro-pneumonia in Aberdeenshire, and 11 of these were traced directly to cattle brought into the county. In 1872 there were 34 outbreaks, and of these 15 were directly due to imported cattle. In 1873 there were 12 cases, and 7 of these were due to imported cattle. As stated, 26 cases were due in 1871 and 1872 directly to imported cattle, but it was found that other 21 cases had sprung directly from these 26; so that out of 64 new cases in 1871 and 1872, 47 were traced to imported cattle. The inspector failed to trace the remaining 17. Now, of the 26 cases directly due to imported cattle the cattle which brought the disease were in 15 cases from Ireland; in 8 cases from Holland; in 4 cases from England; and in 4 cases from other Scotch counties. He did not assert, as he had already stated, that disease was more rife in Ireland than in England and Scotland, but the mischief arose in this way. If one or two animals from an infected place, and containing the germs of the disease, were presented for shipment, no inspector at the port of shipment or elsewhere could detect the disease in its initial stages. One or two animals affected with pleuro-pneumonia pent up in the hold of a vessel, along with many different lots, might infect one or two in several of these lots, and so by only one or two diseased animals in a cargo, the disease might be communicated to the different lots and be thus spread widely over the country. The local authorities there represented had strenuously endeavoured to carry out the provisions of the Act with regard to slaughtering affected animals; and, so far as regarded disease within the county, they had every reason to believe that they would soon succeed in entirely exterminating it; but it was extremely discouraging to find that as they succeeded in exterminating the disease which existed within the county, it was again brought in afresh from

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other parts of the country by infected animals. He had reason to believe that the same feeling of disappointment was experienced in several districts of England, and he had no doubt that in the coming session of Parliament strong representations would be made to his Grace to rescind the Order in Council providing for slaughtering. He had been specially directed to state that the opinion of the local authorities now represented was strongly in favour of the expediency of slaughtering out animals affected with this disease. Indeed, the evidence taken before the Select Committee last session was all but unanimous in the conclusion that slaughtering, animals affected with pleuro-pneumonia was the most advisable course both in the interests of the owner and of the public; and he believed he was strictly correct in saying that no diversity exists on this point among the numerous witnesses from Ireland who were examined before the Committee. As regards Aberdeenshire, the clerk to the Local Authority had prepared a statement of the experience of the last three years (which we give in the table annexed hereto, and a copy of which was submitted to the Duke), showing that the average cost to the country during the last three years, during which slaughtering had been carried out, had been three-farthings per pound on the assessable rental—one half payable by the landlords and the other half by the tenants. The third suggestion desired the Privy Council to take measures to ensure the active and uniform enforcement of the law amongst all local authorities throughout the kingdom; and in support of this he referred to the figures which he had previously given, showing that of those cases of disease in Aberdeenshire a certain number were due to cattle from England, as well as from other countries in Scotland. The fourth suggestion proposed the amalgamation of county and burgh local authorities in Scotland. No doubt the burgh and the county local authorities in the counties which they represented had acted with great unanimity and cordiality together; but such had not been the case in certain parts of Scotland and England. In a few cases the burgh local authorities seemed to consider that their interests were antagonistic to those of the county local authorities. He referred to a case which had occurred in Scotland, where the county local authority had prohibited the import of cattle, but the burgh local authority had failed to do so. A large number of cattle was brought into the county to a market held within the burgh. Farmers brought largely at the market, took the cattle into the county; and the breaches of the law were so numerous, besides being inadvertent, that the authorities failed to prosecute. No great harm had directly arisen in this case; but when certain regulations were set at nought in this manner, it threw discredit upon other more essential restrictions. Provision would be made for assessing the general expenses over the whole district rateably, and the expenses of slaughtering would, it was contemplated, fall exclusively on that burgh or landward part of the county wherein the cattle were slaughtered. The fifth suggestion was expressing the desirability of simplifying and consolidating the Order in Council, and of adopting a settled policy in dealing with cattle disease by the Government, in order that the local authorities and the public generally might become acquainted with the regulations. Speaking generally, the local authorities were of opinion that the regulations and restrictions should be the minimum absolutely necessary; that such regulations and restrictions as were imposed should be rigorously enforced throughout the whole country; and that discretion should not be left with local authorities, but made generally imperative by an Order in Council. When the Orders were permissive, some local authorities proceeded stringently; others neglected to take measures; and experience had abundantly shown that unless uniform measures were carried out throughout the whole country, it was useless for exceptional local authorities to be more stringent than their neighbours. The carrying out of the Act was at first no doubt expensive, but experience would enable them to reduce the cost very considerably; and if the slaughtering-out policy were carried out in Ireland, and vigorously throughout England and Scotland, he had no doubt that, within a reasonable time, that policy would be attended with complete success.

Provost Cameron said that the amalgamation of county and burgh local authorities would tend very considerably towards economy, as well as to efficiency in the carrying out of the Act. Under the existing law, regulations had to be made and advertised both by the county and burgh local authorities, with double meetings and officials. There would be no difficulty in one local authority administering the Act for the whole country.

Sheriff Gordon said some doubt existed as to whether sixty days was sufficient time to elapse before declaring an infected place free. The Banff local authority considered three months necessary, but he thought that it might be placed in the discretion of the Privy Council to grant powers to such local authorities as might want to extend the time beyond the sixty days. With regard to the amalgamation of the county and burgh local authorities, he was not aware what the opinion of the Burgh of Banff was on this subject. He was strongly persuaded of the necessity for simplifying and consolidating the various Orders in Council, in order that Local Authorities might have no doubt as to the powers they possessed.

The Duke of Richmond said he was very glad to have an opportunity of hearing the views of the local authorities of the three counties on the practical operation of the cattle disease legislation. It was his duty, as President of the Council, and having this department in charge, to make himself acquainted with the operation of the Acts; and he naturally, as a landed proprietor in each of the three counties, took a lively interest in the subject. With regard to the period during which a place was made subject to the pleuro-pneumonia regulations, that was not within his control as President of the Council, but was specially provided for by the Act of Parliament. To alter the period, an amending Act would be necessary. The proposal to slaughter-out cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia in Ireland was one of considerable difficulty. Amongst other difficulties he might refer to this, that local machinery for carrying out the Act did not exist in Ireland, as in England and Scotland. As they were doubtless aware, the Act was carried out from the central authority—the Lord-Lieutenant—chiefly by means of the police; and it was doubtful whether there was a sufficient number of qualified veterinary surgeons to enable the central authority to carry the slaughtering provisions of the Act into effect, and at the same time to secure the confidence of the country. He had had the subject under consideration during the past session, and had been in communication with Sir Michael Hicks Beach, the Under-Secretary for Ireland. He did not say that the difficulties which he had stated were insuperable. The subject was still under consideration, and he should be glad if he and the Irish Government could see their way to enforce the slaughter of animals affected with pleuro-pneumonia in Ireland. With regard to the inspection of Irish cattle which had been incidentally referred to, he had, early last session, arranged with the Chancellor of the Exchequer for additional inspectors, some of whom had been appointed then, while others had been appointed quite recently. He had been informed that the cattle were marked in such a manner on leaving Ireland that if any animal was found to be affected with disease, the mark upon it enabled the inspector to state the date of shipment and the farm from which the animal had been brought. If the local authority found cause of complaint against any Irish cattle, they ought to communicate with the veterinary department in London, in order that the animal might be traced; but, as he was informed, there had been very few, if any, complaints of that nature.

Dr. M'Lean expressed his belief that a very considerable amount of disease was due to bad treatment of the cattle in the transit from Ireland to this country, and certainly the confinement in the holds of vessels, and the subsequent exposure, would develop the germs of the disease.

Mr. Barclay agreed that the evidence before the Select Committee last year showed that confinement in the holds of vessels, and subsequent exposure, developed the germs of the disease in cattle, but did not produce contagious pleuro-pneumonia, which all the witnesses agreed in saying to be a disease of foreign origin, which had been brought into this country, and subsequently propagated and continued by contagion. Ordinary pleuro-pneumonia would be produced by exposure and hard treatment; but although similar in external symptoms, it was a quite different disease from contagious pleuro-pneumonia.

The Duke of Richmond was aware that a very general opinion prevailed that the proper course to deal with pleuro-pneumonia was by slaughtering-out the animals; but he might say that he had already had a deputation from Yorkshire, pressing upon him the expediency of rescinding the slaughtering Order in Council. He should be very glad if the various

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local authorities could be induced to carry out the Acts efficiently, but he did not know what further steps the Privy Council could take to that end. He should be glad to hear any suggestions on this point.

Colonel INNES suggested that the slaughtering-out of cattle, with the view of preventing disease, ought to be looked upon as a national question quite as much as a farmer's one, and he believed that inquiry would show that disease, by enhancing the price of meat, was of greater importance to the general consumer than even to the farmer, who was recouped for his loss by the trifling assessment of three-eights of a penny in the pound. It seemed to him that it was a proper subject for consideration whether part of the general expenditure might not be paid out of Imperial funds, the Government, on the other hand, having some direct control and supervision in the carrying out of the Act.

Sheriff THOMSON said that, as regards the Government supervision, there was a precedent, to a certain extent, in the case of the police. The counties managed them, but there was a Government inspector.

The Duke of RICHMOND, with regard to the amalgamation of county and burgh local authorities, thought that that was a proposition which might be practicable in Scotland, but he feared it would be impracticable in England, where the burgh and county local authorities seemed to consider in some cases their interests antagonistic. His Grace having referred to the question of foot-and-mouth disease,

Mr. BARCLAY explained that, although the subject was not referred to in the memorandum submitted to the Duke, it had been discussed at the meeting of the local authorities in Keith last week. The representatives of the local authorities there present were unanimously of opinion that it was in expedient to attempt to deal with foot-and-mouth disease by special restrictions or regulations, and that it ought to be left simply under the operation of the general Act, which provided that persons exposing animals affected with foot-and-mouth disease in a market or public place, or by driving them along a highway, were subject to penalties. The local authorities had come to this conclusion, not because they thought foot-and-mouth disease a trifling matter—for they were of opinion that foot-and-mouth disease on the whole caused far greater loss than pleuro-pneumonia—but the result of their experience showed that any restrictions which could be enforced had little effect in putting down the disease. The restrictions might make the progress of the disease less rapid, but they seemed powerless to prevent the disease from spreading over the country; and, indeed, it had been urged, not without a certain amount of force, that the restrictions were rather harmful than otherwise. It was considered that the more rapidly the disease spread over the country, the sooner it was got clear of altogether, as, like epidemics, it would in a definite time exhaust itself. The restrictions retarded the course of the disease, and by the time it had got over the country a new crop of animals had grown up to come under the influence of the disease. The local authorities of these three counties had passed the most stringent regulations in their power regarding foot-and-mouth disease, and had endeavoured to carry them into effect most stringently, but yet they could not say that any beneficial effects had resulted, and if any beneficial results did arise from the restrictions, they certainly did not equal the trouble and inconvenience which were occasioned by them.

Dr. M'LEAN said that the local authority for Morayshire, quite concurred in the views expressed. In their experience, foot-and-mouth had not been a fatal disease.

The Duke of RICHMOND said very strong representations had been made to him, to issue very stringent regulations in regard to foot-and-mouth disease; but he understood the experience of the local authorities here did not support further restrictions. He quite agreed in the desirability of simplifying and codifying the Orders in Council, and indicated that this would have his consideration.

Provost CAMERON suggested that a new Order in Council might be issued, rescinding all previous Orders in Council, and embodying in itself the whole of the provisions of the Privy Council.

The Duke of RICHMOND said, that of course new Orders in Council were required from time to time.

Sheriff THOMSON remarked, that if a settled policy were adopted by the Government, new Orders in Council would refer almost entirely to the regulation of the import of foreign animals, and would not affect the action of authorities internally, or as to cattle within their respective districts. The Sheriff concluded by thanking his Grace on behalf of the deputation, for the patient attention and courtesy with which their representations had been received.

The deputation then withdrew.

The following is the table referred to by Mr. Barclay:

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.

Abstract Statement as to Cattle Slaughtered by the Local Authority of the County of Aberdeen:

Period.	No. of Place infected.	No. of Cattle on infected Places.	Value of Cattle on infected Places.	No. of Cattle Slaughtered.	Value of Cattle Slaughtered.	Amount realised by Sale of Carcases, Hides, &c.	Loss.	Amount of Compensation paid to Owners.
From 14th April to 31st December, 1871	30	867	£13,697 0 0	237	£3,943 17 0	£2,244 9 8	£1,699 7 4	£1,161 7 9
Year to 31st December, 1872	34	1,126	17,908 5 6	313	4,705 9 6	2,174 2 1½	2,531 7 4½	1,777 18 0
" to 31st December, 1873	13	332	5,648 3 0	85	1,288 11 1	620 7 11	688 3 2	413 17 7
To 15th May, 1874, the date of closing accounts.....	7	186	3,164 19 0	80	1,274 0 0	547 19 8	726 0 4	518 10 2
	84	2,511	£40,418 7 6	715	£11,211 17 7	£5,586 19 4½	£5,694 18 2½	£3,870 13 6

EXPENSE OF INSPECTION, MANAGEMENT, AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Period.	Paid Inspectors.	Clerk of Supply, Printing, Advertising, &c.	Total.
For the year ending 15th May, 1872	£945 14 4	£397 0 9	£1,342 15 1
Ditto 15th May, 1873	1,026 1 0	431 13 11	1,457 14 11
Ditto 15th May, 1874	300 9 0	187 19 10	488 8 10
	£2,272 4 4	£1,016 14 6	£3,288 18 10

STATUTE HIRINGS.—A circular on the subject of the hiring of servants has just been issued by the Howdenshire Chamber of Agriculture. It states that great inconvenience has resulted from the increasing practice of servants sending back their "earnest money," and refusing to fulfil the engagements they entered into at the statutes, which have usually been held about a fortnight before Martinmas. In several instances employers have sought redress from the magistrates when thus left in the lurch, but it has been decided that as the engagements were legally from the day of hiring until Martinmas of the ensuing year, they were not binding unless

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put into writing, a parole contract not being legal or valid for any period exceeding twelve months. Much dissatisfaction has naturally been felt with these decisions, and the Howdenshire Chamber has appealed against one of them to the Court of Queen's Bench, but the case has not yet come on for hearing. The simplest way to remedy this defect in the law would doubtless be the universal adoption of written contracts. but servants, and some masters also, have such great objection to signing written documents that it does not seem at all likely it could be carried out. There are many objections to holding the statutes before Martinmas, amongst which are the loss of time sustained by the absence of servants so near the end of their contract, and the great unsettlement and frequently recklessness and idleness shown by many of them during the rest of their time. The circular concludes by suggesting that in order to prevent this state of confusion, uncertainty, and loss, the statute hirings should all be held in Martinmas week. Three advantages would be derived from so doing. 1. The contracts would then be valid. 2. There would be no unsettled time between the holding of the first statutes and the leaving day. 3. A greater disposition amongst masters and servants to complete contracts for future service without unnecessary loss of time. A copy of the circular has been sent to all the neighbouring Chambers, with a request that they will co-operate with the Howden Chamber in endeavouring to secure the settlement of what is now a vexed question to many employers of labour in the agricultural districts of the country.

LIVERPOOL.

Compared with Bristol, Liverpool is a town of yesterday. It was late in taking a start, but a time came when the advantages of its position and the energies of its people quickly placed it in the front rank of English towns. Not even Birmingham surpasses it in the prodigious rapidity of its growth and the largeness of its development. Very old men can remember it as a comparatively small place, and can trace its marvellous increase in wealth, population, and splendour emerging from a small fishing-village and growing into the second seaport of England. Old citizens still narrate with a glow of pride how rapidly the magnificent docks extended from mile to mile along the side of the noble Mersey; how streets of mighty warehouses seemed to arise; how in quick succession Exchange, Townhall, Corporate buildings, hospitals, churches, and shops rivalling those of London were erected to meet the never-ceasing demands of this wonderfully increasing town; and how, after having covered the Lancashire side of the river with evidences of growing wealth, active industry, and civic prosperity, the never-sleeping energy of its merchant princes and great ship-builders crossed the watery barrier, and how a mighty town, with similar proofs of riches, rose on the Chester side of these waters crowded with shipping. Liverpool is one of the crowning illustrations of the commercial and industrial capacities of the English nation. A very brief glance at the past will suffice to bring us to the Liverpool of our own day. The most popular of its many derivations is that which traces its name to a mythological sort of a bird called "lever" or "liver," though no such bird has ever been known to exist; but, in confirmation of this theory, the crest of the borough arms is to this day the figure of this identical bird! Anyhow, it is beyond question that in early times Liverpool was very small and insignificant. In the time of Edward III.—1328-77—it consisted only of five streets. Some 170 years later, in Henry VIII.'s reign, Leland thus described it: "Lyrpole, *alias* Lyverpole, a proud town, hath but a chapel. Walton, *four miles off, not far from the sea, is the parish church*. The King hath a castelet there, and the Earl of Derby hath a stone house. Irish merchants come much thither, as to a good haven. At Lyrpole is small custom paid; that causeth merchants to resort. Good merchandise at Lyrpole; and much Irish yarn, that Manchester men do buy there." In Elizabeth's reign the town made some progress, but not much; although Camden relates that it was then the "most commodious and the most frequented route to Ireland." He adds that it was more remarkable for elegance and populousness than for antiquity. In this and the succeeding reign the number of its freemen nearly doubled. There was, however, little promise of its present greatness; and Liverpool was in the reign of Charles I. a very poor place indeed. This is shown in the ratal for ship-money. When these unhappy and mischievous councils prevailed, and the King issued his writs for this levy, while Chester was charged with £100, and Bristol at the then very large sum of £1,000, Liverpool was rated at only £15. And the High Sheriff of Lancashire wrote to the authorities: "If you shall tax and assess men according to their estate, then Liverpole being poor, and now goes, as it were, a begging, must pay very little." At the beginning of the Civil War Liverpool was seized by the Royalists. It was then besieged by the forces of the Parliament, who after a severe contest won it, driving the Royalists out with considerable loss. The fact that this port was the direct route to Ireland rendered its possession of great importance to both parties, and accordingly Prince Rupert again laid siege to the place; but it cost him and his army eighteen days, a hundred barrels of gunpowder, and the loss of some 1,500 men before the crow's nest was taken. In November of the same year it was surrendered again to the Parliament, after a siege of fifty-five days both by sea and land. During the eighteenth century the progress of Liverpool was enormous. In 1700 the population was 5,714; in 1800 it had risen to 75,000. Mr. Leone Levi states that in 1773 "the population of Liverpool was ascertained to be 34,000. She possessed only three floating docks, a tolerably-sized basin, and three graving docks. The gross receipts of customs in 1775 were £274,000; and in that year eighty-one ships of 9,200 tons cleared from Liverpool for the African or slave trade. In 1775 there was only one letter-carrier for all Liverpool, and the mail-bags were carried in and out of the town on horseback." This was the period during which the slave trade flourished and was a source of untold riches to Liverpool, which shared with London and Bristol the profits and the shame of this iniquitous traffic. When Clarkson went on his merciful mission of inquiry, he found that, while eighteen vessels engaged in this trade sailed from Bristol, no fewer than eighty left Liverpool. He heard "horrible facts" from everybody; the people were more hardened, and talked on the subject with more cool indifference than in any other seaport. This he assigns to their greater familiarity with the cruelties incidental to the traffic. The Liverpool people, too, were exceptionally bitter and furious in their opposition. More than once the apostle of abolition was threatened with personal violence, and on one occasion only narrowly escaped from being thrown into a dock to drown; and drowned he would have been immediately, for no one would have attempted his rescue. Liverpool was thoroughly roused in the defence of what she considered the most important source of her wealth and the most valuable of her vested interests. The earliest attempts to legislate on this subject were rigorously opposed by the members for Liverpool, who in this only obeyed the all but unanimous wishes—nay, indeed, the commands of their constituents. Mr. Gascoyne declared abolition to be unnecessary, visionary, and impracticable." Petition on petition was poured into the House of Commons opposing all steps towards abolition, and proclaiming that utter ruin would follow such pernicious and injurious legislation. Through the twenty years' agitation by which the abolition of the slave trade was preceded the influence of Liverpool in opposing the measure was second only, if even it were second to that of London. Liverpool was not ruined by the abolition of the slave trade, as its opponents gloomily prophesied. On the contrary, the town took a wider, a nobler, and a more rapid course in progressive prosperity. During the present century her career has been one of extraordinary growth and development. A writer who is fully informed on the subject says: "Rapid as was the progress of the commerce of Liverpool in the last century it is more than equalled in the present day. From the large share the merchants possessed in the African slave trade it might have been apprehended that the cessation of that traffic would have seriously affected their interests. But it was not so. A succession of causes continually tended to open up fresh channels for enterprise and to give increased facility to mercantile operations. The most powerful of these was the

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warehousing system, which gave all the advantages of a free port to one possessing so many natural and artificial advantages. It was followed by the partial opening of the trade to the East Indies; next by the introduction of steam navigation; and, during late years, by the complete abolition of the East India Company's monopoly. In addition to these causes the rapid advance of our original descendants in the New World in wealth and population has called into operation the intercourse chiefly carried on through this port. Lastly, with her skilful engineers and fortunate position as the outport of a country abounding in mineral fuel, she holds the sinews of that mighty power which is extending its conquests over the wide world; walking the waters through storm and calm, and bridging the Atlantic itself; gliding over the peopled plains of the Old World, through the eternal forests of the New, and as it passes along scattering in its train civilised man, his energies guided by Christian knowledge and by his expanding wants and national desires." In proof of this marvellous accretion it is only necessary to mention the increase of population since 1800. It was then, as I have already stated, about 75,000; in 1861 it was 443,938, and at the last census in 1871 it was 493,346—thus in seventy years showing the enormous increase of 418,346 persons. Figures are not always interesting reading, but in most cases it is only by figures that we can obtain anything like a comprehensible and accurate idea of the extraordinary development of our great towns during the present century. The political influence of Liverpool has generally been exercised in the Conservative interest, but in the great Reform agitation a large and influential Union was founded, which co-operated with that at Birmingham in its active support of the bill. Petitions very numerously signed in favour of the measure were sent to Parliament, and a vast amount of Liberal enthusiasm prevailed. This was, however, of short duration, and in less than three years after the passing of the bill the burgesses returned to their favourite political side. The second general election after the passing of the Act was in January 1835, and then, notwithstanding the extension of the suffrage and the enlarged register produced by the addition of the ten pound householders to the number of voters, the Conservatives headed the poll. Since that time the public influence of Liverpool has almost uniformly been Conservative. This state of opinion in such an active community, added to the great change which within a few years has taken place at Manchester, will afford some explanation of the general Conservative reaction by which nearly the whole county of Lancashire was so signally distinguished at the last election. During the American civil war Liverpool ardently sympathised with the Southern States, and all her influence was exerted in that direction. A large number of privateers were fitted out in, and sailed from, her docks in their hazardous and illegal enterprises. Persistent but unsuccessful efforts were made to induce the English Government to recognise the Southern States. At Birkenhead, a place which bears the same relation to Liverpool as Gateshead does to Newcastle-on-Tyne, Salford to Manchester, and Aston to Birmingham—in fact for political purposes the two places may be considered as one—at Birkenhead the Messrs. Laird built for the Confederates the vessel which, under the name "Alabama," won such a notoriety as a privateer, and drew this kingdom into a series of difficulties which at any moment might have led to war, and which ended in inflicting a heavy penalty on the nation. Beyond question, Liverpool must be credited with the chief of those acts which after ten years of mutual recrimination led up to judgment against us in the Court of Arbitration at Geneva. Liverpool is the birth-place of an association which is slowly growing in importance, and which promises at no very distant date to exercise a great influence on public opinion. To various large towns has been given the accomplishment of some particular public work as the crowning glory of its public life and history: to Birmingham the first Reform Bill, to Manchester the repeal of the Corn Laws, and it appears all but certain that to Liverpool will be given the no less important labour of systematising and reforming our national finances. In April, 1848, the Financial Reform Association was founded. Its objects briefly stated are "economical government, just taxation, and perfect freedom of trade." Its method is to create an educated public opinion on all subjects connected with taxation, national expenditure, and the influence of imports and duties on trade and commerce. To effect this end tracts on every part of our financial system, on taxation in all its branches, aspects, and bearings, its incidence and its application, are printed and widely circulated. Lectures on similar subjects are delivered by thoroughly well informed gentlemen in the different towns throughout the country. Leaflets on how the public money came and went in each past year, and how it is coming and going in the current year are published in large numbers, giving in the briefest possible manner the amount raised from the various sources of revenue and the way in which it is expended; the cause and origin of the National Debt, and the way in which the public burdens have been transferred from the land to the Excise and other taxes; while the advantages of a system of direct taxation over that of Customs and Excise are displayed in the simplest manner. At the end of each year is issued the *Financial Reform Almanack*, in which is presented a vast amount of "tabulated, fiscal, commercial, social, and political information," all relating to the objects of the association, and furnishing in a clear and lucid manner a complete history of taxation as it affects the life and industry of the nation. Since July 1858, the association has published a monthly paper entitled the *Financial Reformer*, the recognised advocate of its objects, which are: 1. "To use all lawful and constitutional means of inducing the most rigid economy in the expenditure of the Government, consistent with due efficiency in the several departments of the public service. 2. To advocate the adoption of a simple and equitable system of direct taxation, fairly levied upon property and income, in lieu of the present unequal, complicated, and expensively-collected duties upon commodities." In this work "political partisanship is distinctly disowned, the association being composed of men of all political parties." In illustration of the influence already exercised by this association we have only to read a speech delivered by Mr. Bright at a large meeting which it held in Liverpool, in December 1859, the views which he advocated being adopted as those of the association. The speaker proposed the repeal of taxes which pressed on the bulk of the people and on precarious incomes, and the substitution of others on property producing fixed incomes; the abolition of the Income-tax, the assessed taxes (except the house tax), taxes on marine insurances, fire insurances, and the duty on paper; the remission of all duties from the Customs tariff, except on foreign wines (and that these should be reduced from 5s. 6d. to 1s. on the gallon), foreign spirits, and tobacco. These proposals would have reduced the revenue by more than £26,000,000; to meet this loss he suggested a tax of 8s. per cent. on all persons whose property was more than £100, which would produce £27,000,000, or an excess of £1,000,000. As to the wisdom or justice of these proposals I am not now called upon to express an opinion; I give the statement to show the influence which the Reform Association has had on the subject of taxation. Since this speech in 1859 the assessed taxes have been lessened, the duties on marine and fire insurances taken off, the paper duty abolished, and the Income-tax made small by degrees and beautifully less. This epitome of the gradual change which is taking place in the public mind on the subject of taxation is a sufficient proof of the influence which this non-political association of Liverpool has exercised during its existence, and is, doubtless, a prophecy of still greater fiscal reforms which it will effect. Mr. Cobden gave his full adhesion to its objects. In all that concerns their local life and institutions the spirit of Liverpool is rivalled by few large towns, and surpassed by none. In its public expenditure the corporation, which is very rich, rarely counts the cost if it is necessary that a great work should be done. Over £900,000 has been expended in constructing the splendid system of sewerage, in perfecting which "no expense or care seems to have been spared." The Town Hall cost upwards of £110,000, and the Exchange more than £360,000, while some £400,000 was expended in the erection of St. George's Hall and the Assize Courts. All the public buildings are on a similar scale of magnificence, the charities are numerous and munificently supported, the docks are the admiration of strangers from all parts of the world. For some time past Liverpool has run a neck-and-neck race with Bristol as to which place should be the most heavily rated in the kingdom. The munificence of many of her wealthy citizens is princely. A free Library has been established for twenty-one years, and in 1857 Sir William Brown, Bart., began the building of a fitting receptacle for the literary treasures of the town. This was finished in 1860, at a total cost of £40,000, the whole of which was borne by the generous donor. The Report for 1873 is now before me. I find that at the end of that year the reference library con-

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tained 56,828 volumes, and during the year there had been 489,270 issues. There are also two branch lending libraries called the north and south: the former contains 20,031 volumes, and the latter 20,799, making a total of 40,830. The united issues of books in 1873 were 422,531. During the same period 428,501 persons visited the museum. A free art gallery has been greatly needed in the town, and, to quote from the last report of the free libraries committee, "an attempt was made without success during the past year to gain the aid of the council towards the erection of such a building, and subsequently offers of contributions were made by private individuals to the extent of £7,000 for the same purpose. The public, however, did not come forward in response, and the whole project was on the eve of a collapse when the Mayor, Mr. A. B. Walker, nobly came to the rescue, and immediately after his election to the chair on the 10th of November announced his intention of devoting the sum of £20,000 to the erection of a building for an Art Gallery." Thus two citizens alone will have devoted the sum of £60,000 for the proper location of works of literature and art. The new building is to be called "The Walker Art Gallery." It is a fact full of healthy promise and rich in encouraging example that so many of our large towns have been remarkable, not only for having organised and carried to a successful issue some one great public question, but having exercised a co-operative influence in moulding and forming public opinion on all questions that affect the general well-being of the nation. This distribution of power and this influence shared with so many other places render it sometimes a little difficult to trace accurately what has been the particular influence which this or that town has exercised on questions of public policy, and still more difficult to point out its exact bearing and show its precise extent. In cases of broad political changes, such as the effect of Birmingham on the Reform Bill of 1832, of Manchester on the repeal of the Corn Laws, and of both places on the question of national education, the lines are very clear and distinct. Liverpool has exercised an enormous public influence in various ways during the present century, but not in carrying any particular law or in repealing any old statute by which her name has been imperishably associated and in which her influence was paramountly displayed. In the discussion and settlement of most modern questions she has had a "voice potential," but it has been a voice united with other voices, and not so much a distinct and separate power which, acting alone, would have decided the fate of a measure or created and destroyed governments. In producing the great Conservative reaction which dethroned Mr. Gladstone and placed Mr. Disraeli in power the influence of Liverpool has been very great. It was mainly through this influence that Mr. Gladstone lost South Lancashire in 1868, and since that year the county has been one of the most active forces in giving a Conservative turn to the electoral power of the country. The eight members returned for the four divisions of the county of Lancashire were all Conservatives. In Liverpool the two Conservative candidates headed the poll by large majorities, Mr. John Torr, the junior member, having upwards of 3,000 votes more than Mr. W. Rathbone, the elected Liberal candidate; and but for the operation of the provision in the last Reform Bill by which no elector in a constituency returning three members can vote for more than two, three Conservatives would in all probability have been returned. As an indication of the growing influence of the Financial Reform Association it may be stated that Mr. Torr declared himself "in favour of a reduction of the public expenditure." At Manchester the two Conservatives were also returned at the head of the poll, and one of the rejected candidates was Mr. Jacob Bright. Liverpool and the county generally is well represented in the Government: Lord Derby being the Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Viscount Sandon, one of the members for Liverpool, Vice-President of the Council; and the Right Hon. R. Assheton Cross, one of the members of the south-western division of the county, Secretary of State for the Home Department; the Hon. Algernon F. Egerton, member of the south-eastern division, is Secretary to the Admiralty; and the Hon. Frederick A. Stanley, member for the northern division, is one of the Under-Secretaries of War. This is pretty well for one county. But the appointments in their relation to the county have been well deserved, owing to the great influence which Liverpool in particular and Lancashire in general have had in producing that state of affairs which has made them possible. At the present time Liverpool is engaged in a public work of such magnitude as to partake more of the character of an imperial than a provincial undertaking. The extent of her docks is enormous, but the existing system, great as it is, is not sufficient for the accommodation of her ever-increasing maritime requirements, and it is now being extended in a manner characteristic alike of the enterprise and wealth of this great town. The extension of the docks now in course of construction is for the accommodation of the steam trade. The new docks will occupy the space reclaimed from the foreshore of the Mersey between the north quay of the Canada basin and the Seaforth shore. The area of this space is nearly 1,365,000 square yards, the length about 6,200 feet, and the breadth 2,000 feet. It will be fronted by a wall of enormous strength, which will be faced with granite. At the back of the wall a public promenade will be laid out, which will, doubtless, form one of the most pleasant and attractive places of summer resort in or near the town. The cost will be very great, and the whole work will be one more monument added to the many already existing of the honourable public spirit of the people of Liverpool. Visitors to Liverpool at intervals of only a few years are habitually astonished at the rapid changes in the town and the tokens of marvellous growth. Again and again have I been struck with amazement at the new streets, new buildings, mighty warehouses, and palatial structures which have sprung up, seemingly by magic, during my comparatively brief absence from the town. This wonderful material progress of Liverpool—these manifest proofs of restless energy united with exhaustless wealth—produced a marked impression on the mind of Lord Erskine. Writing of a visit to Liverpool he says: "I had before often been at the principal seaports in this island; and, believing that, having seen Bristol and those other towns that deservedly pass for great ones, I had seen everything in this great nation of navigators on which a subject should pride himself. I own I was astonished and astounded when, after passing a different ferry and ascending a hill, I was told by my guide, 'All you see spread out beneath you—that immense plain, which stands like another Venice upon the water—which is intersected by those numerous docks—which glitters with those cheerful habitations of well-protected men—which is the busy seat of trade, and the gay scene of elegant amusements, growing out of its prosperity—where there is the most cheerful face of industry—where there are riches overflowing, and everything that can delight a man who wishes to see the prosperity of a great community and a great empire—all this has been created by the industry and well-disciplined management of a handful of men since you were a boy.' I must have been a stick or a stone not to be affected by such a picture." These feelings must have been experienced by all who, like the present writer, have stood many, many times during the last half-century, and traced the continual growth and mighty expansion of this queen of English seaports.—*The Gentleman's Magazine.*

HOW TO JUDGE OF WOOL.—There is perhaps no defect which renders wool, and other wise good wool too, so absolutely useless for manufacturing and especially for combing purposes, as tenderness, or breachiness; and it is my conviction that this defect is more general and causes greater loss to the country, through the pockets of our sheep-owners, than all the other defects in our wools together. However fine, or however much your wool in every other desirable quality may excel, no sooner is it submitted to the wonderfully acute and skilful examination of the European wool-sorter, classer, buyer, or manufacturer, than its deficiency in this respect is detected, and a price is bid for it scarcely exceeding that offered for locks and pieces; in fact, nothing is wanting to reduce fleece to that class, but the solution of continuity which is sure to take place in the course of the very first manufacturing process to which it is subjected. Except, however, possibly, in cases where neglect or mismanagement have been the rule for generations, it is not hereditary; nor is any one breed of sheep more liable to it than another. To these conclusions I have come by repeatedly finding an entire flock affected with break one year, and quite free from it the next, in consequence of a change in management. On the whole, it is to be feared that this defect is yearly gaining ground; and I am credibly assured

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that for the last two or three years we have produced more wool of this description than was ever known before. Certain it is that wheresoever this most objectionable tendency manifests itself, sheer carelessness, neglect, ignorance, overstocking, inordinately large paddocks, or scarcity of feed or water—each or all—will be found. When sheep get into very low condition, the pores of the skin contract, and permit only wool of a very fine fibre to extrude. When the feed once more becomes abundant, the pores again expand, and permit the passage of a larger and stronger fibre. In consequence of this, the extremities of the fibres are stronger than their centres, and the wool upon the slightest strain snaps at the weakest place—namely, at the portion which grew when the sheep were in the lowest condition. But nothing is so sure to cause a break in wool, or indeed, in many sheep, a perfect stripping or shedding of the entire fleece, as want of water. It is not only important that wools should be free from the defects above described, but it is desirable that the whole of the various parts of the fleece should have as nearly as possible a uniformity of character—that is, as regards fineness, length of staple, density, and softness. The method of determining this quality of evenness is thus described: "Always assuming that the wool to be inspected is really a fine wool, we first examine the shoulder at the part where the finest and best wool is usually found. This we take as the standard, and compare it with, in turn, the wool from the ribs, the thigh, the rump, and the hinder parts; and the nearer the wool from these various portions of the animal approaches the standard, the better. First we scrutinise the fineness; and if the result be satisfactory, we pronounce the fleece, in respect of fineness, very 'even.' Next we inquire into the length of the staple; and if we find that the wool on the ribs, thigh, and back approximates reasonably in length to that of our standard, we again declare the sheep, as regards length of staple, true and even. We next desire to satisfy ourselves of the density of the fleece; and we do this by closing the hand upon a portion of the rump and of the loin wool, the fleece at these points being usually the thinnest, and faulty; and if this again give satisfaction, we signify the fact by designating the wool 'even' as respects density. Now to summarise these separate examinations: If you find the fleece of nearly equal fineness from the shoulder to the thigh; of nearly equal length at the shoulder, rib, thigh, and back; and of equal density at the shoulder and across the loins—you may conclude that you have a nearly-perfect sheep."—*Bulletin Association of Wool Manufacturers.*

INOCULATION FOR PLEURO-PNEUMONIA IN AUSTRALIA.

I may unhesitatingly state that I am most decidedly of opinion that inoculation acts both as a remedy and a preventive—as a remedy to a certain but not very considerable extent, but as a preventive with great and almost unfailing efficacy. I am of opinion that the chances of recovery for a diseased beast are improved by subjecting the animal to inoculation, and that uninfected cattle, after undergoing that operation, may be regarded as almost certainly insured against attack, at least for some years. These opinions are the result of a rather too extensive acquaintance with the disease in question, and to a series of experiences which appear to me to leave no room for doubt—experiences, I may also say, which have been purchased at a cost that renders me but too conscious of their value, and of which I shall now therefore proceed to give a detailed account at some length, because I am aware that mere opinions, however confidently or authoritatively expressed, seldom convince, and because I am desirous to convince all such of your readers who are interested in this subject of the efficacy of a process from the adoption of which I have myself derived so much advantage. For these reasons also I shall not deem apology to be necessary if I obtrude to some considerable extent on your valuable space. The Clarence River district was for the first time visited by pleuro-pneumonia in 1866, the disease appearing amongst a herd occupying the run adjoining mine on the northern side, and having been introduced, as was believed, by infected bullocks among the teams travelling the road between Tenterfield and the ports of the Clarence. The owner of this herd, being a believer in the efficacy of inoculation, immediately set about to subject his cattle to the process, and being in a favourable position for obtaining supplies of lymph or virus, by the purchase from time to time of diseased bullocks from the teamsters passing through his station, he in the course of a few months, and before the disease had obtained any hold in the district, had succeeded in inoculating his entire herd, and with what result will be shown in the sequel. Not long after this first appearance of pleuro on the north, a partial outbreak of the disease occurred in my immediate neighbourhood, on the run to the south of mine, and a few hundred cattle occupying the infected locality were at once inoculated; but the disease not appearing to spread beyond the limits of a very circumscribed area, and the owner being, in common with the majority of us, sceptical as to the advantages of the process, the inoculation was not proceeded with. Some animals died from the effects of the operation; many others were saved only by depriving them of their tails; and, altogether, the immediate effects of the process were considered so disheartening, while the prospect of ultimate advantage appeared so uncertain, that the general feeling of reluctance to inoculate was rather strengthened and confirmed. Meanwhile, the disease gradually spread, breaking out suddenly now here now there, in almost all parts of the district, but confining itself in nearly all cases within more or less circumscribed areas on the several runs, destroying but few cattle, and consequently not causing any great degree of alarm. Most of the cattle-owners tried inoculation to a more or less limited extent, but desisted, from motives similar to those mentioned above, my friend on the north alone going steadily and persistently forward with the operation. Matters went on in this manner for nearly a year before the disease showed itself in my herd; and although I had during the interval used every means in my power to obtain reliable information as to the value of inoculation, I found myself, when the enemy was upon me, as much as ever in doubt. Inquiry only seemed to increase uncertainty. The investigations and report of the Victorian Royal Commission had but perplexed the question; and of all those of my friends who, by residence in the southern districts, had acquired some acquaintance with the disease, and whose counsel I sought, the advice of one generally neutralised that of another. At length, however, having resolved to make a trial of the operation, I early in 1867 inoculated about two hundred cows and their calves, occupying three different paddocks, and about a hundred young bulls running in a fourth paddock, in which were also some bullocks and steers which were not at that time operated upon. Symptoms of pleuro had already appeared in some of these paddocks; but so doubtful did I yet feel as to the advantages of the operation as compared with its risks, that I most unfortunately (as will presently be shown) decided not to inoculate my imported bulls, one of each was kept in each of the three paddocks first mentioned. These three more valuable animals were thus alone exempted, while the cows and calves occupying the same paddocks with them were operated upon. After proceeding thus far tentatively, and with considerable misgiving, I, like my neighbours, paused to watch results, and in a few weeks, having lost eight or ten of my most valuable cows from the swelling of their tails, and saved the lives of several others only by the excision of those useful and symmetrising appendages, my doubts as to the expediency of inoculating became stronger, and I took credit to myself for the exercise of caution which had saved my much prized Shorthorn importations from subjection to so serious a risk. How far the self gratulation was justifiable we shall presently see. But the danger to be guarded against had not as yet assumed alarming proportions. Throughout the district the disease seemed to have taken a mild form, and had not been to any extent fatal, and we flattered ourselves that there might be something in the climate or in the quality of the pastures of the district which disharmed the malady of its sting, and that here, at any rate, to have recourse to inoculation was to apply a remedy which might prove worse than the disease. Vain delusion, which by ill fortune too generally prevailed—prevailed till the favourable opportunity for inoculation had passed away—prevailed till violently dispelled by a sudden and devastating

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spread of the disease, which caused all previous losses through inoculation to appear trivial indeed. This terrible outbreak was simultaneous with the setting in of the autumn rains of 1867. During the months of March, April, and May, the rains were unusually heavy and continuous, flooding the rivers and creeks, and rendering it nearly impossible to work cattle in yards, and very difficult even to collect them. During all this time cattle of all ages were dying by hundreds throughout the length and breadth of the district, the atmosphere was tainted by the decaying carcases, and miserable animals in all stages of the disease were everywhere to be seen. On my own run, over an extent of the thirty miles, the disease burst forth in every part within two weeks; my three English bulls sickened and died one after the other, many of the bullocks and steers running in the bull paddock also died, while their inoculated companions, the young bulls (one only of which had died after inoculation) and all the inoculated cows and calves in the other paddocks remained unscathed. All hesitation, all doubt as to the value of inoculation vanished now, but nothing could be done, the continuous rains rendered action impossible. Week after week the awful destruction went forward, and we could only look on, and, from week to week, endeavour to hope that the worst had passed. At length the rain ceased, inoculation was vigorously proceeded with, and the plague stayed; possibly the disease had now spent itself, and the remedy came too late. Be that as it may, the disease died away after inoculation had become the general practice, and we could then muster herds and count losses. These, as a rule, were found to be far in excess of the worst anticipations, reaching generally fifty, and in some cases even more than fifty per cent. of the entire herds. In my own herd the loss reached fully fifty per cent., and of the bulls running with the herd quite sixty per cent. It may be thought that this estimate of losses is excessive and erroneous; that owners may have over-calculated the numbers of their herds prior to the visitation, but in the estimate above stated every allowance has been made for such over-calculation, and when it is told that after the plague had passed away the country so far changed in appearance that, instead of a fully stocked, it came to look like a new and unoccupied country, grass everywhere up to a horses' knees, and scarcely any traces or tracks of cattle to be seen. When it is told that in my own herd there was a fall from three thousand calves branded and weaned in 1866, to eight hundred branded and weaned in the following year, it must be seen that the estimate arrived at and above given cannot be regarded as excessive or exaggerated. Your readers may now ask how fared it during all this disastrous period with my neighbour on the north, that sole and singular true believer of the year before in the virtues of inoculation. I answer that so lightly did the devastating enemy pass over the region under his authority and control, that while the rest of us had to compute our losses by thousands, he could reckon his by scores: and while the other portions of the district became, as I have already said, overgrown with rank grass and assumed an unstocked and deserted aspect, his run alone retained the usual appearance of well-stocked country. During 1868 and the two or three following years, the contrast between the condition of this run and that of the runs surrounding was so striking as to prove beyond question how enormous must have been the difference between the losses sustained here and those sustained elsewhere thoughout the district. I have not much more to say, except to give a description of the *modus operandi*, which, after some experience in the process of inoculation, was found to be the most effective and convenient. Before doing this, however, I shall mention that after the destruction of so large a portion of my herd, I purchased for the partial re-stocking of my run five hundred store cattle from a herd which was said to have been exempted from the disease, and which had not been inoculated. These cattle had not been six weeks upon my run when pleuro-pneumonia broke out among them with some virulence. The whole were immediately inoculated, and the disease suppressed, the loss not exceeding four per cent. One word more, and I shall have done with this part of my subject—the evidences of efficacy of inoculation. Last year pleuro-pneumonia again visited the Clarence district, and appeared in my herd. I immediately had recourse to inoculation, beginning with my imported and other more valuable animals. Of the former I lost none, and among the latter the loss was quite nominal, not reaching one per cent. It may now be well shortly to describe the mode of procedure which experience taught us to adopt as combining a sufficient degree of efficacy with the smallest degree of injury and danger to the animals operated upon. The inoculating knife we consider to be much preferable to the needle, mainly because the former can be so much more rapidly applied as to render unnecessary the confinement and crowding of the animals under operation to at all the same extent as when the latter is used. In using the needles, the tail of the animal must be retained for some moments in the hand of the operator, this rendering necessary the crowding and confining the cattle in narrow enclosures appropriately called crush pens, causing injury more or less serious, especially to the weaker animals; whereas when the knife is used the operation is accomplished, in an instant, and before the animal has taken alarm at the manipulation of its tail. Thus close crowding is rendered unnecessary, and a yard of five panels by four is found most suitable and convenient. Into such a yard fifty to sixty grown cattle, or double the number of weaners, are admitted at one time, and the operator enters and works inside, not from the outside of the yard. In this manner a single operator, attended by a boy to hold the cup of virus, and a man to bang tails, may with ease inoculate five hundred cattle in the day, and without subjecting the animals to any rough or injurious treatment. I admit that with wild, rough, ill-managed herds, the mode of procedure above described might be found difficult, that with such the operator might naturally prefer the outside to the inside of the fence, thus rendering necessary a much narrower enclosure and a greater degree of crowding, but of such herds I have had but little experience. It now only remains to speak of the proper selection of the lymph or virus to be used, which though here coming last, is by no means the least important matter for consideration. It is not, I think, generally understood that the liquid which (as all who have any acquaintance with pleuro-pneumonia will know), is so frequently found secreted in large quantity within the cavity of the chest of infected animals, is the best and safest description of virus to use for the purpose of inoculation. By the use of this liquid, instead of that obtained from the diseased lung, the risk of loss from swelled tail is almost entirely avoided. In fact, the dangers attendant upon innoculation are to a very large extent escaped, while the beneficial influence of the operation is in no degree impaired. Of this so little doubt is entertained in the Clarence district that the use of virus taken from the lung was very early, and, I believe I am justified in saying, very generally abandoned. In obtaining the liquid spoken of, care has always been taken to procure it in a bright and pellucid condition, but I am not prepared to say that such precaution is really necessary. In the virus obtained from the lung, pellucidity and a pale colour were so generally acknowledged to be indispensable conditions, that it was taken for granted that similar conditions must also be requisite in this new kind of virus or lymph when it was adopted, and, as far as I am aware, no one has hitherto in using this lymph thought it expedient to venture to dispense with these conditions. This description of lymph moreover is readily obtained in the required condition, much more so than the lung virus; I have usually been enabled to obtain it from the first or second animal killed for the purpose, and have never found it necessary to go beyond a third. In short, I think this to be so much preferred to the lung virus, that I cannot too strongly recommend its use. In conclusion, I have only to add that should a perusal of the foregoing contribute to induce those among your readers who are engaged in the breeding of cattle to adopt a practice, to arrive at a knowledge of the great value of which cost me so dearly, I shall not regard as mis-spent the few hours which have been devoted to the penning of this record of my experiences.—*E. D. Ogilvie in the Riverine Grazier.*

A DELUSION AND A SNARE.—Chambers of Agriculture as generally constituted are a delusion and a snare to tenant farmers, and so far from their being a means of securing their just rights and legitimate influence, they are practically the reverse. Joseph Arch, in his speech already named perceived this clearly, and thus expressed his thoughts on the matter:—"They are not worth a straw to them, for if tenant farmers are to do any justice to themselves in their Chamber,

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they must have men of their own class in office, and until they have they may 'Chamber of Agriculture' to the day of resurrection, but they will never make any progress." The reason is, the Chambers have been, and are, overshadowed, and their freedom crushed by the influence of the landlords, so that they have been of no essential advantage to farmers; and they have failed to gain the appreciation of shrewdly practical agriculturists who do not attend them, but look blank or shrug their shoulders when they are mentioned. The paucity of attendance seems to bk the most remarkable feature about them, judging others by those in this district; but with one landlord chairman, another vice-ditto, and a land steward as secretary, there is no wonder that the farmers attending their meetings may be counted on one's fingers, though the surrounding conditions ought to send them nearly as many hundreds. They would do so if they were really and truly independently farmers' Chambers of Agriculture and politically educational, as they ought to be if farmers mean to achieve through them their just rights and their legitimate status in the commonwealth.—*Mr. James Hutchings, of Banbury*, in The Organ.

SHEEP IN AUSTRALIA.

The conditions under which sheep farming in Australia is carried on being very similar to those existing in our Western pastoral regions, it is very interesting for us to learn something of sheep management in that country. This we may gather from a very interesting little work recently published in Melbourne, Australia, entitled "A Treatise upon the Australian Merino," by J. R. Graham, who has been a shepherd all his life, having been born upon a sheep-run, and is now superintendent of a very extensive "station" or sheep-run in that part of the world. From that work we gather the following useful facts: "The building up of a race of sheep is the work of many years. Twenty-three years were spent by the most successful sheep breeders in building up the pure breed of Australian merinos. Climate is of secondary importance; it is blood which produces the desired effect. Hot climates can be used to produce as good a wool as any, but the breeder must not aim at large sheep. A sheep 'short on the pins with bodies close to the ground' is the one for hot countries. The moment the breeder aims at size he goes wrong. Feed will make mutton sheep out of any race. The merino, by proper alimentation, can be made equal to the Southdown as a mutton sheep. In breeding for size, the sheep must be born fat, and must not know a check from that period to the moment they are sold or slaughtered. Pastures for such sheep should be kept understocked. Crossing of races, especially with the English sheep, is ruinous. Size is destructive of quality of wool, and merinos crossed with longwools produce sheep whose fleece becomes harsh and loose, and whose belly and joints become bare and naked. An acclimatised native sheep is better than any foreign one, unless it be the American merino, which, in Australia, is the best of all imported breeds. The best effects are produced by in-and-in breeding, with careful and judicious selection; and the more skilful the selection made the sooner a perfect flock, able to transmit perfectly its qualities, may be built up. If a ram possesses the requisite qualities he should be used even with his own dam. By this course the quality of sire and dam are both improved upon, and perfection is soon reached. The closer bred, the more even and regular a flock becomes and the more certainly the characteristics desired can be reproduced. By the opposite course a flock has been so run down that 207 fleeces weighed only 205 pounds. Fresh rams had been purchased each year for this flock, and rams had been exchanged with neighbours for the express purpose of avoiding close breeding. There had been no selection as to the needed qualities, and the flock was ruined. No improvement can be made without dividing the flocks and keeping only the best for breeding. A large flock should be divided into three; the best for breeders, second-best to replenish the first with selected lambs, and a third kept for sale or slaughter only. Foreign blood may bring in some desired improvement, but generally with a whole colony of defects, and the greatest circumspection should be used in bringing in such blood. Overstocking a pasture diminishes size and brings on premature old age in a flock, for the short bite compels the sheep to take up grass roots, along with the soil adhering, by which their teeth are ground away, and in four or five years the teeth are often worn to the gums. The wool is also deteriorated in quality. When feed falls off and partial starvation occurs, a break or tenderness in the wool marks that exact period of its growth, and its market value is reduced as well as the weight of the fleece. Besides, in all pastures there are plants and herbs either noxious to sheep or which they dislike. In a bare pasture these are left closely denuded of all shade from other plants and grow and thrive out of all proportion, in time crowding the proper herbage and taking sole possession of the ground. They also seed freely, while the better herbage has no chance to seed, and very soon the pasture becomes run out. In culling flocks, the following should be rejected—viz., short-stapled and hard-woolled sheep; sheep that strip at the points, have no top-knot, and lose the belly wool; those that have black, brown, or yellow spots on the legs or face; very small sheep, and those that are thin and feeble; those which have thin and light wool, or which have white hair upon the face, under the arm, or inside the thigh; those with very coarse wool upon the breech, or having long hairs upon the surface of the fleece; those having wool less than one inch in length on the ribs or withers; long-legged, small-bodied sheep, or those dipped in the back or misshapen in any way. The fleece of a perfectly-woolled merino sheep should not open in layers, but should remain closed at a distance of three to four inches from the point touched, and 'every fibre of a good fleece should grow independently of any other, just like hairs in a broom.' The neck of the merino ram should be short and thick, free from straight hairs on the under part, and without dewlap; the horns should be spiral, and not too close to the head. The shortness and regularity of the curve of the horn and that of the wool will be found proportionate. On the forehead should be a good top-knot coming down to the eyes, the face small, free from wool, and covered with fine down. The eye should be quiet, mild, and full. The body should be round, straight, but not too long upon the back, and wide across the shoulders and loins. The legs should be short and well placed. Upon the shoulder the wool should be three to four inches long, and elsewhere as near to this standard as possible both in length and fineness. The fleece should be smooth and level over the entire surface, thick, soft to the touch, with abundance of gold, and when handled should fill the hand. The chief defects of a merino fleece are (1) 'watery wool,' which renders it fit for the manufacture of inferior goods only. This defect consists in an absence of the natural curves and an appearance as if the wool had been crimped, a want of elasticity when the wool is squeezed, and deadness of handling, similar to that of flax: it is found below the shoulder precisely where the best wool should be. This defect is markedly perpetuated by breeding from rams thus defective. (2) Toppiness, which consists of a pointed appearance of the fleece, from the fibres being of uneven length, when the wool curls at the end and forms 'noils:' these are dead wool, and break off in carding, and cause a loss which reduces the value. (3) Broad-topped wool, or that which, while seeming to the inexperienced eye to be even and well grown, is interlaced and almost felted together, the top of the fleece clings together and breaks when separated, the wool, being split from the top downward for half an inch, and dead and without strength, breaks with a slight strain, and causes loss and annoyance. (4) Felty and cloudy wool, or what is known as 'cotty' wool, originally owing to starvation or unfavourable weather. This is also a property transmitted by descent, and sheep owning such a fault should not be bred from. This fault consists in a flossy appearance of the staple, which causes the wool to mat, and when carded or combed there is a great consequent waste. (5) Meshy wool, or that which is light, weak, unsound, and without body, and is consequent upon neglect. Locky wool, or that which opens or breaks into separate locks, and is generally seen upon the shoulder and ribs. Kempy wool is that which is mixed with coarse white hairs, and appears generally upon the face, forearm, and inside the flank more conspicuously, but its appearance there unfortunately is a proof that the greater part of the fleece is adulterated with it. These hairs do not take the dye, and the consequent loss of value in the fleece is easily

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perceived This amounts to 50 per cent. (6) Tender or breachy wool, which is absolutely unfit for manufacturing. This defect depends solely upon bad management, and results from poor care or scarcity of feed or water. When low condition from want of nutrition occurs, the growth of wool is contracted and the fibres become attenuated or very fine. When the cause is removed, the growth is stronger and the fibres become of their normal character. The wool is then weak in the middle of the fibre, and snaps apart upon a strain at that part which grew while the sheep were in poor condition. 'There is nothing which more effectually causes "break in wool" than the want of water.' Most of these defects being fixed constitutionally upon the animals and descending to their progeny, it is of the utmost importance to select breeding stock free from them." From these foregoing facts we should gather that it is of the greatest importance for our shepherds to give proper attention to the improvement of their flocks from within, or at least from selections made in their own locality; thus building up a class of sheep suitable for the peculiarities of soil and other conditions to which they are subject, rather than by ill-selected or promiscuous foreign importations.—*New York Tribune.*

EMIGRATION IN 1873.

The emigration of 1873, which amounted to 310,612 persons, was greater than that of any previous year since 1854, when the so-called "Irish Exodus," which began in 1847, may be deemed to have terminated. The number of emigrants embarked last year from each of the three divisions of the United Kingdom was—

From England	232,885
„ Scotland	24,526
„ Ireland	53,201

The destination and nationalities of the emigrants are shown in the following short abstract:

Destination.	Nationalities.					
	English.	Scotch.	Irish.	Foreigners.	Not distinguished.	Total.
The United States.	78,968	12,226	75,536	61,320	5,023	233,073
British N. America	19,438	5,433	4,184	7,687	476	37,208
Australasia.....	18,814	2,852	3,471	1,029	262	26,428
All other Places....	6,123	809	501	2,162	4,308	13,903
Total.....	123,343	21,310	83,692	72,198	10,069	310,612
In 1872 the totals were.....	118,190	19,541	72,763	79,023	5,696	295,213

There was an increase, therefore, as compared with 1872, of—

English	5,153
Scotch	1,769
Irish	10,929

and a decrease of foreigners of 6,825.

The per-centage of emigrants of each nationality was in 1873—

English	39·70
Scotch	6·84
Irish	26·94
Foreigners	23·24
Not distinguished	3.24

The total emigration for the year exceeded that of 1872 by 15,399 persons. The excess was divided chiefly between the colonies in British North America and those in Australasia. About 5,000 more persons than in the previous year having gone to the North American colonies, and about 10,500 more to the Australian colonies. The large increase in the emigration to Australasia is no doubt attributable to the re-opening of assisted emigration.—*From the Official Tables.*

TENANT-RIGHT AND LABOUR-RIGHT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—It would appear from your leading article on the discussion on Tenants' Compensations in the Notts Chamber of Agriculture that I was in fear of a *permissive* bill. It appears *to me* that a permissive bill is simply ridiculous. Some landlords join their tenants in asking for a Tenant-Right Bill for their *mutual benefit*. Why do they not also ask for a bill to enable the tenants to raise their labourers a shilling or two a-week? In my humble judgment that would benefit *everybody*.

We have had two sets of discussions this year—Tenants' Compensation and the Labourers' Unions. We are told by the very same class of persons that as the demand for farms is greater than the supply, the tenant-farmers, however rich and intelligent they may be, must be *protected*, inasmuch as they are not in a position to make just and proper agreements for their farms. On the other hand, when the supply of labourers is greater than the demand, the flag of *political economy* is hoisted at once, and the poor half-starved men are told they must exist on bread and tea, or migrate, or emigrate, in obedience to a *great law*, which is not to be broken. As a sincere democrat, I ask Why are a class with, it is said, 800 millions of capital to be *protected*, when a far larger class, who have nothing but their labour, *are not to be protected at all?*

Yours,
CHRISTOPHER NEVILE.

Thorney, Oct. 22.

THE FARMER'S INTEREST IN "RE-ADJUSTMENT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—In your last issue there was a report of the Devon and Cornwall Chamber of Agriculture, at which an estimate was given of £800,000,000, as the capital employed in farming in England.

It may be useful to remind the agriculturist that if the movement for assessing personal property to the poor were carried out, this would have to be assessed, and tenant-farmers have to contribute on their respective stocks. As a rule, farmers have lately been less anxious to reduce the rates than some few years ago was their desire, no doubt being of opinion that Mr. Genge Andrews, in his evidence before a Select Committee of the House of Commons, was quite correct in stating substantially that i £90 rates were taken off, £90 rent would be put on; in short, that so much less rates meant so much more rent.

Now what would be the annual assessment of the 800 millions of farming stock?

The special reporter of *The Times*, in an article headed "Farming in Suffolk," which appeared in that journal of 26th September last, giving some practical details, showed rather over 10 per cent. as the average profit of occupation of 200 acres, of which the rent was £335 for the ten years 1862 to 1871, on a capital of £2,500; the recent increased price of labour for the last year had been £102, thereby reducing the tenant-farmer's profit from £250 (round figures) to £150, or from 10 to 6 per cent.

If this be a fair representative case, and *The Times* correspondent says "I have every reason to trust the good faith of the farmer in this instance," the assessment would have stood on the 800 millions at 80 millions, the increased price of labour rendering an appeal of over-assessment to be reduced to 48 millions annually; perhaps, however, it may be safe to take a medium, and fix 8 per cent. as a reasonable rate of profit, making 64 millions as the annual value at which the estimated 800 millions of

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farming stock should be assessed. £140,000,000 was the estimated annual value of the land, therefore farming stock would have to contribute nearly one-half the proportion charged on the land. How any other person than the landlord could derive advantage from such re-adjustment of taxation is beyond my power to understand.

Then, on the subject of what may shortly be called succession duties, so ably noted in your leading article of 12th Oct., it seems that when a tenant-farmer pays £1 the landlord only pays 2s. 6d.!

Can any sane man justify this anomaly? Still, not one word is spoken at agricultural dinners on the subject, notwithstanding the great interest which country gentlemen appear to take in behalf of tenant-farmers. Is a taxation of £80 on farming stock, when the landlord is taxed £10 only on the land, a reasonable inducement for the application of more capital by tenant-farmers?

Where is the man who will in common justice bring this subject before the House of Commons? Once mentioned the present inequality could not stand the pressure of public opinion beyond the existing Parliament.

Oct. 22. Your obedient servant, COMMON SENSE.

A MILD AUTUMN.—A mild autumn is the rule rather than the exception in this country. Britishers who have by travel become familiarised with the climate of the prairie region of the United States designate such weather as we are now enjoying the "Indian summer," because of its likeness to the pleasant autumnal weather of the States, which colours the woods as they are coloured here, but with more fire and greater variety. The gigantic gooseberry and prodigious potato that help the newspaper reader to roll easily out of political excitement into bucolic rest will now be superseded by a second crop of apple-blossom, an unwonted late production of ripe strawberries, and a second golden-green growth of the forest trees, which have been long starved by drought, and are now considerably excited by a welcome fall of rain and a renewal of the summer sunshine. We have had two small frosts in the neighbourhood of London—one of about three degrees on the 8th, and one of about five degrees on the 20th. But vegetation is as yet scarcely affected, and in our own garden, on the cold clay of the great bottom that connects the valley of the Lea with the east of Muswell Hill, geraniums out of doors are now flowering freely, *Berberis Darwinii* is richly adorned with racemes of its peculiar apricot-tinted flowers kidney beans are producing plentifully, balsams are buxom green bushes showing still a few of their handsome flowers, and several plants of the dianthus and primula families are in flower. As the gardener fears a forward spring as the precursor of a poor summer, so he cannot but regard the present enjoyable weather as dangerous to vegetation, for it promotes activity in plants that should be going to rest, and renders them the more liable to suffer should intense cold suddenly supervene. It is not much we can do to avert possible loss in the event of winter coming early upon us, and finding vegetation soft and sappy and unprepared for frost. As regards probabilities, they are in favour of another mild winter, but, as we know nothing of the future, it is well to be always prepared for the worst. Now, as regards every tree and shrub that is to be bought and planted, or simply moved from one part of the garden to another, the prudent cultivator will take advantage of the dryness of the ground, and the other agreeable conditions that prevail for outdoor work, to make an end of all planting and transplanting as soon as possible. Every tree and shrub lifted now, even if full of green leaves and actually making new shoots, will go through a hard winter better than those of its own kind in the same climate that have not been disturbed. We have many times saved fine specimen plants of questionable hardiness by simply lifting them carefully, and planting them again on the very same sites. The tender tea roses are especially benefited by this procedure. The lifting stops the growing, and operates in some degree as an artificial winter. The gardener may now with advantage look around to discover for himself the subjects that it may be advisable to subject to the process. Trees that are known to be hardy and that are doing well should of course be left alone, for these remarks apply only to subjects that usually suffer when they grow too late and are frozen too soon. As for greenhouse plants of all kinds, the sunshine is good for them, and if they have plenty of air, and the smallest possible supplies of water, they will go to rest quietly. On the other hand, many things that are to be forced will require to be made to feel that winter has actually come upon them, and this to some extent may be managed. Stools of rhubarb, seakale, and suchlike that are to be forced should be lifted and left out to be just touched by frost. A thin coat of leaves should be put over them to prevent injurious desiccation, but they should come out of the warm ground into the cool night air to experience the rigours of a make-believe winter, before being tucked in comfortably in the forcing-house. It may not occur to the mind of the Church to pray for rain just now, but, as a matter of fact, we want a steady downpour, day and night, for a whole week at least. On our strong clay in the marshy bottom on the western side of the Seven Sisters Road, the ground is fairly moist for a depth of two inches only; below that depth for five feet at least it is as dry as dust, and we are actually compelled to keep the water-cart going as a necessary implement in the business of planting, which is unusual at this season of the year. We may reasonably expect rain in plenty shortly, and it may be some comfort now to bear in mind that we are always more sure of the winter than of the summer.—*The Gardener's Magazine.*

A HIGH HARVEST FESTIVAL—The festival of St. Luke was selected by the Rev. W. J. Richardson, of St. Thomas's, Regent-street, as the day for Harvest Thanksgiving; and very tastefully indeed, though not profusely, was the ugly old chapel decorated with fruits and flowers. The altar was crowded with candles—I will not commit myself even to a guess at their number—and bright with flowers. The choristers' stalls were hung with bunches of grapes that must have made the little boys' mouths water; and the font and pulpit were also gay with autumn garlands and ears of corn. Banners were stationed by the vestry door as I entered, and young men clad in cassocks, with the badges of their guilds hanging from their necks, were busily marshalling the vast congregation to their places. "Matins" were commenced in a lugubriously low pitch at eleven; but Tallis' festival responses with accompaniment soon raised this. Special psalms were chanted to different tunes by the soprani and adults of the choir antiphonically; and Dr. Stainer's harmonised Gregorian *Te Deum* was remarkable, as showing how much might be made by a little ornamentation of that antiquated and generally rather distressing kind of music. After the sermon, which was not appropriate, came the offertory, collected while the choir sang the fine harvest hymn, "We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land;" and then the officiating minister, standing in the "eastward position" at the altar, concluded matters with the General Thanksgiving, Prayer of St. Chrysostom, and Benediction. At 12.15 ten tapers were lighted on the altar, and the choir, which had left the chancel, entered in procession, with two banners, and a handsome new cross of silver gilt, glittering with gems, the choristers carrying bouquets, and singing, "Come, ye faithful people, come; raise the song of Harvest Home!" Then commenced the "High Celebration." This, it need scarcely be said, was choral throughout; even the Epistle and Gospel being intoned. The Kyrie, Credo, and Gloria were by Dykes; and the beautiful hymn "Jerusalem, my happy home," was selected for the offertory. The "Comfortable Words" and "Sursum Corda" was sung to a complicated melody by the officiating minister, very much after the manner of the reader in a synagogue service. The "Sanctus" was a beautiful one; and before the Consecration Prayer was sung a soprano solo and chorus. Verily, the Public Worship Regulation Bill will make a revolution in St. Thomas' next summer! The celebrant stood full in front of the altar with uplifted hands during the former portion of the prayer, and afterwards elevating the elements. The congregation prostrated themselves during the consecration; but few communicated, for was it not a "High" celebration? Several sacramental hymns succeeded, including Gounod's "Benedictus" and "Agnus Dei," and the whole closed with a recessional hymn. In the meantime, we poor outsiders looked down from the gallery, feeling how far we had been left behind by the advancing tide of Ritualism, and wondering what our old-fashioned country cousins would have thought could they by any possibility have anticipated such a High Harvest Festival as that exceedingly beautiful one we had just witnessed!—*The Daily News.*

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"DRY" HUMOUR.—The House had not merely no Bernal Osborne, but it was fairly at a loss to discover any one on whom a shred of Mr. Bernal Osborne's mantle might have fallen. Some expectation was aroused by the return of Mr. Patrick Boyle Smollett for Cambridge. Mr. Smollett had long since acquainted the world with the fact that he was not destitute of a certain power of manufacturing coarse jocosities. In a past session he had styled the late Mr. Maguire "a talking potato." The phrase was a plagiarism, but it was felicitous. Unhappily Mr. Smollett had no sooner made his attack on Mr. Gladstone than honourable members perceived that his faculty of amusing them had gone, and that only the dregs of scurrility were left behind. At this dispiriting conjuncture of affairs Sir Wilfrid Lawson asserted his presence in the House as the good genius of the hour. Anything more dreary than the debates on the Licensing Bill was never heard in St. Stephen's itself. But Sir Wilfrid Lawson extracted merriment from the theme, cracked his jokes, and kept his audience in a tremor of suppressed laughter. He did not gush sententiously like Mr. Beresford Hope, nor essay a humour so broad as that attempted by the colossal Mr. O'Gorman. He adapted his tone to his listeners, and it must be confessed that, high or low in itself, it was singularly level with the intelligence and appreciation of a large majority of the House of Commons. It was a positive relief after the interchange of trite controversial trivialities between the gentlemen on the right and left hand of the Speaker, after the prosers had done with their platitudes, and the bores had rested from their questions; after Mr. Goschen in a fit of simulated indignation had twitted the Government first with canting, then with recanting, and next with recanting their recantation; after Mr. Cross had feebly vindicated, in that peculiarly thin and mean voice with which the Home Secretary is blessed, what by a conventional euphemism he was pleased to call the "principle" of the bill—it was a positive relief when Sir Wilfrid Lawson rose. There is no surer test of the repute in which a speaker is held than the appearance presented by the House on his starting to his legs. If the benches are thin and grow thinner, or if from being densely packed they swiftly show a series of vacancies, you may be sure that the tongue of a bore of the first magnitude is about to wag. What happened when Sir Wilfrid Lawson emerged from his place just behind Mr. Walter was the converse of this. The attendance in the House was certain to be thin; it is computed that no honourable gentleman, save the occupants of the Ministerial bench, ever endured more than half an hour of the Licensing Bill continually; but the intelligence that the member for Carlisle was riding his favourite hobby was sufficient to rekindle the expiring ashes of interest, and to replenish a whole row of empty places. The bores and prosers hate Sir Wilfrid. His flippancy, they solemnly inform you, covers his cause with ridicule, himself with contempt, and is a direct insult to the House. It must be admitted that Sir Wilfrid Lawson is flippant. Cold water, as he himself admits, is not a cheery theme; but it is his mission to show that with a due measure of facetious treatment it may become as amusing as any other which engages the attention of the Imperial Parliament. If Sir Wilfrid had assumed the heavily tragic rôle of Mr. J. B. Gough, and had composed rhapsodies on mountain streamlets and flashing rivers, the House would have declined to hear him. But he has no ambition to be the Demosthenes of teetotalism; he is quite content to discharge the more humble, more entertaining, and not less useful functions of its Hierocles. The topic which engaged Sir Wilfrid Lawson's energies last session in the House was somewhat musty. Quite enough of "Beer and Bible" had been heard in the course of the last general election, and in the comments of politicians and journalists which had succeeded it. Sir Wilfrid Lawson really contrived to impart freshness to the matter. His criticism was superficial, but it was often apposite. He has the faculty, exceedingly rare in the present Parliament, of gauging precisely the temper of the House at any given moment; and the consequence was, that his remarks seldom failed to hit between the wind and water. And in a degree inferior to Mr. Disraeli, Sir Wilfrid Lawson is not destitute of something of Mr. Disraeli's power of inventing phrases that stick. They have not the subtle aroma which makes the word-combinations of the Premier such intellectual treats. But they serve their turn; and when he said the other day at Manchester that "populous places" under the new Licensing Act were dependent, not on the density of the population, but the density of the magistrates, he achieved a very respectable epigram. But it is when Sir Wilfrid Lawson has his own particular project in hand—the prohibitory Permissive Bill—that he is seen and heard at his best. To defend a paradox was an ancient academic exercise for stimulating the intellectual powers; and Sir Wilfrid Lawson gathers the very inspiration of well-bred buffoonery when retailing his humorous arguments in favour of the proposition, that because some persons drink to excess, therefore it is right to allow no one to drink at all.—*The World.*

A LANDLORD'S LECTURE.

At a show on the Ormsby Gore estate, Ireland, Major ORMSBY GORE said: There are several matters connected with this show which have come to my ears that I cannot pass over without expressing a candid and clear opinion upon. In the first place, I have to congratulate you all on the bountiful returns of the harvest, and upon the general prosperity which appears in the country. With the exception of the price of store cattle, in every department of farming there are good prices, and returns are bountiful. The condition of the cattle in the show-field to-day was not so good as on former occasions. I do not attribute this to any fault of the farmers for not having them in better condition. It was mainly owing to the season. Then, with regard to the number of entries, I have gone through the list with Mr. Layng, the secretary, and I find that in the first class this year there were seventy-eight specimens exhibited, compared with sixty-eight of last year. In the second class there were fifty-four, compared with forty-five of last year. These are gratifying features of this year's show so far; but in the third class, which is a very important class, there is this year a great falling off. There were forty-six specimens exhibited in this class last year, but to-day there were only twenty-five. The total number of entries have been 203, compared with 188 of last year, showing, on the whole, an increase of 15. That is a satisfactory, though not a large difference. I must also say that in the horse department there was a marked improvement on former years. In pigs and sheep there was a falling off. I now come to a more unpleasant subject, and that is that I have heard of more than one instance where the third rule of the Society has not been adhered to, but on the contrary, where it has been disgracefully infringed upon. The third rule is a very simple one, and easily understood. It runs as follows: "Every specimen exhibited must be the property of the exhibitor for at least three month previous to the exhibition." On a former occasion I had reason to remark upon an infringement of this rule, and I then told you all that if such things went on I would break up the Society; for it is a scandalous thing that any tenant should be so degraded to as swindle his neighbour—for I can call it nothing else but swindling—out of what should fairly come to that neighbour—what he earned by exhibiting an animal which was not his own. There is also another unpleasant matter I must refer to, and that is that the very small subscriptions which you are asked to pay are in many cases grudgingly given, and sometimes not paid at all. That is not a fair thing to do to the Society. My own subscription to the Society is seven or ten times more than the subscriptions of the tenants put all together. If you do not pay in the few shillings you are asked to give, how can it be expected that I can consider you take any interest in the Society at all? It is not a creditable thing that you should, neglect these matters. Indeed, seeing such a state of things and finding that the supporters are nearly all confined to the parish of Achonry, I have been recommended to break up the Society (several voices: "Do not, your honour"). Well, I will not do so at present. I will give you one more chance; but assuredly, if I have grounds for making the same complaints, I will break up the Society, and I will consider in what other way a similar expenditure on my part would be best laid out for the advantage of my tenants. It is only for their advantage that I do subscribe to the Society as it exists; and if the tenants are so dead to their own interests as not to think it worth their while to support it, I must only find out some other means whereby I can benefit them. It is not for the sake of putting money in my own pocket I have kept up the Society so long: it is to benefit you; and so long as you give it a fair and proper support, I will support it too. You cannot expect me to do so when you infringe a plain rule which can be easily observed. No doubt the Society in past times

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did much good; but I am beginning to think that those days are past, and that the benefits are not extending so rapidly as in former years. There is one thing apparent—that, since the formation of the Society, there has been a marked improvement in the making of butter. When we first established this Society, 27 years ago, the butter of this locality was very inferior; now it is very good. The consequence is, the tenants have derived a considerable amount of profit by the improvement. Major Gore then referred to the benefits which would accrue to the farmers of the county if they could put their hay into wooden hay barns, such as he saw in the Abbeyview farm-yard, and he recommended some improvement in the formation of such.

TENANT-RIGHT.

At the quarterly meeting of the Notts. Chamber of Agriculture, held at Retford, Mr. Foljambe, M.P., in the chair,

Mr. Godber read the following paper:

I believe it was proposed by the Council in the first instance that the discussion to-day should be based upon the report of a committee appointed by the Central Chamber to consider this question in all its bearings, copies of which it was then expected would be forthcoming sufficiently early to aid us in our discussion to-day. At a subsequent meeting of the Council it was ascertained that the report would not be available in time. I was then requested to open the discussion here in what the Council please to call my own way. I much regret the circumstance that the schedules containing the customs collected over the whole country bearing on this subject with the report I have referred to have not been forthcoming, there being no doubt of their greatly facilitating our discussion on the subject. You are all aware that the subject for discussion is by no means a new one; it has been discussed by this Chamber at Worksop, where it was introduced by Mr. Huskinson, it has also been discussed at a meeting of the Chamber held at Newark, 18 months ago, when an important paper was read by Mr. Nevile, and I believe all the provincial chambers have given to it a like prominency; it has also been a standing dish with the Central Chamber, and further it has on one occasion put in an appearance in the House of Commons, from whence it disappeared through the forced absence of one of its sponsors and the timidity of the other. We therefore take it for granted that whenever and wherever it is now publicly discussed, it is with a view to legislation. The first question naturally arising, is what change has come over the agricultural world or the community at large, to render legislation on this subject desirable for a proper solution of this question, it is not necessary to go back to a very remote period in the history of our country. We have no need to go beyond the limits of the present century to find agriculture in a rude and undeveloped state. The same would also apply to our mining, manufacturing, shipping, commercial, and other interests—interests which have in our day attained to such gigantic dimensions. At the period referred to the habits of the people were plain and simple, and their wants were few. Rents were but a trifle, implements of husbandry were rude and uncostly. Chemical and engineering science were but in their bud. The wants and requirements of particular plants were little understood; nitrates, phosphates, muriates, ammonias, &c.. &c., were things unheard of; yea, a great portion of the land in this country, our fens, forest, and heath lands, were thought to be of little worth, but the commercial spirit, the growth of the last fifty years, with the great increase in our population, has changed the whole aspect of affairs. Land is now dealt in on commercial principles, and is annually becoming of more value and importance. Not only have we a population trebled in numbers, but their habits, tastes, and means have undergone an inconceivable change. Under such circumstances a more perfect development of the capabilities of the soil is a question not merely affecting the parties directly concerned, but one indirectly affecting the whole community. Men of noble birth and high position, and men, too, of low estate, have proclaimed to the world that the land does not produce half what it is capable of producing; but all men of a practical character, men who have had no little experience of the vicissitudes of seasons, will look upon these assertions as bordering upon the extravagant. You may treat your land most liberally, and raise it to the highest degree of fertility, but you have neither the keys of the clouds nor the command of the sun, and when looking for the return you feel entitled to expect your crops may be either stunted by drought or ruined by excess of moisture. No doubt a great deal of land is capable of producing much more under more liberal treatment, but the first thing necessary to accomplish this is the application of capital. The amount already employed in conducting the operations of agriculture is not millions merely, but hundreds of millions, and it is notorious that in no other occupation or pursuit in this country is there so much capital employed where the profits are so small and the security so inadequate and undefined. In this respect, with all our vaunted progress, we have not got beyond a few crude, irregular, and, some of them, ridiculous customs, varying in almost every county. Hitherto, the best guarantee the tenant has had for the investment of his capital in agriculture has been the good name and high character of the landlord. But it not unfrequently happens that another Pharaoh comes upon the scene, who has no knowledge of Joseph. Estates are brought into the market, and pass into the hands of speculators, manufacturers, or wealthy merchants, who bow to nothing but the golden image, and listen to no doctrine but the one of pounds, shillings, and pence. Reviewing the circumstances interwoven with the whole question, it must be conceded that the demand for a uniform, definite, and more substantial guarantee for the investment of capital in improving the land, increasing its fertility, and augmenting the supply of food, is a just and reasonable one, and one that must commend itself to the consideration of the Legislature. The details of this subject will form matter for much discussion, and will lead to the expression of a variety of opinions. What is wanted is simply that the line should be drawn fairly between the parties concerned. I think the opinion is pretty general that all really permanent improvements properly belong to the landlord. Under this head we may name the thorough drainage of clay land, the making of all permanent roads necessary for conducting the operations of the farm, the planting and fencing of quicks for making proper enclosures, the erection of suitable farm buildings and cottages, providing for a proper and permanent water supply, reclaiming waste lands, &c. Many different methods have been pursued with respect to draining. On many of our largest estates the whole has been carried out by the landlord under proper supervision, interest being charged for the cost of labour only. This is no doubt the most commendable system; others have had recourse to the loan system, the repayment of which is extended over some 20 years, at the rate of six or seven per cent. This charge is commonly placed upon the tenant, making an addition to his rent. In such case the improvement is really effected by the tenant. There are, too, many instances in which the landlord has found the material, the tenant finding labour. Much of the work done upon this principle has not been well and efficiently done. There are also many instances where the whole cost has been borne by the tenant. In these cases an allowance is made on quitting, extending over a limited period, generally from three to seven years, a period much too short. But there are many lands that yet require draining, the landlord being unwilling or unable, and the tenant not liking to embark in the undertaking, the conditions as to compensation not being satisfactory and encouraging. I can only compare this drainage business to the education question at the time the Legislature took it up. A great deal has been done during the past 50 years by a variety of parties upon many different principles. Much has been done imperfectly, and requires to be done over again. I have dwelt at some length upon this question of drainage because it is really the first and most important step in improving our clay lands, and specially so when viewed in connection with the revolution that has taken place in the mode of cultivation. The old high-backed ridges and deep furrows will not do for the steam cultivator, reaping machine, and modern horse hoe. There are no doubt many

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improvements of importance peculiar to certain localities, with which we are not familiar, which may be placed in the same category, being of a permanent character, and therefore properly belonging to the owner. We will now pass on to notice very briefly such improvements as come within the province of the tenant they, although of an exhaustible character, necessitate a large outlay. To raise a naturally poor or an exhausted soil to a good and fair state of fertility is not the work of twelve months but a work of years. Mr. Mechi is, I believe, a good authority on such a question; to do this under a system of short tenure, or in the absence of proper guarantees for compensation on quitting, ought not to be expected. Cleansing, claying, chalking, liming, manuring, boning, &c., added to which a large outlay on food is necessary, especially on all light lands, as cake, corn, &c. The increasing demand for meat brought about by the increased means and altered habits of the people, has rendered it desirable that much more should be done in this direction. While upon this point I should like to call your attention to what has long appeared to me a great anomaly in the existing customs. We are foolish enough to give a premium in favour of using foreign produce, a liberal allowance being given where cakes are used, the poorer sorts of which often contain a large proportion of offal from our own grain. All this sort of thing is allowed for; but when our own pure grain is used, as beans, oats, or wheat (which at its present price is cheaper than anything), no allowance is made. Surely this requires to be remedied. It is said that in Lincolnshire and Notts. we have the best customs in the country, but they differ widely. In Notts. where the turnip crop is consumed on the land, the rent and rates are allowed, but in Lincolnshire no such allowance is made, and I am informed that in parts of the neighbouring county of York half orders are allowed, even after the succeeding barley crop is taken; such is the great want of uniformity that no two counties are alike. We now come to the most delicate and intricate part of the subject; what form do we desire to see legislation take upon this question? Shall it be permissive, or of general application. We will not have the word compulsion, it always seems to carry with it so much alarm to the mind of an Englishman. To have a measure merely permissive would, to my mind, be making confusion worse confounded. I would prefer it should be of general application, making an exception only in favour of leases from seven years and upwards. Upon this part of the subject we have some little data upon which to go. Having watched the discussions of the Central Chamber, I think they propose to make it permissive, rejecting the twelth clause in the late Bill; it would then be open for any one to say I will have nothing to do with that abominable Compensation Act, I will make my own conditions, and from that court you know there could be appeal. No law is wanted to compel liberal and enterprising landlords to effect improvements, or to get them to allow their tenants to do so. What is wanted is something that will reach the do-nothing class. I can scarcely believe it to be true that the Central Chamber has passed a resolution recommending that no permanent improvement, such as draining, erecting farm premises, or cottages, shall be effected without the owner's consent in writing. If done without this all claims to compensation to be forfeited. It has long been one of the most ridiculous feature of our crude old customs to give a premium for collecting together a pile of combustible materials in the shape of farm buildings. A wooden house, barn, and stable, and two or three post sheds, and your claim to compensation is admitted. But if you have built a substantial cottage, or other building of brick and slate, all you get from valuers is a significent shake of the head, followed by the word "No claim—great hardship." They tell us to admit this would be an interference with the rights of property. Well, the rights of property are a difficult thing to understand. When you discharge your labourer you certainly allow him to carry off his tools. Is not the tenant-farmer equally entitled to carry off what he has brought at his own cost for his own use and convenience, or what would be still better, why not give compensation to the extent such improvements have contributed to increase the letting value of the estate? There is just one other point. I believe the Central Chamber propose to give power to dilapidate where the general condition of the farm is not satisfactory. This would be a serious power to place in the hands of valuers, and would lead to never-ending disputes and litigation. A succession of wet seasons, despite all efforts, will neutralise to a great extent the labour of both man and horse, and this power might be used in a ruinous manner, and would contribute in no small degree to throw much inferior clay land out of cultivation. Many estates are thoroughly neglected, the owner being non-practical, and, to mend matters, injudicious in the selection of his agent, and so the estates suffer for want of practical supervision, and would it be wise for the State to give to such a guarantee for the good management of their lands? The rent-roll of this country is a standing proof that the balance of condition as regards the land, if taken every ten years, is greatly in the landlord's favour. Then let us have no penal statutes hanging over the heads of struggling tenants. Mr. Arch charges our Chambers of Agriculture with having done nothing. They will, no doubt, think he has done a little too much. Certainly we do not pretend to shake England; it has taken us a long time to expose and impress upon the Legislature the injustice of our old friend local taxation. We have now passed him up to higher quarters, where, no doubt, he will give some tough work. In my opinion the Government that deals with that question, and brings it to a just and satisfactory settlement, and also gives to the country a Tenant-Right Bill, based upon sound principles, will be entiled to as large an amount of popularity as the Government that disestablished the Irish Church and passed the Ballot Act.

Mr. J. WALKER (Mattersea), thought some care ought to be taken not to inflict expenses on landlords which they ought not to incur. There were small owners and large owners, and small holdings and large ones, and recollecting the large number of farms in England under 50 acres, and that small tenants might erect buildings that would suit no one else, he thought it would be a hard case for the landlord to pay for buildings erected by tenants to gratify their own caprice. Speaking as a landlord and tenant as well, he thought it was desirable the consent of the landlord should be obtained before any buildings were erected. At the same time the tenant was entitled to compensation for whatever gave additional letting value to the estate.

The CHAIRMAN said he would briefly state what he considered was the feeling of English landlords on this question. As Mr. Godber had told them, this subject was introduced into the House of Commons, but no conclusive result was arrived at. There was sufficient discussion, however, to show that the question was considered to be one of great importance. He did not think English landlords would wish to reap where they had not sown, or to take advantage of the outlay of their tenants without compensating them for it, wherever that outlay had been beneficial to the estate. He heartily agreed with Mr. Walker when he said that it would be an objectionable thing to allow compensation where building had been done without the consent of the landlord. Mr. Walker mentioned instances where it would be prejudicial to the landlord's interests, and it certainly might interfere with any improvements which the landlords might consider it necessary to make. The building of cottages was a very great want and requirement in places where the labourers had to live in the town, but from his own experience he found that where cottages had been provided in some cases the ladies—it was always the ladies who were to blame—did not like to live so far away from the town. The men were willing to come, but the cottages were empty because the women would not live so far away. Therefore a tenant might build cottages about his farm, and, having a difficulty in filling them, expect his landlord to pay for cottages which were of no use. He thought that in any legislation the landlord would be entitled to some guarantee that he should not be called upon to pay for any unnecessary outlay. He felt convinced that compensation for any increase in the letting value would meet with no opposition from any one. [Mr. GODBER: That is all we want]. He must say he disliked Permissive Bills, and he thought any measure should apply to all parties alike—be equally binding on all. If the tenant had made no outlay in what was a permanent improvement he would not be entitled to compensation, but if the tenant had laid out his money in what were material and permanent improvements of the estate he was entitled to receive compensation, so far as it increased the letting value, at his landlord's hands. To take any other course would be unfair, and he thought all men of sense and honour would agree upon that.

Mr. JOHN HEMSLEY said however much pleased he had been by the very able paper of Mr. Godber, he had been still more gratified with the remarks that had fallen from the

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Chairman, because it was the want of a combination of opinion in an argumentative sense, that prevented them from agreeing on some basis for a legislative enactment, which might be considered of a permanent character. If landlords and tenants could meet as they do now, and express their views freely, casting forth that which was rotten and unsound to the winds, and retaining that which was weighty and sound and sending it forth to the world, they then would arrive at something like a proper basis whereby legislative enactments might be established. Mr. Godber had said that the discussions on this subject must be considered as for the purposes of legislation, and he (the speaker) thought that point must be conceded. Therefore the question could not be too fully discussed, and he was suprised that the landlords seemed rather to stand aloof from meeting this question as he imagined was the case with some. He was sure there was the utmost anxiety to obtain the assistance of the landlords in arranging some bill which would be likely to be of service to them, and he thought it was important that this should be done by the landlords and tenants themselves, instead of by parties outside, though if something was not done by those connected with the land it would certainly be taken out of their hands by parties outside. He considered that the question of drainage was in a very unsatisfactory state, and that it ought to extend over a much longer period. Mr. Godber started the point that legislation should be compulsory, except in the case of a seven years' lease. He considered this gave rather an important turn to the subject, and one which would meet the views of some landlords who seemed a little nervous on this compulsory question. He was, however, inclined to think that under the present Egyptian cloud that overhangs the British farmer, a lease of seven years would not be received with general favour. Where pressed it might give a certain amount of freedom to owners, without producing the desired result. Whatever measure was submitted, he thought should have the freest discussion throughout the country. The last bill, introduced by the Marquis of Huntley, was one of a crude character, and passed over the interests of owners in a captious manner, so that the field seemed now to be open for a measure which might be agreed upon by both landlord and tenant, and to attain that end it must be freely discussed.

Mr. NEVILE said when he read a paper on this subject before the Newark meeting, he opposed the 12th clause in the late bill, because it interfered with freedom of contract. There was not a single landlord who made any communication to him, nor one who told him he was opposed to the bill, but the opposition to it came from a number of gentlemen with whom he had lived on terms of friendship for many years—the tenant-farmers of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. They considered it would take away from them the power of making any contract, and he, for his part, maintained that the tenant-farmer ought not to have his hands tied by any act of Parliament. From that point he really could not recede. The fact was, the resolution directed against the 12th clause was carried by 70 farmers without the least hesitation, and he would add that the strongest opposition to it came from the farmers of Notts., Lincolnshire, and the East Riding. Mr. Read, who, apart from all chaff as to his being "mazzled" by office, was a person who ought to know, had said there were not twenty men in the House of Commons who would pass the 12th clause, and it was really the tenant-farmers who made the opposition so strong, The farmers now had more power than the landlords; the present Parliament, as far as the county constituencies went, was elected under the ballot. At the same time he would admit that there was room for a most useful bill to be passed. He considered that any bill which dictated any particular Tenant-Right would be most injurious, especially if it called in arbitration. Having remarked that the Marquis of Huntley, in his late bill, made out a strong case for compensation, he said that for his part he should always be disposed to deal fairly with his tenants, if, for no other reason, that if his 4,000 acres were thrown on his hands he should have to spend £45,000 in farming the land. His tenants were quite secure against him robbing them. He thought the best course would be for the landlords and tenants to freely discuss the matter, and he would add that if any of his tenants brought him an agreement which he could sign without doing himself harm he would sign it with pleasure.

Mr. GILBERT said he had always thought that a bill establishing the payment of compensation for permanent improvements would be equally advantageous to the landlord as to the tenant. He mentioned an instance in which the absence of a law had worked unjustly, and said a short bill would facilitate matters, but as to Tenant-Right, owing to customs being so various he thought a permissive measure would best meet the case.

The CHAIRMAN then moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Godber for his very able paper, which was seconded by Mr. WALKER, and carried unanimously.

Mr. GODBER, in reply, said he was rather surprised to find his views pretty nearly in accordance with those of every other gentleman who had spoken. In reply to Mr. Walker, he would not have the landlord charged with anything but what had improved the value of his estate, because it was just possible some tenants might have peculiar crotchets. Some might fancy dogs and build large kennels, whilst others might fancy poultry, and therefore nothing ought to be considered but what improved the letting value of the estate. Then, again, they could not legislate for any particular cases, and certainly concessions must be made to both parties. He was pleased by the line of argument taken by the chairman, and if all the landowners were like him or the Duke of Rutland, they would have no need to talk about improvements. He had his own views about the Central Chamber. The Central Chamber consisted of a number of landlords who took the greatest interest in improving their estates, together with the cream of the tenantry, men who lived under noblemen who did everything they asked for. Such a body, however, was not a fair representation of the agriculture of this country. They no more represented the struggling life of agriculture than the West-end did the struggling life of London. As to the 12th clause in the late bill, the feeling seemed to be calming down, and by discussion, and each party giving way a little, he had no doubt some proper arrangement would ultimately be arrived at.

At a meeting of the Devon and Cornwall Chamber of Agriculture at Modbury, Mr. Wm. SNELL introduced the subject of "Legislation with regard to Compensation for Unexhausted Improvements." He said: If agriculture had remained stationary, there would have been no object for their meeting that day. He had heard his father say that he was the first man who found it necessary to hoe turnips in the field. As to compensation for improvements formerly, improvements were then never effected. There was, therefore, no necessity then for what they were talking about that day. The necessity for legislation had now become urgent, because more capital was required and the population had increased. They should remember that any well-digested scheme, receiving the approval of that meeting and of the Central Chamber, and the other chambers throughout the country, might possibly influence future legislation. He wished to show them the magnitude of the capital employed in the business in which they, as farmers, were engaged. Under Schedule B the tenant-farmers of England were assessed to the income-tax at about £60,000,000 a-year; and when speaking of rent they should turn the £60,000,000 into £120,000,000, because they were assessed at one-half their rental. Then £20,000,000 was to be added for small holdings —one-seventh of the land of England—and this made the rental value of the agricultural land of England £140,000,000. If they took the fair number of years' rental that was required to farm an estate, they would see the amount of capital used in their business. Farming an estate in a proper manner could not be done with less than six years' rental. If the rent were £140,000,000, and they required six years' rental, the capital meant £800,000,000, which was more than the national debt, and more than all the other capital throughout the length and breadth of the land. The farmers outweighed all others so far as capital was concerned. Let them look, too, at the importance of the work in which they were engaged—providing food for the people. Then as to the present position of the occupiers of the soil. There was one class not so numerous as it should be—the tenant farmers—some protected by lease—and he called this the perfection of the holding of land—and receiving compensation for unexhausted improvements at the end of their term. Nothing could be better than this, but this protected class was only a small body. Then there was another class who had their estate for a term of years; but with no clause for compensation at the end of those years, and there came the evil which they wanted to provide against. They wanted the land not only for their own sakes, but for the sake of the community, and not to be "sharping out" every seven or 14

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years, but always in good condition. Then there were tenants-at-will; and more than half the land of England was thus let. What position was this, for a man to farm with spirit? When there was a clause for compensation, there was no excuse for not farming; well but when there was no clause for compensation, a man farmed well for only a certain number of years, and then swept all he could into his pocket. So far as the tenancy-at-will was concerned, there was no inducement for a man to farm well, because if he put his property into the soil he put himself into the power of another man and much as he (the speaker) respected the landlords of England, he should not like to trust to any man. He wanted a law to protect his capital, as well as that of the landlord, who had a law to protect his. He knew a tenant who was turned out of his holding at the end of the first half of his term. He was as good a practical farmer as he had ever been acquainted with, and he farmed the estate well, for he had put a lot of capital in his soil and was looking forward to the last seven years of his lease to recoup himself. He set up a claim for compensation, but of course, got not a farthing. A serious loss accrued to him; and every tenant under the same landlord said, "Who knows how soon my turn will come?" Consequently they refrained from putting property into the land, and the land suffered thereby. In Cornwall there was a man of title, who died, and left his property to a scapegrace son. It soon got into the hands of the Jews, and on quarter-day all the tenants that could be made to go had notice to quit; and they had to quit, leaving a lot of capital in the ground, but they received not a farthing compensation. The Jews did not, like Shylock, have the pound of flesh because it was in the bond; but they turned the tenants out because there was nothing in the bond to prevent them. As British farmers they asked for security for their capital in a shape that no reasonable or honest man could object to. They said that when a farmer entered into an estate and effected certain improvements, and was there for a certain number of years, he should have no claim on the landlords, because he had been on the estate long enough to recoup himself, but if he had not been there long enough to do so the landlord must pay the little bill. A farmer could effect an improvement at half the cost that the landlord could, and if the arrangement suggested were carried out, it would be a great benefit to the tenant and to the people. The knotty point between the landlords and tenants was just this. The landlords said Parliament must pass a just law with reference to compensation, but it must be left with the landlords to say whether they would come under the operation of the law or not. That would be a permissive bill, and would not be worth the paper it was printed on, but would be a snare, a mockery, and a delusion. The principal argument used by farmers against an alteration of the law was that they had the farm much cheaper because they were to have no compensation, and, therefore, it would be better to leave well alone. If he went into a farm as a mere slug, he would farm on those conditions, and would never improve, and never invest any capital, so that he could not have it taken away. But he would much rather pay a full rental for the estate, have his capital secure, and be free. They did not want to be servile to the landlord, humble to the steward and congenial to the keeper, for fear of being turned out. They should hold up their heads as men, and live in an independent manner. It was said that landlord and tenant met as man and man, and could make such terms as they pleased. That was incorrect. Farms were decreasing, but farmers were multiplying, and if they wanted to take a farm, they had to take it on such terms as the landlord drew up. He hoped Mr. Disraeli would bring in a good bill, and be unfettered by party considerations, for the country would support him if he did well, and he had an opportunity of immortalising himself. Mr. Snell, concluded by proposing—"That the present position of agriculture, and the general welfare of the country, require early legislation respecting the tenure and occupation of land. That legislation for the purpose of protecting the landlords' property and the tenants' capital should be compulsory, excepting in cases where they are mutually and fully protected by lease or agreement."

Mr. ANDREWS remarked that where there was no trust there could be no mistrust. He had a little land and good tenants, but he did not want to trust them, nor did they want to trust him. When Mr. Snell spoke of the £800,000,000, it should be remembered that there was a good deal of moving stock in that; but still, there could be no doubt that there were a few millions in the hands of the wrong men. He seconded the resolution that had been proposed. An Act of Parliament should be binding under every circumstance and condition in matters affecting agreements between landlords and tenants.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

THE BALA SHEEP-DOG TRIALS.—At Garth Goch, on Wednesday, Oct. 14th.—Judges: Messrs. John Williams, Griffith Jones, and R. V. Jones.

RHIWAEDOG STAKES, for dog or bitch puppies of 1878; entrance, 10s.; first prize £5, second £2 10s., third £1 5s., fourth 15s.

John Williams, Bryneinin, Darowen, Machynlleth, bk t *Black*, 2 years 1
J. Robson, Hafod, Minera, bk w *Fan* 1 yr. 5 mos. 2
Four others were tried. The winner greatly distinguished herself, while Mr. Robson's Fan lost one of her three sheep, but folded the other two pretty cleverly, showing a little impetuosity, which seemed to have caused the loss of the sheep. She was the winner of the stake at the recent trials held at Llangollen.

PENLLYN STAKES, for all-aged dogs or bitches; entrance, 10s.; first prize £5, second £2 10s., third £1 5s., fourth 15s.

Robert Roberts, Blaenycoed, bk t b *Handy*, aged ...(div.) 1
Edward Pugh, Tanybwlch, Dinasmawddy, be d *Scott* 4 yrs. ..... (div.) 1
Thomas Dobie, Graiguchaf, Llanbedr, bk w *Dressy*, 7 yrs 3
Robert Morris, Tymawr, Llangynog, bk w *Jack*, 5 yrs..... 4
Fifteen others were tried. In the last trial Handy No. 1—and A1, as it turned out—was first selected. Down the hill came Handy at a fearful pace, wasting not a jot of time in "coming to terms" with his three sheep; but these, being just released from a fold which contained some dozen future victims, declined for some minutes to part company with their comrades in misfortune; but our sheep-dog finding them obdurate, and too wise to use force of any sort, vocal or physical, contented himself by driving the sheep a step or two at a time, and then lying down, giving, we presume, by this means time for the inferior animals, as we must fain designate them, to consider that the open country and the chance of "a run for it" were better than the continued effort to rejoin a set of no over-hospitable companions. These tactics succeeded; for Handy, after feeling his sheep up as far as the turnip, in which half the field of operations was composed, was enabled to put "the steam on," and deliver them, in the very sense that his name applies, to his master, Mr. Roberts, after eight minutes had only elapsed; the sheep, one old ewe and two wethers, being anything but an accommodating trio.

BARREN HONOUR.—It would not be difficult to gather from the pages of our bucolic contemporaries, *The Mark Lane Express* or *The Farmer*, that breeding and feeding stock for the edification of the urban population are far from being profitable operations. Whether the complaint has its rise in the indiscriminate grumbling of our broad-wheeled neighbours is hardly worth considering; certain it is that the exhibiting of stock—and especially of fat stock—is not unfrequently designated more a fancy than a paying concern. If such is the sad state of matters in England with feeders, the case appears to be very much worse with the enterprising exhibitors who send their animals abroad. A successful farmer does occasionally manage to secure a prize of £30 or £40 with a beast that pleases a judge's eye at a "Royal" or a local show, and to that extent is of course recouped for his outlay in bringing a symmetrical animal into the stalls to be stared at and poked with umbrellas by a crowd of town-folk who know as much about the "points" of a prime ox or an Ayrshire cow as they do about Chinese metaphysics. But they compensate exhibitors differently on the Continent, according to the story related by Mr. John K. Fowler in *The Times* of yesterday. The fortunate breeder, of Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury, informs the readers of the leading journal that the merits of the exhibits which he forwarded to the agricultural department of the Vienna Exhibition were so far recognised by the judges that they were awarded bronze medals. The prize, Mr. Fowler tells us, were awarded; but, notwithstanding "the repeated applications of myself and others to the proper authorities, we can neither get our medals nor any answer to our requests." An authority has told us that "he who drives fat oxen should himself be fat;" but the Austrians are evidently desirous of showing us that he who exhibits fat oxen is bound to be fooled.—*The Sportsman.*

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THE FARMERS' AND THE LABOURERS' INTERESTS.

Mr. C. S. READ, M.P., at the Blofield and Walsham Agricultural Association, after presenting prizes to labourers who had been successful in competition in various departments of husbandry, said: Two years ago at Blofield I tried to persuade those present from joining the Labourers' Union, for seeing before me then, as I see now, the picked men of the district, men who had proved themselves skilled, industrious, and careful labourers, I contended that by joining the Union you would place yourselves on a level with the unskilled, the idle, and the careless, and further assured the old men that the bait held out to them by the Union of having a pension in their old age was an impossibility. No doubt you thought that my advice was founded on a farmer's desire to keep down wages, but I would remind you that four or five years ago, before we heard of Unionism in Norfolk, I suggested a payment of 12s. a week, even in the short days of winter. I fancy my Blofield advice, like most other advice which cost nothing, was unheeded, and some of you became members of the Union, and thus compelled the farmers to form a defence association. When Unionism was first started in my parish I called my men together and said, "I pay away in labour more per acre than any other tenant-farmer in this district; if you don't join a Union, which avowedly intends to force me to give you more wages, I will not join any association of employers;" but they did, and as a result I am a member of the Farmers' Defence Association. It was simply self-defence. I have sacrificed my independence for safety, but I think I have this pull over your Union—that whereas my orders will come from a centre of Norfolk farmers, yours are issued from Warwickshire or Lincolnshire, by men who can know but little of the real state of things in Norfolk. Unions may temporarily raise wages by strikes in busy seasons, but no permanent advance can be secured unless you reduce the supply of labour or increase the employer's profits. No combination of employers can keep down wages when hands are scarce, trade is brisk, and profits are large: no combination of labourers can keep up wages when hands are plentiful, trade dull, and profits small—certainly not when losses are great. Unionists argue that labour has not received a fair proportion of the profits, and that capital has received the lion's share. That may be the case in some industries; but is it so in farming? When the coal and iron masters of the kingdom agree to put up their half-a-crown a ton, they can very well afford to pay their men an extra price for raising it; but if all the farmers of Norfolk or, indeed, of England were for once united, they could not raise the price of wheat 2d. per bushel. It was said this year by a high authority in the House of Commons that the wealth of this country had increased during the past five years to the astounding amount of £1,500,000,000. I fail to comprehend so vast a sum, but, after taking out Sundays and holidays, it is something like a million a day increase. How much of that increased wealth has found its way into this quiet locality? Landlords know their expenses increase, but I am not aware that there is any general rise in rents. It certainly requires more money to stock a farm, but I do not believe tenants' profits are any larger. You have been earning better wages than you ever did before; yet you with large families doubtless find it necessary to spend more, and you young men discover that skittles, beer, and sweethearts swallow up all your cash. I therefore come to the conclusion that only a microscopic proportion of the "leaps and bounds" of England's prosperity has fallen to agriculture, and of that little a chief part, at any rate a large proportion, has been secured by the labourers. If the foundation of your Unions had been right, they must have prevailed in the Newmarket Lock-out. The whole world was on your side. A bishop said the "farmers were mad," noble lords sympathised with you, M.P.'s raised their voices and opened their purses on your behalf, Trades' Unions gave you money for support. Public opinion was entirely with you, and so was the whole London Press. The contest was carried on for six months in the busiest part of the agricultural year; and at harvest, when you were assured your triumph would be complete, your leaders, with cruel irony, told you they could no longer maintain you in idleness—an idleness which they themselves enforced. But strikes open farmers' eyes. I had two last year, and in consequence I managed to reduce my labour account £100. It may be done by employing new machinery, keeping more land in grass, putting out work, employing fewer regular labourers and hiring a few odd hands when they are wanted; but the chief saving is in leaving much of the neat work of the farm undone. Time was when an untrimmed fence, a rough ditch, a few great stones, some sprawling weeds among the turnips, or even runaway mangolds, were pain and grief to me. I now regard them, if not with complacency, certainly with indifference. If this sort of tidiness can be secured at a certain price, as I am happy to say it can be now, the work is done; if not, it remains undone, for I know the farm cannot afford it; and if it could, no one nowadays thanks the farmer for employing profitless labour. We have been told that all the objectionable rules of the Union are withdrawn. I do not profess to know what they were. One, I believe, was that Unionists might strike at a week's notice. My experience is that they strike without any notice at all. Another was against piecework, which I contend is the only way in which a skilful and dexterous labourer can secure his fair wages. Shorter hours are demanded, while you know that, excluding haysel and harvest, when you receive extra wages, your day's work does not average nine hours. Lastly, the Unions are dead against yearly hires. I have said that in matters of work and wages I should make no difference between Union and non-Union men. But I find, as I hire my team-men by the year, with so much extra weekly wages and so much standing wages payable at Michaelmas, I must have non-Union carters and shepherds, or, if they are Unionists, they break the rules of their order. Now, suppose farmers hired their cart-horses as well as their men, and one jobmaster should offer horses by the year and another by the week, with full liberty to deprive the farmer of the horses when he most needed them, would not the farmer pay more for the yearly horses and take more care of and feed them better than the others, and would he not most probably say to the other offer, "I shall prefer hiring your horses only when I really want them, even if I pay double the price you ask per week?" Apply that to labourers and compare the yearly agreements of the North with the weekly hire insisted upon by the Union. I find the average pay of a common day labourer for the whole of last year was about 17s. 6d. In Northumberland and Scotland I am assured the value is nearly 25s., which, after making all allowances for locality, better market, &c., is greatly in favour of the long hire. Then take the farmers' interest. Mr. Barclay, the member for Forfarshire, is, like me, a tenant-farmer, but, unlike me, he is fortunately a successful merchant as well. He farms 380 acres of arable land, which is exactly the amount of land I have at Honingham. He has 75 acres of rough pasture, and I have 40 acres of good permanent grass; he grows 20 acres more corn than I do, but he has less roots and more grass seeds than I have. Taking the cold, damp northern climate into consideration, I should say he would require as much manual labour on his farm as I do on mine. But mark the difference. For the four years ending 1871 the average annual payment for labour (two-thirds in cash and one-third in milk, meal, potatoes, &c.) was £400, while mine was £750. In 1872 and 1873 Mr. Barclay's had risen to £510, but as he puts £30 of it down to extraordinary labour, he considers the real increase to be only 20 per cent. Now, take my expenditure for those years, which, being about £850 and £750, would average £800, and you must surely admit that which I knew long ago—that the Scotchman is a sharper and keener man of business than I am; and I also come reluctantly to the conclusion that the highly-paid Scotch hind is a cheaper and better man than the Norfolk labourer, and that after all there is no such thing as cheap labour. Let us, the employer and the employed, take stock of our altered positions. You have elected to be independent—that supply and demand shall rule wages, that you will sell your labour in the dearest market, and, therefore, we farmers must buy in the cheapest; that labour should combine: and consequently capital must do the same. I believe your choice, if you will giv eover striking and the unsound features of Unionism, will in the end be better for us both. We certainly need be no worse friends. Two independent parties, if they really understand each other, do not want to quarrel

you may be less subservient, but quite as civil, and the farmer may be more mathematically just without being harsh or unkind. But I must impress upon you that you cannot expect to retain all the advantages of your former state. You must not be independent in the matter of wages only, but also be self-supporting and self-reliant. If you desire better pay, you should devote your energies to doing better work rather than to striving so hard for the greatest possible amount of pay for the least possible amount of labour. If you desire better cottages from the landowner, you must not expect to hire them at half their value; neither must you any longer expect your employer to find you employment all the year round, wet and dry, whether he wants you or wants you not; nor ask him to pay you full wages because you are an ailing man and have a sick wife or a house full of small children. Above all, you must not look to the rates to support you in sickness and old age, nor to the parish doctor for medicine and porter; and though, as long as women have kindly hearts, the farmer's wife will still dispense her kitchen and dairy comforts, you must not regard them, as so many do now, as matters of business rather than of charity. If you find yourselves too numerous, instead of striking or shirking work, the young and vigorous men must emigrate to the North or to the Colonies. They will find 15s. in Norfolk go quite as far as a guinea in a manufacturing town, and if a strong, active, and sober labourer is careful and industrious abroad he can soon save a lot of money, and so, I must add, in a limited degree, can any healthy, unmarried young man who will practise the same self-denial at home. The object of your leaders seems to be a desire to make every labourer discontented with himself and jealous of all around him; but the unerring Word of God has said, "The poor shall never cease out of the land," and, therefore, you should use every legitimate means to improve your condition and work yourselves into a better one, rather than repine at your lowly lot. Both parties should rule their relations one to the other upon the golden maxim of doing to others as they would be done by; and while the labourer must not forget the declaration, "Ye have the poor with you always," we farmers must specially remember the gracious words which followed—"And whensoever ye will ye can do them good." It has been charged against me that when I became a member of the Government I committed political suicide. Reading the criticisms in the agricultural papers and the speeches now made at agricultural meetings and at farmers' clubs, I have arrived at the conclusion that I was something like "the dear departed husband," who had become a perfect saint when dead, but who, somehow or other, contrived to beat his wife when alive. Whenever I am silent upon an agricultural question discussed in the House of Commons, I am sure to be "twitted;" but it was not until I had duly considered my constituents' interests and my own position that I ventured to accept the post offered me by the Prime Minister. I regarded it as a great compliment paid through me to the constituency, and thought I ought to accept it unless there were good and sufficient reasons for not doing so. Without egotism I also believe that the post offered me was one that I could fill, being mainly connected with the administration of the Poor-law, to which I have always paid particular interest. As to the legislation of the past Session, very little had been done, it was true, but the department with which I am connected, the Local Government Board, had passed one good measure, the Rating Bill. For that bill I have striven since 1868. For its necessity in the interest of justice, among other instances, there was the fact that the ironstone mines, with all the wealth they returned, had not contributed a sixpence to the local rates. If nothing else had been done, the passing of that useful measure entitled the Government to their thanks. As to future agricultural legislation, although of course, I could not bring in the Tenant-Right Bill which had been before introduced by Mr. Howard and myself, yet, having access to "the powers that be," I lost no opportunity of insisting that compensation to tenants for unexhausted improvements ought to be embraced in a measure next session. Answering an imaginary question, "How do you like your official life," I say, "I don't like it at all." To the office work I have no objection, and I consider the permanent officials of the Government Board an excellent, meritorious, but underpaid class of public servants; further, I have no objection to committee work, but I do not like the House of Commons. After being at the office from eleven to five o'clock I am marched down to the House, with a necessity of not being able to leave it for dinner or for a walk until one o'clock. Nothing so dull, tiresome, and irksome has been experienced by me since I went to school. In fact, I might alter the nursery rhyme thus:

Speak when you are ordered,
Vote as you are told;
Make a house, keep a house,
Or the Whips will scold.

I assure you I have at heart as much as ever the interest of the tenant-farmers of England, and I shall use my utmost endeavours to see that it is not forgotten; and if I find that your cause is wilfully or even carelessly disregarded, I shall not long continue to be a member of Her Majesty's Administration. But I do not believe that it will be. On the contrary, when the time comes you will find that Her Majesty's Government is quite prepared to do justice to the tenant-farmers of England.

"THE COW THEORY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—In your account of the speeches delivered at the luncheon on the occasion of the sale of Mr. Henry Stanley's farming effects, at Fornham Lodge Farm, Bury St. Edmunds, Mr. Hunter Rodwell, the new member for Cambridgeshire, is reported to have said, "he believed the time was very far distant when the 'cow theory' would come into operation—the theory, that a man with five acres of land should maintain himself, his family, and a cow. If Lord Bristol, the Duke of Grafton, and Mr. Benyon, for instance, were to give up five acres each to all who wished it, he thought it would not be very long before some large capitalist bought up all the cows and calves." With this opinion of Mr. Rodwell I should probably have been inclined to agree, had it not been proved to me last year, while on a visit at Sir Baldwin Leighton's, that exactly the contrary is the case, where the "cow theory" has been in actual practice for many years. On Sir Baldwin Leighton's estate in Shropshire pauperism is almost exterminated by means of the cow, it being the rule rather than the exception for a labourer to have sums varying from £20 to £80 put by in the savings bank, out of the proceeds of the sale of butter. I have seen the books with the sums entered to their credit. Most cottages have two or three small fields attached to the holding, mostly laid down in grass. The cow, however, is only a second string to the labourer's bow, and does not in any way interfere with his giving efficient service to the farmer as the cow can be looked after by the wife, who makes the butter and sends it to market by the carrier.

I am only too well aware that there are many districts where, from the lightness of the soil and a small rainfall, it is almost hopeless to lay down land in grass, and where the "cow theory" will not work, but I am anxious to point out what a great boon the cow is to the labourer where grass will grow, as it will in a large portion even of East Anglia, though not on the light lands of Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Yours faithfully,

W. H. Hall.

Six Mile Bottom, Newmarket, Oct. 14th.

ANOTHER AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—At a committee meeting of the North-east Agricultural Association of Ireland, a communication was read from the secretary of the Society of Arts, London, asking the co-operation of the North-east Agricultural Association in the formation of an Agricultural College, in which it is proposed to have periodical "examinations in the technology of agriculture, rural economy, with the view of promoting a more extensive and intelligent study of agriculture and of the sciences bearing upon it."

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CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.

A meeting of the committees appointed by the local authorities of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, to bring the state of the existing law as to contagious diseases among animals under the notice of the Duke of Richmond, President of the Privy Council, who controls the Veterinary Department, was held at Keith. There were present—on behalf of Aberdeenshire—Sheriff Comrie Thomson, Colonel Innes of Learney, Mr. Barclay, M.P., and Mr. Scott, Glendronach; on behalf of Banffshire—Sir George Macpherson Grant, Bart., and Mr. Garland, Cowhythe; on behalf of Moray—Dr. Maclean, Elgin; Provost Cameron, Elgin; Mr. Geddes, Orbliston; Mr. Williamson, Shempston; and Mr. Yule, Coulard Bank; Sir George Macpherson Grant in the chair.

Sheriff THOMSON having explained the circumstances under which the committees had been appointed by the three counties, stated that the Aberdeen Committee held a meeting on Friday for the purpose of coming to an understanding as to the matters to be laid before the Duke of Richmond. The first defect in the existing law related to the period during which a place infected with pleuro-pneumonia was subject to the restrictions of the Act after the last fresh case. The Aberdeenshire Committee were unanimous in thinking the period of thirty days too short. The second was that the provisions of the Act for enforcing the slaughter of cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia should be put in operation in Ireland as well as in England and Scotland, as the experience of this district showed that the importation of Irish cattle was a fruitful source of the disease. On this matter, too, the Aberdeen Committee was unanimous. And the third point related to the remissness of certain local authorities, and the want of uniformity in enforcing the law throughout the kingdom. In the counties here represented the provisions of the Act were, he believed, properly enforced; but there was too much reason to believe that in certain counties comparatively slight efforts were made to exterminate disease.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that these points might be discussed one by one.

Mr. BARCLAY, M.P., said there was a general concurrence of opinion that the period of thirty days provided by the Act was too short, but differences existed as to how far it should be extended. Some thought sixty days sufficient, others thought it should be three months, and others even four months. The Select Committee in the House of Commons in their report had recommended sixty days. He had suggested three months; but on further consideration, he thought sixty days as long as could be effectively enforced. If the period were made three or four months, licenses for removals would be extensively required, and in granting licenses he feared laxity would prevail. Sixty days would be a great improvement, and as long a period as could be enforced with efficiency.

After fully discussing the question in its different bearings, the meeting were unanimously of opinion that although the disease might re-appear after a longer interval than two months, that period was as long as could be effectively enforced.

The second point—namely, that the provisions as to slaughtering animals affected with pleuro-pneumonia should be extended to Ireland—was then taken up.

Mr. BARCLAY stated that he was of opinion (and he knew that his opinion was generally shared by those taking a leading interest in the subject in England and some counties in Scotland), that they could not hope to be successful in exterminating this disease unless the same policy of slaughtering out was pursued in Ireland as on this side of the Channel. The efforts to eradicate the disease had been so far successful, but it was from time to time again imported into the country, and in the case of the north-eastern counties, investigation showed that a large proportion of the new outbreaks were due, directly or indirectly, to Irish cattle. He believed the slaughtering of diseased cattle would be more beneficial to Ireland than to England and Scotland, for he was sure he would be borne out in stating that the doubtful character of Irish store cattle as regards disease, depreciated their price in this country 10 to 15 per cent. It was clearly unjust that this country should be put to the heavy expense of attempting to slaughter out the disease, so long as it was renewed by the import of Irish cattle. He believed these views were so strongly held in England that if the compulsory slaughtering was not extended to Ireland, strong representations would be made to the Privy Council by English local authorities to have the Order in Council for compulsory slaughter in England and Scotland rescinded.

Sheriff THOMSON suggested that the Duke of Richmond should be informed that the three countries were clearly of opinion that these provisions should be continued, and extended to Ireland.

The CHAIRMAN said that so long as they were bound to slaughter affected animals in Scotland and England, he saw no reason why Ireland should be exempt. The local authority of this country certainly approved of that provision.

Provost CAMERON said that they were also approved of in Morayshire. It was then unanimously agreed to urge on his Grace the necessity of rendering the slaughter of affected animals compulsory in Ireland.

NECESSITY FOR UNIFORMITY IN ENFORCING THE LAW.—The third point was then discussed, and the meeting was unanimous in thinking that there was great laxity in carrying out the provisions of the Act in certain parts of the kingdom, and that the Duke should be requested to give the matter his serious consideration, with the view of having the law more stringently and uniformly enforced.

Colonel INNES thought it might be well to suggest to his Grace some way by which it could be enforced more strictly and uniformly, whether by the appointment of Government inspectors or otherwise.

Sheriff THOMSON concurred in thinking it might be desirable that Government inspectors should be appointed, but thought the details of the matter might be left to the Duke.

Mr. GARLAND complained of the number of Orders in Council in force, and of the difficulty experienced by local authorities in understanding the law they had to carry into effect.

The meeting concurred in the view that a simplification and consolidation of the various Orders in Council were extremely desirable; and if a settled policy in dealing with disease was adopted and adhered to by the Government, local authorities and the public generally would become familiar with the law, and have much less difficulty in carrying out the various regulations.

Mr. BARCLAY then called attention to the fact that in most counties there were several local authorities, and in consequence a want of uniformity of action. He thought it very desirable that the burghs should be almalgamated with the counties in which they are situated, with proper representation of the burghs at the county board. He had brought this under the notice of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and they had reported that amalgamation was desirable in Scotland, that the general expenses should be levied over the whole district, and the cost attending the slaughter of cattle only over the burgh or landward part of the county wherein the slaughter takes place.

The meeting unanimously agreed that this alteration of the Act should also be recommended to the Duke of Richmond.

Sheriff THOMSON then moved that a deputation should be appointed to wait on the Duke of Richmond, and bring these matters under his consideration. This was agreed to, and three gentlemen were chosen from each of the three counties. For Aberdeenshire, Sheriff Thomson, Colonel Innes, of Learney, and Mr. Barclay, M.P.; for Banffshire, Sir George Macpherson Grant. Mr, Taylor, of Glenbarry, and Sheriff Gordon; and for Morayshire, Provost Cameron, Dr. Maclean, and Mr. Geddes, Orbliston.

THE YORKSHIRE WOLDS.—Major Cochrane, of Langton Grange, Darlington, has just hired for a long term Lord Walsingham's house on Aldwark Manor, near Easingwold, as well as one of the principal farms on the estate.—*York Herald*. [It would seem from this that Lord Walsingham has settled down to Norfolk as his home county.]

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THE PLEURO-PNEUMONIA ORDERS.

At the meeting of the committee in Norwich, a discussion took place on a motion, of which notice had been given by Mr. Jex Blake, as follows, namely, "That the Court of Quarter Sessions be requested to present a memorial to the Privy Council, praying that the order of the 2nd August, 1873, as to the slaughter of cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia, be extended to the whole of the United Kingdom; or that such order be rescinded."

Mr. Jex Blake duly moved his resolution, which was seconded by Mr. R. Gillett.

The Earl of Kimberley said the line he took on the subject in the few remarks he had made this year in Parliament was very much the same as that indicated in the resolution. It was clear that if the experiment of slaughtering cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia were tried it must be tried fairly. It was ridiculous to pretend we were trying the experiment when we were slaughtering only in one part of the kingdom and not in another. The thing was so absurd, as he said in Parliament, and no one could venture to say a word in reply. He consulted the late Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, Earl Spencer, who had much experience in Irish affairs, on the subject, and he said that he thought the Order ought to be extended to Ireland. Although pleuro-pneumonia might not be bad now in Ireland, yet it had been bad there. When he lived at Phœnix Park it was impossible for him to keep a cow alive, so bad was pleuro-pneumonia. Having Government money to spend he took the greatest possible pains; but as fast as he got them in they died. Phœnix Park was a hotbed of disease. It was a place where agist stock were taken in, and as it was not far from the markets, it might be imagined how the disease spread all over the country.

Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., said there was now a very rigid examination at the ports of embarkation in Ireland, and that the Privy Council were doing all they could by inspection to prevent the spread of the disease. That was what Privy Councils in England and Ireland had relied upon. But it was utterly impossible to detect a disease which was for so long a period incubating.

The Earl of Kimberley: Absolutely impossible.

Mr. Read said that there was said to be very little pleuro-pneumonia now in Ireland, but that did not prove to his mind it did not exist. The Government would find that the moment they gave compensation to owners of stock in Ireland affected with pleuro-pneumonia it would be found there would be many cases where there now was one. Speaking of the extent of the disease in Norfolk they were constantly being laughed at by the Privy Council because it was considered to be the most diseased county in England. Of course it was, because it was where there was sent the residuum of everybody's stock. An ordinary bullock could not be sold in Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, as a matter of course it came to Norfolk, where it found a market. And then they were told, after they killed an extraordinary quantity of stock—no less than a thousand a year—and paid upwards of £5,000 out of the county rate as compensation and inspectors' salaries, that they were not doing their duty. But he contended that Norfolk was doing its duty to the best of its power, regardless of the cost and trouble inflicted upon the owners of stock. When they applied to the official of the Privy Council for advice they were recommended to separate the healthy from the diseased cattle, and were told to take the temperature of the animals every morning to ascertain whether they were likely to become exposed to the disease. He should like an inspector from the Privy Council office to be stationed on the Yarmouth marshes to have the fun of introducing a thermometer into the rectum of a bullock on those marshes, and he feared he would be sick of the performance at the end of the week (laughter), and when he returned to London he certainly would not recommend any such tomfoolery to them in Norfolk in future. The theory propounded by the veterinary surgeons of the day was that pleuro-pneumonia could only be communicated by the breath of a diseased animal. Therefore a lot of cattle might be huddled together and if there was not a diseased or partially diseased bullock amongst them they would not have pleuro-pneumonia.

The Earl of Kimberley supposed the breath of diseased animals was blown a long distance, for an animal belonging to him that was never in communication with any diseased animal had pleuro-pneumonia; and what was more remarkable, none of the other animals took the disease. No doubt there were some indigenous cases of disease. The sudden change of climate had perhaps something to do with the disease of Irish cattle. There was a vast difference between the climate of Ireland and that of Norfolk, especially at the time of year when cattle were brought over. Many animals predisposed to disease then ran considerable risk. This was a strong argument for bringing over only thoroughly sound cattle. Cattle coming from Galway and Balinasloe markets experienced a great change of climate, which had no doubt much to do with the disease.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

THE CONTAGIOUS NATURE OF PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

Recent investigations have thrown much light on the contagiousness of pleuro-pneumonia, and the means by which the disease extends the area of its existence. Like some other diseases affecting cattle which are known to be infectious, pleuro-pneumonia has been supposed to be easily communicated by disease to healthy animals, through various means other than that of actual cohabitation. It will be admitted that a correct solution of a question of this kind is of considerable importance to the best interests of the country, and that it must greatly assist local authorities in deciding what is best to be done to stay the progress of the disease. It has long been known that we have been dissentients to the views entertained by many veterinary surgeons, that pleuro-pneumonia—like cattle plague, for example—can be freely communicated by *fomes*. The failure of the so-called pleuro-pneumonia inoculations, so extensively practiced for upwards of twenty years, in Europe and elsewhere, to produce the disease in the animals operated upon, shook our belief originally in the facile contagiousness of the disease. As far back as 1853 we dwelt on this in our report to the Royal Agricultural Society on the inoculation of cattle, and the experience since gained has only tended to confirm the opinion then enunciated. The revival of the question consequent on the adoption of legislative measures for stamping out pleuro-pneumonia led us, in 1870, to have recourse to some further experiments with a view to its solution. The details of these were summarized at the time to the Royal Agricultural Society, and published in their *Journal*: "The first experiment consisted in exposing a steer to the inhalation of the vapour of some diseased lungs. For this purpose a dairyman's cow, suffering from pleuro-pneumonia in its advanced stage, was killed, and the lungs immediately removed from the chest and placed with the experimental animal in a closed loose-box, care being taken so to secure the head of the steer that at each inspiration the vapour should enter the respiratory organs. The steer was kept in this position until the lungs had become cold; but even then they were not removed from the box, it being determined to leave them with the animal until visible decomposition had begun. The animal was carefully watched day by day until the expiration of the tenth week, but not the slightest deviation from health was observed during any part of the time. Subsequently it was determined to repeat the experiment in a modified form, and for this purpose a sponge was placed in the nostril of a diseased cow, and allowed to remain until it had become thoroughly saturated with the breath and also with the mucus discharged from the nostril. It was then transferred to the nostril of an experimental animal, and retained there for upwards of half an hour. As in the last

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case, the animal was closely watched for several weeks; but again no ill effects followed. Besides these two experiments, some mucus obtained from the respiratory organs of diseased cattle was rubbed, on several occasions, upon the mucus membrane of the nostrils of other experimental animals, with a view to effect its absorption. These experiments had also a negative result." Some additional experiments have since been instituted. It was first determined to ascertain whether any portion of the serous exudation from a diseased lung could safely be injected into the lungs of an animal. For this purpose two sheep were selected, and a drachm of exudation fluid injected into the left lung of each by puncturing the upper part of the chest with a small tubular stylet fitted to a syringe. The animals presently began to feed with quite a natural appetite, and did not apparently suffer any pain. They were kept under close observation, and their temperature registered day by day, but no indications of disturbed health were detected. Weeks passed away, and during the whole time they remained perfectly healthy. On April 10th of the present year *two drachms of serous exudation* from the lung of a cow, the subject of pleuro-pneumonia, were injected into the left lung of an eight months old heifer-calf. At the same time a like quantity was injected into the left jugular vein of another calf of the same age; and to a third calf, *seventeen days old, half an ounce of the same fluid mixed with two ounces of milk was given as a draught*. As no ill effect had been recognised in either animal by April 12th, an ounce of the same serous exudation was given to the *young calf*, mixed with milk as before. A microscopic examination of the fluid showed the presence of Bacteridiæ in large numbers. On the 15th the young calf gave evidence of *blood-poisoning*, and on the evening of the 16th it died. No lesions, other than those common to blood-poisoning, were met with on a *post-mortem* examination, in any organ of the body. The heifer-calves, like the sheep, entirely escaped any pulmonic attacks; indeed, with the exception of a small slough being detached from the site of the puncture into the jugular vein, they have continued well down to this time—a period of upwards of five months. In the month of June last two other experiments of a similar kind were had recourse to, the subjects being a young steer and heifer, both about ten months old. Six drachms of exudation fluid from a diseased lung were injected into the lung of one animal, and the same quantity into the windpipe of the other. Both these animals gave indications of local disease in little more than a fortnight afterwards, and in another fortnight one died and the other was killed. *In both cases, however, the lungs were found perfectly free from these lesions which specially belong to pleuro-pneumonia*. It is thus conclusively proved that pleuro-pneumonia does not extend the area of its existence by any of the ordinary means which cause the spread of infectious diseases. Full details of these experiments will appear in next number of the *Journal* of the Royal Agricultural Society.—*The Veterinarian*.

SHROPSHIRE CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.

At the annual general meeting, Mr. Jasper More in the chair, the following report of the committee for the year ending September 29th, 1874, was read:

The committee, in making their eighth annual report, have to announce that during the past year the Society has lost through deaths, withdrawals, and removals, 57 subscribers, but has added to its strength by the enrolment of 45 new members. The number of subscribing members now on the books is 649. Two discussions have taken place in Shropshire during the last year. The first, an adjourned discussion on the poor relief, showed the feeling in favour of rigidly enforcing the workhouse test to be different at Wellington to what it was, as shown by a previous discussion at Ludlow. The committee wish to draw attention to the want of unanimity amongst different boards of guardians as to the principles of affording poor relief, and suggest that the various boards in this county should use their influence to bring about by conference or otherwise a greater uniformity of action in the administration of poor relief in the different unions. The object of the second discussion of the Chamber at Bridgnorth is shown by the following resolution proposed by Mr. B. Dudfield, seconded by Mr. E. Rainforth: "That this Chamber considers that the over-preservation of game and the absence of Tenant-Right are among the principal detriments to the improvement of agricultural land, and is of opinion that such a bill as that introduced into the House o Commons by Messrs. Howard and Read last session, and one to protect the occupying tenant from injury from over-preservation of game, are necessary for the improvement of such land." The committee are glad to find some concession made to ratepayers, though not so large as expected, in the manner of increased subvention to the expenses of police and lunatics. They regret to hear, however, as a matter of general rumour, that the Government are advised to stop the usual payment awarded to Shropshire on behalf of the expenses of the police, as well as the additional one, on account of the alleged inefficiency of the police force of the county. The President and Mr. Bowen Jones attended the Malt-tax deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but while the surplus at the disposal of the Government was unparalleled in amount no concession was made or any expectation held out to the agriculturists of their claims being considered in future. Only 18 members were found to vote for the repeal of the Malt-tax, when the subject being declined by Colonel Barttelot was taken up by Mr. Fielden. The committee are glad to find the name of Mr. Gore amongst this number, but regret that he was the only Shropshire member who supported Mr. Fielden on the occasion. The committee regret that the expectation embodied in their report of last year, that the bill of Messrs. Howard and Read giving compensation for unexhausted improvements would be re-introduced in the last session, has not been fulfilled; whilst they consider it possible that a permissive bill may be introduced on the subject they regret to see no sign of the measure previously supported by this Chamber being brought forward.

Mr. Stanley Leighton said there was one remark he should like to make. There was a paragraph in the report which stated that the allowances from the Government for the police rate had been refused to this county. He wished to state that that was incorrect.

The Chairman: I think you are mistaken.

Mr. S. Leighton: Then read it again, if you please.

The Secretary read the paragraph alluded to.

Mr. S. Leighton said he thought it best not to mention it in the report, as the matter was still under consideration. If the grant was refused he thought it quite proper for the ratepayers to know of it, and consider the matter; but since it had not been refused he thought it unwise to mention it in a report of that sort.

The Chairman: Do you move the omission of the paragraph?

Mr. Leighton: No, I merely notice it. It struck me it was unwise to introduce it since it is based upon incorrect information.

The Rev. E. Warter: As one of the members of the Police Committee I beg to state that it is incorrect inasmuch as the report of Col. Cobbe is that he has no complaint to make of the police, excepting as to their inefficiency in point of numbers, which is a very different thing from the "inefficiency of the police force in the county," as will be understood from the report. It was on that ground only that Col. Cobbe stated that he could not see how he could make such a report as will get the grant for the county.

Mr. J. Bather said he disagreed with all the report, and he wished to call the attention of the Chamber to what he considered to be a violation of the charter of the Chamber by such a report as that read having been issued, and by that Chamber being asked to sanction it. He did not think it was any part of the business of the committee to express all these "regrets" upon political subjects, over which members might hold different opinions. He did not believe the committee did "regret" when they said they did, his opinion being that what was alluded to were things thrown out for political purposes. Having read the rule under which the committee acted, Mr. Bather pointed out that its members were chosen from north and south, independent of their political views.

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The committee met, he urged, to transact the business of the society, and, if in a private assembly, they expressed political opinions, and embodied them in their report, it was in strict violation of the rules of the Chamber. When they met for public discussion, he always advocated for others, as he claimed for himself, the greatest liberty of speech; but if the committee are to be permitted to sit privately, to discuss and to vote upon political matters, and if the opinion of those in the minority are to be compromised by those in the majority, he believed it would prove fatal to the Chamber. Let them look at the report. He was a member of the committee, and he was made to regret that only one of their members voted for the repeal of the Malt-tax. But he did not regret it! He was glad that £8,000,000 had not been thrown away, that their barley was still protected, and that they were getting a good price for it. He did not regret that there was a rumour that the police allowance was not to be paid by Government to the county. If the gentlemen who undertook to manage the affairs of the county were to be bribed to do what they thought was not right, or necessary, by the gift of public money, there would be an end of all public dealing, and he was glad that this county had set the example of holding up their hands against such a state of things and that they refused a small trumpery sum which they did not care about. He should not move that the report be sent back to the committee (for that would be a round-about way), but that as was sometimes said when a person signed a paper which he had not time to read—that it be received "errors excepted." He saw no harm in the report being received in that way, but he was strongly opposed to having his convictions compromised by its being adopted in the usual manner.

Mr. Bowen Jones said it seemed to him important that the clause should appear. It had already been the means of eliciting more information upon the subject than the committee was aware of. Notwithstanding that, they had applied to the Clerk of the Peace for information. It seemed to him, after working for five or six years in the cause of local taxation, and having got a small modicum of relief from the present Government, in the shape of a greater allowance to the county police, it seemed very hard they should now sacrifice £4,000 or £5,000 in a single county. He was very glad the paragraph had appeared in the report, and he thought it was perfectly harmless, for it did not say that the allowance would not be paid, but that there was a rumour about it. If the money was not paid, the members of that chamber, being large rate-payers, would like to know why. He thought that it pointed plainly to the fact that county finance boards ought to be established; and he hoped a measure with that object would be brought forward next year.

Mr. Bather asked the chairman whether, in his opinion, it formed any part of the duties of the committee to make such report.

The Chairman read from the rules what were the objects of the Chamber, and said he thought it was entirely within the province of the committee to make remarks upon political measures. He wished to say, in confirmation of his opinion, that in the report of last year those matters were discussed in the freest possible manner, and Mr. Bather was on the committee at the time.

The Rev. E. Warter: I shall second Mr. Bather, simply on the ground of the one paragraph which Mr. Bowen Jones thinks is desirable, and which I look upon as a mis-statement.

Mr. Bather called attention to rule number four, and asked the chairman if he held that the business of the committee was not limited to transacting business in the stricter sense of the word, but also to express opinions upon political matters.

The Chairman said he should be very sorry to set his opinion against that of former chairmen, and, as others had allowed it, he was not going to rule differently.

Mr. Bather said till the question was raised it could not be decided. If the committee was considered justified in expressing an opinion upon all political subjects that came before them, and if the opinions of the minority were to be compromised in that way, all he could say was that never again would he sit upon a committee unless it was elected in a different way.

Mr. Jones: I should be sorry to support the paragraph. Mr. Warter and Mr. Leighton object to if it can be shown to be a mis-statement.

The Rev. E. Warter: It is not Colonel Cobb who grants, or who does not grant the money. He makes a report, and upon that report the Government will act, unless they see cause to alter their opinion, as I believe they will do in this case. Colonel Cobbe complains of inefficiency in point of numbers, which is a very different thing from what will be understood by the report.

Mr. Jones said he did not see that Mr. Warter had proved his assertion, for he admitted that there was inefficiency of some sort.

Mr. Stanley Leighton thought it was unwise for them to set about discussing rumours. He thought as large ratepayers they had a right to discuss all questions connected with the rates. But the question was, how far they were wise in getting hold of a rumour and acting upon it. He was speaking under correction, but he believed that Colonel Cobbe had no business to "advise" the Government; and yet in the report it was stated that the Government were advised. He should like to know who advised the Government. He could see what was the feeling of the Chamber with regard to the matter. It was this: "You are trying to prevent us discussing matters connected with the rates." He fully agreed that the members of that Chamber ought to discuss matters connected with the rates; the only question was whether they ought to discuss them before they had got something tangible before them. There were plenty of subjects for them to discuss, and plenty of things for them to lay hold of; and was it wise, before the time, to lay hold of a matter of that sort, and put it into the report? There was not a question connected either with agriculture or with the rates that he should not like to see discussed by them; but was the committee sure it was correct that the Government was "advised" to withdraw the grant? Certain private letters had, he knew, passed upon the subject, and who had given information in regard to them? Whoever had done so had been guilty of a sort of breach of confidence. Mr. Jones complained that the Clerk of the Peace had not laid the whole subject before them—

Mr. Jones: We did not know whether the correspondence was private or public, and, as a body of ratepayers, we applied to the Clerk of the Peace for information, and the answer we had was that he could not give it to us.

Mr. Stanley Leighton said, of course, the Clerk of the Peace could not; and he again urged that it would not be wise to insert the paragraph in the report.

The Rev. E. Warter said if Mr. Jones would consent to insert the words "in point of numbers" after "inefficient," he should be satisfied. As it was, he looked upon the paragraph as a mis-statement. Whether magistrates or not magistrates, they were all anxious that they should have an efficient police force, and they were also anxious, if they could, to get the allowance from Government. Crime had of late diminished greatly in the county, and he should not like it to go forth that the police were inefficient in any respect but the one he had mentioned.

Mr. Jones said he had no objection to add the words Mr. Warter had suggested.

Mr. Bather again urged that the report should be adopted, "errors excepted."

Mr. Minor said he saw nothing political about the report.

Mr. Bather: Do you not consider the repeal of the Malt-tax a political question?

Several Members: No, certainly not.

Mr. T. Horton: I think if this Chamber is not to discuss political questions, the sooner it is dissolved the better.

Mr. Harding asked what they were to discuss if they were not to discuss such subjects as those in the report? He believed the duties of the committee to be to transact all the ordinary business of the Society, to draw up and present the report, and to call the attention of the Chamber to any agricultural questions which had arisen, or were likely to arise. He understood that the committee had to bring all such matters before the Chamber, otherwise how were things to be brought forward? As to the Malt-tax, he believed the Chamber had already come to a resolution in favour of its repeal or reduction. He regretted, and he thought they all regretted, that neither had been done—and yet it was urged that they had no right to mention it in their report.

Mr. Bather said he proposed at the committee meeting that the subject be brought before the Chamber, but the word "regret" should not be put in. He simply wanted the attention of the Chamber to be called to it. The committee should

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confine itself to reporting facts. No man who sat on the committee could say that he had ever wished to suppress facts: what he wished to suppress in the report were opinions.

Mr. HARDING said the Chamber would be asked to say whether or not it did regret that Mr. Gore was the only member who supported Mr. Fielding and the only one who had severed himself from his party for the good of his constituents. If those questions were not to be raised and if their members of the Chamber were not allowed to tell their representatives whether they were serving them rightly or wrongly, then the sooner the better they abolished the Chamber. As regarded the inefficiency of the police, if they were inefficient and so the county lost the Government grant he did not see that it mattered much what the cause of inefficiency was. If it simply arose from inefficiency of strength it was a lesser evil, but still it was inefficiency. He thought, however, that the addition of the words Mr. Warter suggested would meet the objection which had been raised.

Mr. J. R. O. GORE, M.P., said he should not have risen had not his name been so prominently brought forward; but he wished to explain the grounds upon which he had acted differently to the rest of the members of the county. When he was returned, one of the very few pledges he gave was that he would do all he could for the reduction or the repeal of the Malt-tax. He did not think the question was brought forward at the right time, and he urged Mr. Fielding not to press it unless he saw some better chance of success; but having given his word he supported Mr. Fielding. He should give the same vote again if the subject was brought forward, as he hoped it would be, and when it was, he hoped it would be more favourably received. Mr. Gore concluded by moving the adoption of the report with the addition of the words suggested by Mr. Warter.

Mr. C. C. COTES, M.P., seconded the proposition, and it was carried by a large majority.

Mr. MORE, the chairman, recollected once saying in that room that if they met in three years' time they would not, he believed, have got compensation for unexhausted improvements, and he still believed it was a very difficult thing to carry. He did not think there was any member in the present House of Commons that was likely to bring forward Sir Massey Lopes' bill. A gentlemen who was once president of that Chamber, Mr. Tomline, had remarked that Chambers of Agriculture might do harm instead of good, because members attached too much importance to them, and paid too little attention to what was done in Parliament. He thought Chambers of Agriculture should take every opportunity of expresing their opinions upon political questions, meaning of course, agricultural political question, and not party political questions. He thought it was satisfactory to find that they had made some impressions upon the Government in regard to financial matters, and he was sorry to hear Mr. Bather talk of the sums given by the Government as trumpery.

Mr. BATHER said he meant trumpery when he compared it with the loss of honour.

Mr. MORE said he did not suppose that anyone expected that honour should be sacrificed for a bribe.

The CHAIRMAN said a communication had been received from the Central Chamber stating that the question of the maintenance of highways was shortly to be discussed.

Colonel CORBETT, M.P., proposed that it also form the subject of the next discussion of the Shropshire Chamber.

Mr. MANSELL: I should like to discuss how we are to keep our stock during the next winter. I think that would be a very proper subject.

KELSO FARMERS' CLUB.

AUTUMN MANURING.

At the usual monthly meeting, Mr. Wm. Purves, Linton Burnfoot, in the chair, the subject set down for discussion was "Should dung be applied to stubble or lea in autumn?"

Mr. GEORGE SHOLTO DOUGLAS, Riddleton Hill, said: I have selected as the subject of our evening's discussion the disposal of farmyard manure in autumn. I think this is a question which we ought to study carefully, inasmuch as the cost of producing this manure is always on the increase—that is to say, cattle, straw, turnips, cake, and attendance cost more than they used to do, as it were, yesterday, and there is every probability that their price will not be diminished, but rather enhanced, by to-morrow. What is more proper, therefore, than that we should think of how we can obtain full value for this important product of the farm? I have not got the results of any experience to offer to you, as experiments, especially in agriculture, are tedious, costly, and often misleading. As regards the case in point, it would require experiments extending over many years, and carried on simultaneously at not a few different places, and under different conditions of soil and climate to convince me of the superiority of one system over another, and we must therefore look at the matter in the light of common sense if any such be afforded us. The manure I refer to is that made during the spring, at the conclusion of the feeding season, and which, by stress of time, or from being in too crude a state, cannot be applied to the turnip crop before sowing. This, being made when cattle are improving, or well advanced in condition, and during a season of the year best adapted for the purpose by reason of its dryness, ought to be the best that is produced on the farm. I say *ought to be*; and, indeed, when it is made in boxes or covered sheds it is the best. But, gentlemen, with the system of open courtyards that unfortunately prevails in this district, what is the state in which we find the dung after harvest, after it has got all the summer rain? As I was preparing of the paper which I now read to you, my people were cleaning out the cattle courts, and it was really lamentable to see such stuff. It was nothing but cold, wet, black, half-rotten straws, with, I fear, every particle of fertilising vigour wasted out of it. What a contrast is presented to that which the boxes yielded, the latter being hot, dry, and smoking like a furnace. This, unfortunately forms only a small portion of what we have at our command. The question is therefore what to do with this stuff which we are pleased to call dung. When the summer work of the farm will not admit of anything being done towards preserving the contents of the yard in a good condition, and we have to remove them after harvest, the only thing is to take them to the land and cover them out of sight as soon as possible. It is the general practice to apply the manure to the stubble break that is intended for root crops in the following year, and, being spread, it is ploughed in and allowed to lie till the land is stirred preparatory to sowing. This is the quickest way of getting quit of it, but I am not sure it is put to the best use by such a method. We all know that it is a great point to get the stubble ploughed as dry as possible, and that being done, we reasonably expect to find it turn up in fine condition next spring. And, in order to insure this consummation, we plough into it a lot of wet straw. In exceptionally fine weather the manure may dry after being spread, but the humidity which generally prevails after October sets in prevents this. Further, it keeps hold of all the rain which falls; it cannot dry below the ground, and the soil cannot help, as it dries, drawing continual supplies of moisture from what acts as a sponge. Can it be wondered at that land which has been autumn dunged often turns up, especially if it be clayey, worse than that which has not been so treated? I have repeatedly seen it so, and the consequences are an increased application of artificial manure of the ammoniacal class, with their usual concomitants of over luxuriant straws and imperfectly grown bulbs. It is stated that manuring stubble tends to keep the ground open and allow the frost to obtain readier access to it. I cannot see the force of this argument, as the frost, if it does get below the surface, congeals the moisture it finds there, and, departing, leaves the ground as it was before, and the surface being disintegrated by the falls down and seals up the lower stratum more effectually than ever. Besides I have heard it stated in this room by gentlemen of undoubted authority that heavy land (which autumn manuring is supposed chiefly to benefit) is much better left untouched till the spring, and only lifted from the stubble before putting in the turnips. If this be the case then, a

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fortiori, it does not profit to keep it open if ploughed, but rather to leave it as close as possible. If, on the other hand, dung be applied to lea, none of the objections I have stated can be urged against its use. It is not moister than the herbage with which the gound is covered, and so can do no harm by retaining wet. Containing a large proportion of silica, it is likely to promote the growth of straw in the corn crop. The undissolved portion which is not taken up by the corn is much better amalgamated with the soil, and therefore more likely to be serviceable to the turnips. We continually see, both in autumn and spring dunged land great masses of manure sticking above the surface and on the middle of the drills, yielding nourishment to nothing but weeds, and attracting flies and every species of abomination. All this would be avoided by manuring the lea. This method has another point in its favour. Most of us grow a few weeds among our corn, and a great many among our hay. The seeds of these get among the dung, and fermentation, often slight, does not kill them. Most of them will not germinate unless at a very small depth; and there is a greater chance of their being brought to the surface the second year after they are deposited, and this is more likely to be accomplished by the stirrings which the land so frequently receives in the manipulations to which the turnip crop is subjected. These remarks may also apply to the seed of any of them that may flourish among the corn. I am unable to state whether the different times of applying dung may have any influence on the development of these insects which harm us so much, but if any one could supply us with information on the point it might be turned to good account. When a crop of hay has been taken an application of dung is sure to prove very beneficial to land, as, besides the exhaustion which this crop is apt to induce, the stimulating manures which are often employed leave no fertilising effects, but rather the contrary. Nature abhors a vacuum, and fills up vacant space at her own discretion, and the best way to keep down such is to promote vigorous growth of useful plants. I might follow up the foregoing remarks by discussing the advisability of laying up all our dung, and applying it to the lea, but that would involve the consideration of subjects foreign to the matter in hand, and I would conclude by saying that it would be very profitable were the contents of the yards carted off during the summer as early as possible, and lay into a heap near the place where they are intended to be applied. In that case the manure could be laid on to the field and spread in frosty weather when there is nothing else doing.

Mr. Usher, Stodrig.—I must say that generally I approve very much of Mr. Douglas's suggestion, and I think he has taken a very scientific view of the subject. With regard to the laying on of dung in the spring of the year, although I highly approve of that system, still it must be borne in mind that the labour question enters greatly into this question. If we were to leave all our dung to be put on in the spring of the year it would involve a great deal of extra labour, and, I think, if we look at the great question of convenience, it is a great benefit to get the dung made in the spring of the year laid on in the backend of the year when we have not so much to do. I have no doubt that dung laid on to the drill generally speaking goes further. There is a great deal of waste in laying on dung in the backend of the year, and I also think it has the effect of wearing the land a good deal by carting it on in the backend and ploughing it wet in. But a great many of the members of the club have steep land, and if they did not lay it on in the backend they could not get it on at all. In addition to the extra labour it involves, it has the effect of levelling the drills and leaving the half of the dung on the surface. Looking at the subject from a practical point of view, the best plan is to lay on the dung we have made in the spring of the year the best way we possibly can, and to plough it in, and still leaves us with as much work as we can possibly overtake with the workers we have at our command.

Mr. Howie, Haddon, stated the system adopted in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and concurred generally with what Mr. Douglas had said.

Mr. Robertson, Ladyrig.—If I read this subject aright it is simply a question to be answered, viz., Should dung be applied to stubble or lea in autumn? Now that the question has been thoroughly put before me, I think it is a subject for very fair criticism. To answer the question, I should certainly say has a great deal to do with the solution of the point. If any of you were to ask me whether I would put the dung I make on to my lea or my stubble, I would answer that I divide the thing. I would put a portion on my lea, and I would dung my stubble. There is one thing to which I would like to draw attention. I certainly think if we could throw back our crops a twelvemonth, or use something else for a year, we would profit greatly in after years. We would benefit both by the oats and the turnip crop, and, according to the quality, you could either give artificial dung or not; but you must bear in mind that you sacrifice the first year's manure.

Mr. Usher, Stodrig.—I am perfectly willing to take up what Mr. Robertson has said, and I do think that if we could manage to get a year in advance with the dung it would be a great advantage on a lea field. I think from the experience I have had there is one obstacle—we would be under the necessity of working entirely with extraneous manures, which very few farmers with plenty of dung would be inclined to do. From the experience I have had of laying dung on lea, it always had a very good effect on the oat crop. There is no doubt if you grow a strong crop of oats it has the effect of keeping down dirt and keeping the land cleaner. If you were to put extraneous manures on your turnip crop, there is no doubt that in the year succeeding the dunging you would have a better crop than you would have under other circumstances. If we were to adopt Mr. Douglas's principle of reducing the dung to a proper state before laying it on it would have this benefit: that we would be able to lay it on in frosty weather. But the labour question has to be considered, as it would involve a great deal of extra expense and extra labour.

Mr. Robertson, Ladyrig.—I think, from what has fallen from the lips of Mr. Usher, that we must calculate what it costs to grow the crops. We must calculate that the labour market has risen 20 per cent. I think we should always keep in view what anything costs when introducing any change, and always keep in mind the price we have to pay for labour, as it is a very material question in the solution of any point as regards farming.

Mr. Purves narrated his experience as regards the manuring of fields, and was of opinion that they should look at things as they generally stood, and not look a year before them.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Douglas for his paper, and a similar compliment having been paid to Mr. Purves in the chair, the meeting separated.

THE HEXHAM FARMERS' CLUB.—The following subjects stand for discussion during the Session 1874 and 1875. Dec. 8th, Disintegration and Reconstruction—Mr. Spiers. Jan. 19th, the Exhaustion of the Soil of Great Britain—the President, Captain Nicholson. Feb. 16th, Ought Agricultural Politics be discussed by Farmers' Clubs, Mr. Newby Fraser. March 16th, Agricultural Measures before the House of Commons. April 13th, The Sheep of Scotland, and the Management of them—Mr. William Lyal, Caddenlea.

SALE OF MESSRS. M'COMBIE'S BLACK POLLED CATTLE.—This sale was held at Alford. Mr. McCombie, M.P., exhibited a lot of 46 animals in capital condition, and mostly bred by himself. His cows were very heavy, admirably fleshed, well-bred animals, and with one or two exceptions early calvers. They brought the good average of £45 15s., which is the highest on record for cows of the breed. This average, however, was surpassed by eight two-year-old heifers in calf, for they realised nearly £53 each. Ten yearling heifers averaged £35 a head. Four heifer-calves exceeded £23 each, and eight bulls sold fairly. The most handsome cow of the lot was Pride of Alford, the three-year-old which was first at Kelso as a yearling. Mr. Walker got her at 60 gs. The best of the two-year-old heifers was Ruth Second, which Mr. Barclay, Yonderton, took at 70 gs. The best pedigreed two-year-old was Diana, half-sister to Lord Huntly's cup cow, which went rapidly up to 76 gs. for Lord Airlie. The best yearling heifer was Nugget; sold at 53 gs. The bull-calves did not sell so well as the female animals. Mr. M'Combie, of Easter Skene, got a very fair sale for 17 animals drafted from his herd.

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THE EAST LOTHIAN FARMERS' CLUB.

DISEASES IN ANIMALS.

At the first meeting for the season in Haddington, Mr. DOUGLAS (Athelstaneford), the Chairman, intimated that the subject set down for discussion was, What steps should be adopted to prevent the spread of disease in the transit of cattle and sheep?

This, he said, was a very serious subject, and the present Government were anxious to do something to prevent the spread of disease in animals, and were desirous to obtain reliable information. The prevention of disease in animals was not only a most important matter to the farmers but to the community in general. There would, no doubt, be more or less disease in this country so long as the transit of stock went on. There were many difficulties in the way of preventing disease in cattle conveyed by rail or in steamer, but he had no doubt remedial measures could be provided. Those parties in charge of stock moving about the country were desirous of attending as many markets as possible, and in order to do this sometimes they drove their stock at too great a speed, thereby overheating and exhausting the animals. Thus exhausted and heated, the animals had no heart to feed, and often lay down, contracting cold and producing disease. They could not avoid transferring stock from one country to another. From Ireland, for instance, a great many cattle were brought to this country for feeding purposes. In fact, the conveyance of cattle across the Irish Channel had become a considerable trade. The animals were packed up into steamboats not specially adapted for the purpose, and containing very imperfect accommodation. It might be worth while considering whether or not special boats should not be built for the purpose of conveying stock from Ireland, containing plenty of room, ventilation, and shelter. From that, no doubt, good results would flow. Very probably the cost of transit might be increased, but the better condition in which the animals would be disembarked would warrant the payment of higher charges. In these steamers the cattle were often huddled together in a very small space, and the excrements, specially the fluids, saturated the wood work on the deck so much that it was no wonder that disease was bred. He would have all decks and trucks for the conveyance of cattle thoroughly cleaned, and cloride of lime or any other disinfecting agents regularly applied. As steamers were kept just now cattle very often contracted disease, and then were sent all over the country before it made its appearance. Then as to the conveyance of stock by rail, he thought cattle should not be sent more than 100 miles without water. A drink of good water was a most important thing the animals. It acted as food for the time being. If they got some such attention as that, the animals would go a long journey in much better form than they do presently when jammed together in trucks without either food or water for a journey of some hundred miles. Regarding the importation of cattle from abroad, there was a great danger of introducing disease in that way, but he did not wish to do anything calculated to spot the introduction of foreign cattle. No doubt it tended to reduce the prices of the home cattle by increasing the supplies, but still he did not complain of it on that account. Recently it had been said that those foreign cattle, as they were being sent mostly for beef, might be killed at the port of landing. But lately there had arisen a pretty extensive trade in dairy cows from Holland to this country. The animals were large, heavy, well-fleshed, superior milking cows, and they sold some of them at upwards of £30—a high price for a dairy cow. Some went to cow-feeders and some to farmers. Such animals as these could not be slaughtered without considerable sacrifice on landing, and he thought that provision should be made for a thorough examination as to their healthiness when they are embarked. This was quite as necessary as when they were disembarked. Some people think a quarantine should be instituted for foreign cattle. Many present would remember that some years ago a lot of condemned cattle were prevented from landing at Leith and the ship turned to sea, and the animals were thrown overboard. The carcases were washed ashore here and there over a large portion of the coast. This was most reprehensible conduct, and the Local Authorities should do everything in their power to prevent a repetition of such a thing. He thought people should not complain of the pressure of Privy Council enactments, so long as the measures were taken with the great end in view of lessening the spread of the disease throughout the country. At this moment that awful scourge the rinderpest was raging in the steppes of Russia, and with the foreign traffic going on it might be brought to this country. If such were unfortunately the case it would decimate their herds, and be a very sad thing for the country, making them pay dear for the freedom of importation, and telling on the food supplies for many years to come. He believed the hands of the Government would be strengthened if farmers' clubs throughout the country seriously considered the subject, and offered suggestions founded on the experience of the various members. The chairman here stated that he learned from a private letter received by one of the members of the club from Mr. Barclay, M.P. for Forfarshire, that a deputation of the local authorities in the northern counties was being organised to wait upon the Duke of Richmond, President of the Council, on the subject, about the middle of this month. He was of opinion that this club should do what it could to co-operate with their brethren in the north in this movement. In reference to the treatment of disease after it had appeared, the farmers found considerable difficulty in carrying out the system of isolation. Farm buildings now-a-days were, for economic purposes, so closely joined together that the means afforded for separation of diseased animals were insufficient. If some sanitary arrangement were established by which the animals affected by disease could be isolated, it would be a great matter. For instance, if a farmer went to the market and bought a horse, he found perhaps after the animal came home that it had got cold or disease, and as the farmer had no means to separate it from the rest of the horses, the infection soon spread over the whole of the stable. In some counties the amount of compensation paid to owners of animals slaughtered, by order of the local authority, was one-half of the value, in others two-thirds, and in some even three-fourths. If farmers and farmers' clubs throughout the country ventilated the matter properly, and gave advice and a helping hand to the Government, he believed something might be done.

Mr. PATON (Standingstane) said it will not for a moment be disputed that the subject before the Club to-night is of the utmost importance, not only to the British farmer, but to every British subject. It would have been not only interesting, but most satisfactory, to have had statistics of the number and value of animals carried annually in Britain by rail, as well as of those imported from Ireland and the Continent. This could have been done so far, with time and a good deal of hunting up, but for practical purposes they can be done without. It is well known that the capital involved in live stock is something enormous, and yet the cattle trade is conducted in a most reckless and haphazard manner in many cases. The subject naturally divides itself into two—viz., transit by rail and transit by sea. As to the first we have heard a great deal lately about animals being so many hours on rail without water, and various sorts of trucks have been constructed and brought before the public with water troughs and other appliances for the comfort of the cattle. That is all very well meant, and it is quite possible to fill these troughs at different stations, but the practical difficulty is great. Suppose a train of thirty or forty waggons filled with cattle starting from the next Falkirk tryst, and allowing that the troughs were all filled when the cattle were put in, and suppose that the cattle had stood on the moor all day, the water in the troughs would very soon disappear, even before they got started. Then, suppose that the said cattle were to be in these trucks for 36 hours, or even longer, no doubt water would be a very excellent thing for them during that time, but where are the men to be got to supply it, even were every convenience at the stations. They might pretend to do it, but it would not be done, a great deal of time would be lost and expenses incurred. It seems to me that instead of stop-

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ping and attempting to water, either by turning the animals out or running the water into the troughs, the much better plan is to hurry them to their destination, and see that they are not allowed to stand at side stations for hours as is some times done. But a very simple and easily-managed affair is the washing out the trucks with hot lime each time they are used. Were this always done there would be decidedly less disease in the country. We believe that the railway officials do their best to have it done, as a rule, but it is often not done both for want of time and the material to do it with. Were stock owners to take the trouble of giving notice to the station officials that trucks properly cleansed would be required at a certain hour the following day, then if it turned out that from neglect these trucks had not been cleansed, and that the stock being forward had to be put in as they were, in such a case the company ought to be sharply dealt with. It seems, then, that practically in transit by rail the proper cleansing of the trucks is about the most that can be done to prevent the spread of disease. In the transit by sea, however, more especially from Ireland and the Continent, many difficulties arise. It is a well-known fact that before Irish cattle were so plentiful in Scotland, pleuro-pneumonia was unknown, and that until we had cattle from the Continent rinderpest was only seen in print. But we must take things as we find them and make the best of them. We would perhaps like to be able to do without Irish and foreign cattle, but we can't. It is admitted that Irish cattle with us are much more liable to take pleuro than English are. Looking at the two, one would readily conclue that the Irish would be the more hardy; but the reason for the opposite is not far to seek. It is natural to suppose that the Irish farmer or dealer will not send to Britain any animals that he supposes have pleuro. We believe, as a rule, they are sound before entering the steamboats that ply between the two countries, but there the fatal seeds are sown that often bear fruits months hence. How can it be otherwise? Here are a lot of animals stowed away for hours in a space not sufficient for half the number, and with bad ventilation in many cases. In a short time the temperature is something intolerable. By the time the animals arrive at port and appear on the quay, they look as if they had just come out of a very dirty vapour bath, with their sides reeking, and so besmeared with dirt that it is often impossible to tell the original colour. Driven from this, perhaps to lie the night, or even nights, on the bare stones, with the elements in all their wrath above, is it to be wondered that cases of pleuro are not even of more frequent occurrence than they really are? Of course, it is the interest of owners of steamers to put as many animals on board as possible. I thoroughly believe that those steamers are the regular hotbeds of disease, and that Government could not do a wiser thing, not only for the farmer, but for the nation, than to compel companies to have vessels constructed on the most approved principles for the transit of Irish cattle, and having a certain amount of accommodation and space for each animals. It would be also greatly to the advantage of the Irish store farmer were such arrangements made, as farmers here would buy with much greater confidence than they do at present. Then, as to the foreign trade; the animals until lately were for the most part fat; now, however, we have large numbers of dairy cows, as well as a few stores now and again, but the latter do not take the market well, and until a better class of stock can be sent we are not likely to have many of this sort. Government has all along been doing a good deal at the ports where foreign cattle are landed to keep down disease. They have a staff of officials to inspect the cattle when landed, but that inspection often amounts to very little. It is impossible to say at a glance whether an animal is affected or not. Is it not also possible, very likely probable, that in not a few cases the inspectors may be on very friendly terms with the importers, and give them too often the benefit of the doubt? This is too often, I understand, the case. The only remedy is slaughter on landing. Butchers sometimes make a noise at the restrictions imposed, but that is only one class of the community, and surely if the best beef that goes to London is slaughtered at Aberdeen and sent in carcase, there can be no reason why the foreign cattle might not be killed in Leith and sent to Edinburgh. It is strange, however, that the idea prevails almost amongst every class that such restrictions are entirely for the benefit of the farmer and proprietor, the public never for a moment thinking that if there were no disease amongst cattle, beef would be very much cheaper. Another thing I would like to mention here is the insane practice of holding the store markets on the same ground and on the same day as fat markets. This ought to be stopped by Government. Perhaps a little more trouble would be caused at first, but that would soon be got over. Then, again, although not immediately connected with the transit of cattle, still quite as important is the question—What is to be done with cattle after they are affected? It is very hard that a farmer should be compelled to kill his cattle and not be paid a considerable proportion of their value, and yet stamping out in the case of pleuro or rinderpest seems to be the only means to get clear of it. Were Government to come forward and offer, say, three-fourths the value of the animals, farmers, as a rule, would give information at once—otherwise, many would take the chance of running the blockade, and disposing of many of their animals as possible rather than give information of their having disease about their place. I understand that at present Government has several agents scouring the country gathering all the information they can as to the cattle trade and traffic, and it is only by hints from practical men that any good will arise from it. They are anxious to get information, and I think that it is only the duty of farmers to express their several opinions, however crude they may be.

Mr. Smith Stevenson (Mains) thought this subject of the very greatest importance, not only to the farmers but to the community at large. The prevention of the spread of disease amongst cattle must interest the whole nation. Not very long ago a number of butchers in London and other large English towns waited, if he was not mistaken, on the Government, or petitioned for the admission of foreign animals into this country without almost any restrictions. He believed those gentlemen were actuated by a desire to have cheap meat. He could not forget that the agricultural interest and the interest of the whole community were the same on this subject, although it seemed very difficult for the latter to think so. He held that they were the same for this reason, that if foreign cattle were admitted freely and unrestrictedly it might cheapen meat for a time, but he had no doubt it would tend to raise it in the long run, for if they brought in disease into this country and spread it among the cattle the tendency would be to raise the price of meat rather than otherwise. He thought the public were quite entitled to do what in them lay to have a good supply of meat at the cheapest price. It was for the agricultural interest to endeavour to produce as much as possible. The farmer would be better producing a larger quantity even at a lower price, than raising a small supply for a high price. And this was certainly the consumer's interest also. He quite agreed with Mr. Paton in regard to the restrictions on foreign cattle. The rules and regulations for the transit of cattle by rail in this country were pretty good, but unfortunately they were very seldom enforced. The cleansing and disinfecting of railway trucks was carried out perhaps at the largest stations, but at many of the smaller stations it was very seldom done. In regard to the importation of foreign fat cattle, he was of opinion that they should be slaughtered at the port of debarkation, and that store animals coming from abroad should be put in quarantine. It was of special interest to the Scotch farmer to have a cheap and good supply of store cattle, because he believed for one farmer that bred his own stores in Scotland three or four had to buy feeding beasts, but he did not think there would be any great hardship, and certainly there would be advantage to the public to have all fat cattle slaughtered at the port of landing. The carcases could then be sent safely over the country, and no risk would be run of spreading the disease among the livestock. He was clearly of opinion that there should be separate markets or fairs for fat stock and store animals. The amalgamation of the fat and the store markets just now was the means of spreading a good deal of the disease in the country. It was a great mistake to throw condemned carcases into the sea. They should be sent to the chemical manure works, where they would be disinfected thoroughly and made into manure instead of being washed along their shores.

Mr. Wyllie Bolton: Will an animal drowned in salt water infect anything?

Mr. Smith: Well, I would not like to risk it.

Mr. Durie (Barneymains) thought the proper thing would be for the Government to ascertain what diseases were really infectious. For instance, he scarcely thought that pleuro

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was infectious (several voices, "Oh! oh!"). Mr. Durie repeated that he did not think it was infectious, and there certainly was nothing said to convince him that it was. It spread, to be sure, but in his experience only among the animals that were submitted to the same atmospheric influencies as those first affected. Murrain and sheep-scab were infectious. Scab was brought on by over-heating and over-driving the flocks to or from the market, and unless there could be some more restrictions on the mode of driving, which he was afraid was impossible, he did not see any effectual way out of the difficulties, so far as sheed-scab was concerned. The best preventive he knew of for pleuro was to get cattle conveyed by the steamers well protected from cold and wet on board. He was afraid that would be rather expensive for the importers, but he saw no other way of lessening the spread of pleuro than avoiding the alternate heats and colds in transit. If cattle got infected with foot-and-mouth disease, the best thing to do was to avoid driving them. Exertion irritated the disease greatly, and it would be much sooner got over if the animals were allowed to rest whenever it was observed.

Mr. HARVEY (Whittinghame Mains) alluded to the various modes in which the different local authorities throughout the country carried out the provisions in the Privy Council orders. They had, he said, the Local Authorities of East Lothian, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Mid-Lothian, and others all working more or less differently. Whatever regulations were made should be enforced, so that in the working one county should be consonant with another. As regards the importation of cattle from Ireland, he thought there should be a special staff of inspectors appointed to examine the stock on the steamers and at ports. He did not think that those local veterinary inspectors in different parts of the country were sufficient, for they all knew there was such a thing as "tip" in this country. If something like uniformity of action in the various counties were rendered imperative many of the present practical difficulties would be got over. They should have some highly qualified man or men, responsible to Government, appointed for the purpose of visiting such ports as Hull, Leith, and Yarmouth, and going over the country seeing that those local inspectors did their duty. Then as to scab in sheep, it might be materially lessened if they had uniformity of action, instead of every local board working out as at present its own small problems.

Mr. SHIRREFF (Saltcoats) thought it was the duty of every practical man to give his experience to aid the scientific on such an important subject as this. It was admitted on all hands that stock were very apt to contract disease in transit, and the question was how to check or prevent the disease. Some years ago, when in England, he bought a lot of superior pigs in Wiltshire, and took them to East Lothian. They were taken down by steamer; they had a good voyage, got safely to their destination, and did so well in the county that some friends requested him to get more of them. Accordingly he obtained other two "litters" from the same party and place. They had a stormy voyage, but arrived seemingly all right. But in the course of a week or so the second arrival of pigs not only took disease and died, but infected all the other pigs which had come in contact with them. They had a perfectly clean bill of health when they started, and he had not the slightest doubt disease had been caught on the voyage. The cause of such an outbreak, as he had mentioned, was a highly scientific question. Instead of putting store animals into quarantine, and keeping them there for some weeks, where, exposed as they might be, disease might be brought on, he would have them taken at once home to warm, comfortable quarters.

Mr. ROBERTSON (New Mains) said nobody could deny that there were great grievances and risks connected with the present system of stock transit. It was of great importance that every endeavour should be made to travel the stock with as much comfort as possible. When the animals were exhausted in transit, they were much more liable to contract disease. Stock in transit should be dealt with in a very different manner from what they were at present. He complained strongly of the shameful usage the dumb animals underwent at markets and fairs from those individuals—he could scarcely call them men—who equipped themselves with sharp-pointed sticks and rods. He thought local authorities should take cognisance of the usage the animals sustained at the hands of drovers, &c. They were all aware that this country could not be supplied without importations. It would be a great boon if Government would make some such regulations as would ensure the safer and speedier transit of animals from Ireland. The Government should have vessels specially constructed for the Irish cattle traffic. He was sure that two such vessels would cope with the whole trade. The vessels should be built and fitted up in such a manner that there would be no danger to stock on the voyage. With such a short passage, he did not see that it should be difficult for the Government to make provision for the shipping of cattle from Ireland to this country in perfect safety. The present mode of conveying stock by rail in this country was also in many respects unsatisfactory. He had known of cattle being twenty hours in trucks, in their own district, accomplishing a journey of as many miles. That was simply ridiculous. It was too bad that the railway companies should have it in their power to deal thus recklessly with the valuable stock of the farmer, representing a great deal of money. The railway people turned out the cattle alive, so that the farmer had no hold of them; but the beasts were often constitutionally injured, and did not thrive. That meant a great loss to the farmer. These were matters which should be impressed on the Government. With reference to the foreign cattle trade, he coincided with much that had been already well said. Their experience was that the more dangerous epidemics that swept across the country came from abroad. He would have all fat stock from foreign countries slaughtered at the port of debarkation. The carcases could be sent to the market as well dead as alive, and with much more safety to the country. In reference to the importation of store cattle, certain spots at ports could be marked out, with a cordon thrown around, and the animals kept there until they were perfectly purified.

Mr. CHARLES SMITH (Whittinghame) proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. ROBERTSON (New Mains), and unanimously agreed to: "That this club, recognising the importance of Imperial measures for preventing the spread of infectious disease among cattle and sheep, approve of the Privy Council continuing and extending their regulations throughout the country, and agree that Lord Elcho should be respectfully requested to forward to the Duke of Richmond a copy of this resolution, pressing the subject on his attention."

SHEEP SCAB.—At the Police Court, Sherborne, Mr. J. Day, of Lillesdon Court, was summoned for having in his possession certain sheep affected with a contagious disease, and neglecting to give notice to a police-constable with all practicable speed, contrary to an order in Council. Evidence was given by Mr. J. Gibbs, one of the veterinary inspectors appointed by the Court of Quarter Session, to show that the major part of defendant's flock of 900 sheep were very badly affected with scab, and that the outbreak must have been of some months' standing. Ten of the sheep had been minutely examined, and found to be suffering in an advanced stage of the disease, and the Bench convicted for those ten, mitigating the penalty from £50 to £20, including costs. The proceedings were instituted by Superintendent Goldsmith, inspector under the Act, and it was proved that defendant allowed the sheep to mingle and to stray on the highway.

POTATO PROFESSORS.—As for the fertility of the fancy in discovering explanations of potato-disease, it is really a matter demanding the instant attention of psychologists, for it is evidence of wide-spread stupidity or insanity or vanity, or something equally dreadful, that should be cured by the Social Science Congress. The past season has been characterised by continuous sunshine, and potato-disease was unheard of until the sunshine failed, and then the crops still in the ground became more or less diseased. There is no mystery about the potato-disease: it is a question of sunshine from first to last, and if Mr. Torbitt is resolved to eradicate it, he must go to the sun and abolish his spots, and make such other arrangements as shall ensure to this globe uniform and favourable cosmical influences. A wet cold summer makes potato-disease, a hot dry summer makes a healthy crop of potatoes. The facts are patent, and yet there is a crowd of clamorous people always ready with some nonsensical and injurious fancy to explain the cause and cure of the murrain that decimates the noble root.—*The Gardener's Magazine.*

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LABOURERS' UNIONS IN THE WEST.

Sir T. D. Acland has placed a room at Broadclyst at the disposal of those who are organising Union meetings, and at the same time addressed the following letter to Mr. S. Mitchell:

Holnicote, Oct. 10, 1874.

SIR,—I thank you for your courteous letter, and for sending me your list of the necessary weekly expenses of a Somersetshire farm labourer, which you estimate at 21s., and also your notice to the farm labourers of the large meetings to be held in their favour in the West of England, and to be followed by collections for the support of the local delegates. I willingly believe that you are not acting from any selfish motive, and that you desire to awaken sympathy for a class from which I gather that you have risen yourself by hard striving. I am not aware of the reasons which have led to the selection of Broadclyst as the only agricultural village in Devonshire at which a meeting is to be held. You will find in that parish owners and occupiers of land of every grade, some of whose families have risen by honourable efforts like your own, and about 300 labourers, most of whom have good gardens with their cottages, and allotments besides. Some few are keeping cows or dairies—the first upward step on the ladder. I wish there were more. The money rate of weekly wages, as compared with that of some other parts of England, is affected by two circumstances—1, the hours of daywork are shorter; 2, the majority of the labourers persist in demanding nearly one-sixth of their earnings in the form of liquor for themselves instead of money for the whole family. Some men receive 15s. per week in money regularly; others earn on an average 16s. or 17s. for piece-work. I think it unreasonable to set in contrast with these wages a rate of money payment equal to, if not higher than, that paid in towns to labourers who have no gardens and no cheap fuel, and who pay much higher rents for inferior house accommodation. Two carters (one unmarried) left Broadclyst last spring for wages at 24s. in Wales. They found it did not answer, and came back after a few weeks' trial. You do me the justice to believe that I desire to discover what is the best way to get our labourers better fed and better housed. I am well aware that there is great need for improvement—more, however, in some places than in others. I will say nothing of the progress which has been going on for the last half-century; of the amount of money, time, and attention which many landowners and their agents are devoting to these questions. Nor will I dwell on the difficulties more or less connected with the rapid growth of wealth in trade, the rise in prices in building, the need of more capital for the improvement of land, the narrow margin of profit, the increase of population, the deficiency, or more often the neglect, of the means of education, the working of the Poor-law and of the laws affecting the tenure of land. The influence of each of these circumstances on the condition of the labourer should neither be overlooked nor exaggerated. They suggest matter for reflection and patient effort, not for sluggish acquiescence in the things as they are nor for delusive expectation of sudden changes for the better. But I must say that I think it unjust that one class—namely, the practical farmers—should be singled out, as they have been by the advocates of the Labourers' Union, for obloquy on account of evils beyond their control, or because they do not offer wages in excess of the demand, and beyond the market value of the work done. Nor do I think that torch-light meetings, stimulated by handbills such as you sent me a specimen of, at the head of which are representations of labourers as ghastly skeletons, and caricatures of well-fed farmers, will be favourable to the detailed discussion of the means of improvement to which you invite me. Still if you and those with whom you are acting believe that public meetings will arouse the labourers to combined exertion for their own good, and persuade them to cultivate self-reliance, providence, and temperance, objects for which I am glad to welcome the support of the Union, or if you hope to hasten the progressive reform of laws unfavourable to the condition of the labourer, as far as I am concerned you shall have every facility for making your appeal without hindrance. I have great confidence in the good sense of my neighbours, and in the mutual good feeling of masters and men. I believe they will listen to what you have to say and form a reasonable estimate of the value of your statements. Whether the Union will make more rapid progress in Broadclyst or in Devonshire than it has hitherto made, remains to be seen; at any rate it has not been stimulated by organised opposition.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,

T. D. ACLAND.

Mr. G. Mitchell, "One from the Plough."

NORTHAMPTON TO WIT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHAMPTON HERALD.

Appeal if you will,
You're sold if you do;
Its settled and fixed
Without asking you.

SIR,—Such was the tone and spirit of a mandate which, dated September 15, 1874, issued shortly afterwards from the office of the Clerk of the Peace for the county of Northampton. It was addressed by "The Committee of Justices appointed to revise the basis of the rate now in force for this county" to "The overseers of the poor" of each parish. No Russian ukase was ever more arbitrary; no Delphian oracle ever more obscure.

This circular merely informed the overseers that the committee had, "after due inquiry and investigation by them, thought fit to alter such basis, and they propose to alter your rate, by increasing (or 'decreasing,' as the case might be, but much, most generally the former) the same from £ to £ ."

In the case of this parish it was an increase of £331—namely, "from £2,926 to £3,257." We cannot understand the cause of this increase.

Tuesday, the 29th of Sept., was named as the day of appeal, and it was requested that a previous notice of the intention to appeal might be given.

Fourteen days only were allowed for the clerk to issue the notice, for the overseers to receive it, for them to call the ratepayers together in vestry, for the rate-payers to deliberate and determine, for previous notice of appeal to be given, and for the representative of the parish to attend the meeting of the committee, and object to the rate.

Not only was no information given with regard to any details or reasons for the proposed increase, but the basis itself of the proposed rate was studiously concealed. It was only after a further portion of this miserable modicum of 14 days had been consumed in writing to the Clerk of the Peace to inquire, that the ratepayers of Hellidon ascertained that the basis taken was the Income-tax Returns: on every other point they remained as ignorant as before. It was evident that the ratepayers of Northamptonshire had been purposely pinned into a corner, that they were the victims of a foregone conclusion, and that the *ex post facto* appeal which they were offered was only a sham and a blind to save appearances.

Appeal indeed! against what? Against a rate of which they knew only the increased sum total, but of the principles on which it was made they had been kept altogether in ignorance. They could form no opinion whatever on the fairness or unfairness, as applied to themselves, of this intended rate. It was never intended they should; no appeals were desired but such as might easily be quashed.

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This notice fell upon the rural ratepayers of Northamptonshire like a thunder-clap. They could scarcely believe that a notoriously effete and exploded tax, characterised by every species of unfairness in its collection, a mere makeshift at first, by public opinion universally condemned, except as a mere war-tax, since, rough and barbarous in its construction, partial and unfair in its operation, a tax which it is to be presumed and hoped will soon die a natural death—that such a tax as this was to be made the basis on which a great part of their local rates, already too oppressive, were to be raised, increased, and made more oppressive still.

Many as have been the valid objections which have been made against the Income-tax on the ground of its unfairness, scarcely one is more felt anywhere than the system under which the tax is levied in the rural districts—by returns of rental. The actual value of the land is not the point on which stress is laid, as it should be, but the sole question is "What rent it pays?" The return of that is what the Income-tax requires, and the amount paid on any particular farm is therefore regulated by the whim and caprice of the landlord. It is less or more according to whether he happens to be liberal or a screw. Such is the debased basis on which the Committee of Justices propose to rate us for the future. Woe to the parishes which have avaricious landlords; their payments will be sensibly increased.

And it is to be feared that this is not the only evil. Though the rate is assessed upon the parish as a whole, according to its payments to the Income-tax, most of the rural ratepayers believe that a different basis must be adopted in rating the individual parishioner. The rate must in the parish itself be raised as now by an assessment based upon the actual value of the property each man occupies, and not upon the rent he pays. They believe this for an obvious reason. The returns of rental are and must be *secret*—the parish officers have no access to them. Their only basis for rating the parishioners *inter se* must be actual value. If their belief is not true, what a pity it is that the committee did not condescend to enlighten, by a little more openness, their rustic ignorance! But if their belief is correct, in what a slough of despond have the committee sunk us, adopting for the purpose of raising a rate two utterly opposite systems based on conflicting principles—one for the parish as a whole, the other for the ratepayer in particular! They have flung the sum total at our heads, and left us to raise it any how we can. Was there ever such needless complication?

And how palpably unfair! Lord —— has two farms in some particular parish. His agent comes down and raises the rents of them 30 per cent. The Income-tax returns of the parish are raised too, and the parish rate is, according to the basis the committee has taken, raised too. The increased payment is made, not from those two farms alone, but by the overseer levying a part of it from every ratepayer in the parish in proportion to the sum at which he is locally assessed, though neither his rent nor the actual value of his occupation has been in the slightest degree altered.

Such were the opinions which made the ratepayers of Hellidon, in vestry assembled, request me to attend as their representative at Northampton, on Sept. 29th, the day of appeal. I declined to do so, for the reasons above mentioned; because the notice itself discouraged such an appeal, and showed that it would be a farce in the face of a foregone conclusion. With this opinion the vestry generally agreed. But though Hellidon did not appeal, other parishes did. A noble band, representatives of fifty parishes, undertook the hopeless task, and so staggered the committee that even the noble chairman (Earl Spencer) himself confessed to them that at first he had himself disapproved the basis which had been now agreed upon. But the issue was as I expected. It was impossible on such a point as the basis on which the county rate should be levied to take the opinion of rustic ratepayers. Lord Henley twitted them with being "too late." "Too late," indeed! Whose fault was that? Surely the fault of an overbearing committee, which, acting on the *sic volo, sic jubeo* principle, kept its intentions studiously concealed from those principally interested till it had made them "too late." His lordship also told these good men and true, that they represented fifty parishes only, and that the committee might assume that the other 250, which had not appealed, were in their favour. A sophistical argument, of the fallacy of which this letter is a proof.

To these fifty men who volunteered to act as a "forlorn hope" and to mount the breach first, the ratepayers of Northamptonshire return their grateful thanks. They passed unanimously, with two exceptions, a resolution condemnatory of the Income-tax returns as a basis for the county rate. We can only regret that they did not lead us one step further, by taking a leaf out of the book of their Cambridgeshire brothers, and asking us to assist them in forming what is so much needed, now that the farmers are attacked both from above and from below—A FARMERS' DEFENCE ASSOCIATION. We should not be slow in responding to their invitation.

Though we have not appealed, we can still protest; and we do most heartily protest against this unfair, secret, and arbitary system of county legislation; we utterly repudiate the very Irish conclusions of the casuistical Irish peer, and we demand, as Englishmen, to be heard in our own defence.

Two great facts we should learn from this one-sided business—that there should be no taxation without representation; and that we should fight as shy as possible of all Government returns. When tradesmen return their bales of cotton and of calico, or their hogsheads of sugar and chests of tea, it will be time enough for the farmers to return their corn, their beeves, their muttons, and their hogs. Remember, it was said the Income-tax returns were only made for one particular purpose, that they were secret and inviolable, and could never be injurious to those who made them. We have now plain proof to the contrary.

Yours, obediently,

JOHN STORER.

Hellidon, Oct. 8, 1874.

SHOW ROOTS.—Specimen roots must be evidences of what may be done by liberal skilful *farming*, not the results of *nursing*. The following are some of the methods of cultivating "specimen roots:" (1) Holes dug in the earth are filled with compost; the plants, raised in flower-pots, are placed in them at a distance of a yard apart; these pets receive great attention throughout the summer—the result is "Magnificent agricultural (?) roots." (2) A few perches of suitable land are selected (very often newly-broken-up old pasture); this plot of ground receives *nursery* treatment, and the plants are allowed a space not compatible on a large scale, even in farming of the highest order—roots thus cultivated are exhibited as specimens of what? (3) A strip in a field is chosen, a few ridges receive a greatly-increased quantity of farmyard manure, extra artificial is used, and the plants on these selected ridges are "set out" at a much greater distance than the rest of the field; liquid manure is sometimes supplied to them during the period of growth, and roots "for competition" are taken from these *pampered* specimens of what? (4) Roots culled from the root-quarters of two or three farms and shown by one exhibitor as specimens of what? By these modes of procedure the *farmer*, who draws his roots for exhibition from a business-like area, finds himself outdone; deceptions are practised upon the public; that fallacious assertion, which the disturbers of the peace of the present day are so fond of making—viz., that small holdings produce more food for man and beast than large ones, is supported; those who have a "peep behind the scenes" are disgusted; and those who receive prizes for roots so cultivated and shown as specimens of agricural roots obtain those prizes under false pretences. The foregoing observations apply to root shows in general, not to any particular show.—*The Oxford Journal.*

THE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION SWINDLE.—At the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions, a person styling himself Dr. James Philips was convicted of obtaining several subscriptions to the sham National Farmers' Association from Warwickshire agriculturists. It was shown that taking advantage of the differences between farmers and labourers the prisoner issued prospectuses of a National Farmers' Association to counteract the National Agricultural Labourers' Union. He had for the last eighteen months been thus engaged collecting subscriptions in Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Warwickshire, and other counties, and amongst the alleged supporters were Lord Walsingham, Mr. C. S. Read, and other well-known agriculturists. A previous conviction at Devizes was proved against the prisoner, who was now sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

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STOCK AND SHEEP SALES.

SALE OF MR. J. B. GREEN'S HEREFORD HERD.

AT GWERNAFFEL, KNIGHTON, ON SEPT. 25.

BY MR. W. G. PREECE.

"A man who had come over from Australia gave as his experience that three Hereford cattle would thrive where two Shorthorns would starve, and that for breeding in his rough country they were far preferable to Shorthorns. Seeing that the Australian colonies would be now open again for the importation of foreign stock, after being closed for two years on account of the disease, it might, under these circumstances, be safely concluded that the white-faces and beautiful countenances of our Hereford cattle would soon be seen covering the Australian pastures to feed the million." So said Sir Joseph Bailey at Leominster the other day; while an angler on the Wharfe by Bolton Abbey, in Yorkshire, has just told us through *The Gentleman's Magazine* how "a fine herd of Herefords, the most effective of all cattle as component parts of a landscape, contentedly lie under the trees or crop the succulent herbage." Again, a Hereford ox was in the opinion of many the best beast in Bingley Hall last Christmas-time; as the breed has now been put further on its trial by the sale of one of the best herds in the kingdom. During a long career, Mr. Joseph Green, of Marlow, has carefully cultivated the Hereford cattle; and, although he has declined to exhibit, his stock has for many years been known by other breeders as of the best blood and finest character. For either home use or exportation the Gwernaffels have always commanded good prices, and their dispersion is now only consequent on their owner giving up his occupation by Knighton.

As the lots will show, the herd is full of "good breeding." Renown, the bull used chiefly for some seasons, is a son of Severn, while he has since been backed by the twin Zealous; as further will be found in the pedigrees the names of such bulls as Walford, Battenhall, and Tom King, from old Governess; as, in fact, bachelor though he be, Mr. Green was considered to have the handsomest Governess in the country in his family, and her head has been thus cited as a model:

Length of face	21½	inches.
Between eyes	12	„
Round nose	25	„
Length of horns	20	„
Width of horns, from tip to tip	37½	„

Governess, however, was, as times go, on a large scale, and Mr. Green's Herefords pretty generally more weighty and wealthy than those we often see in the ring. Indeed, the Gwernaffel herd owes much to this good lady. Originally established at Marlow, near Leintwardine, where Mr. Green lives, in 1843 and '44, by selections of some of the oldest and best stock in the country, the Herefords were shifted to Knighton some fifteen or sixteen years since. Here they soon received a very useful addition by the purchase of Governess, an aged cow from the stock of the late Mr. Jeffries, possessing great constitution, as was proved by her living and breeding up to the age of 26. This same strength of constitution was an especially valuable property at such a place as Gwernaffel, which is a high cold farm, where, previous to Mr. Green entering on it, the stock maintained ran to nine or ten cows and a flock of some hundred and thirty long-tailed Welsh ewes. Governess was sent to Sir Benjamin, and the produce the twin bulls Zeal and Zealous. Zeal, of little use, was soon sent on to the butcher; but Zealous proved himself a grand stock-getter, and is still at thirteen years old doing good service; thus inheriting his dam's fine properties. The heifers and younger stock are chiefly by Renown, a bull bred by Lord Berwick, and purchased of Mr. George Smythies. Renown has also been another marked success, his stock being very hardy and great flesh-carriers, if the cows are better than the bulls; much liked nevertheless as they are by those who have used them. Nearly all the herd has been bred up to one certain standard by Mr. Green himself; but Jessie and Countess were bought last autumn at Mr. Gibbons' sale for the purpose of introducing a little fresh blood, and the heifer Adelaide 2nd, bred by Her Majesty, was a purchase at the Royal Cardiff Show in 1872; but so far she has proved barren.

Without seeming to care about it, as certainly in a very quiet way, Mr. Green has achieved a deservedly high reputation not only as a breeder, but as a farmer; as his practice has been alike a benefit to his landlord and to the country, and an example to his brother-agriculturists. The land has greatly increased in value as in produce during the time he has held the farm at Gwernaffel, now running towards the close of a twenty-one years' lease: not only has he reared much more stock, but all of the best kind, as beyond the Herefords, a flock of five or six hundred well-bred Shropshires will be sold in the spring, when Mr. Green gives over the farm to the incoming tenant, Mr. Morris.

It is some years since we looked through the Herefords handy home to the Lodge by Leintwardine, where any man who can appreciate the pleasures of a country life might spend "a happy day." He shall see a fox found in one of the romantic Downton dingles, come across a cock in the covers, or throw his fly for a trout; while in the evening when he is made welcome again at BACHELORS' HALL, he shall join in a deal of talk over his glass of honest port about the white and the mottled faces, and the sort of horse—"that you don't see now"—which old Spectre left about in these parts as a monument to his memory. And Mr. Green will, now again, centre his strength on the home herd here at Marlow.

On Friday we toiled up from Knighton under a splendid autumn sun two miles, all up hill, but were well repaid by the sight of the magnificent stock that was waiting our inspection. It was certainly astonishing that cattle all lying out on the top of a Welsh mountain could be brought to such a great size—one cow, Beauty the 3rd, though suckling a calf, was supposed to weigh near twelve score per quarter. The first lot, 15 years old and lame, fell to Messrs. Smythies and Grasett for 36 gs., and her heifer-calf to Mr. Arkwright, of Hampton Court, Herefordshire, for 80 gs., which was the highest-priced calf. 130 gs. (the best price reached by any animal) was given for Duchess the 7th (lot 68) by Mr. Jones, of Shropshire. She is from the famous Dowager, and is own sister to Dauphin the 2nd, now in the possession of Mr. John Hill, of Felhampton, Salop, not him late of Golding, but a nephew of Lord Hill, the Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, who is taking a high position as a bull breeder, and who was the second largest purchaser at the Gwernaffel sale, the incoming tenant, Mr. Morris, taking the first place in that respect. Another own brother (lot 68), Dauphin 4th, is now at Marlow, as well as his half brother, Dauphin the 1st. Perhaps the most remarkable lots were the Cherries, of which there were twelve, all showing a most remarkable

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family likeness, the twelve, including one heifer-calf, made 661 gs. The cow stock, including the bull-calves on their dams, averaged £44 11s., which must be considered a fair price, as Mr. Green has reserved some of his best animals for his Marlow farm.

The only animal on which there was the least reserve was the bull Renown, who, being 14 years old and lame, nobody felt inclined to buy at 50 gs., so he will go to Marlow. The 2nd lot of bulls was Candour the 5th, a bull bred by Mr. Green, but now the property of his neighbour, Mr. Farr, who was allowed to put him in the sale. The next lot was Reform, a bull kept by Mr. Green for the use of his small neighbours, whose cows he always served at a nominal sum to prevent their keeping bulls of their own which they turn out. Mr. Green has always grown bulls for the million, never castrating a calf, and having a fixed price, "first come first served" being his motto; the bulls offered for sale had therefore not been picked over up to the time of the publication of the catalogue. Mr. Green's price being £30, and the average of those left being 41 gs. must be considered a tolerably good one. It would probably have been higher had not Mr. Preece's conversational powers led him into darkness before he finished. The chief features of the herd were their great size, constitution and flesh, and their docile tempers were remarked by everybody.

Scattered through a very large company were Sir J. R. Bailey, Bart., M.P.; Sir R. G. Price, Bart.; Major Peploe, M.P.; Mr. G. H. Arkwright; Colonel Bridgford; Colonel Price; Mr. R. D. G. Price; Rev. J. Rogers; Rev. E. J. Green; Mr. R. E. L. Burton; Mr. Heywood; Mr. G. Smythies; Mr. Thomas, Monaughty; and nearly all the leading breeders and farmers from the homes of the whitefaces.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

1 Miss Grove, calved 1859; by Vanguard (1109), out of Old Governess by Old Sovereign (404).—Smythies and Gresset, 36 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved February 4th, 1874.
2 Miss Grove the 5th, by Renown (2719)—Mr. G. H. Arkwright, 80 gs.
3 Jessie, calved October 22nd, 1861; by Shamrock the 2nd (2210), out of Lotty by The Admiral (1078).—Mr. Morris, 33 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved March 30th, 1874.
4 Jessie the 2nd, by Gift (3125).—Mr. Morris, 16 gs.
5 Countess, calved December 22nd, 1862; by Shamrock the 2nd (2210), out of Pretty Maid by The Admiral (1078).—Mr. F. C. Cobden, 35 gs.
6 Duchess, calved 1862; by Kinlet (1293), out of Dowager by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. Morris, 40 gs.
7 Cowslip, calved 1865; by Zealous (2349), out of Cowslip by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. Bailey, Rosedale, 32 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved July 1st, 1874.
8 Cowslip the 7th, by Dauphin (3058).—Mr. Bailey, Rosedale, 14 gs.
9 Duchess the 2nd, calved 1865; by Zealous (2349), out of Dowager by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. J. Hill, 71 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved December 25th, 1873.
10 Duchess the 14th, by Sir Roger (4133).—Mr. T. L. Brewer, 66 gs.
11 Gem the 2nd, calved 1865; by Zealous (2349), out of Gem by Beefy Ben (1869).—Sir V. Cornwall, 48 gs.
12 Cherry the 2nd, calved 1865; by Zealous (2349), out of Cherry by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. J. Hill, 51 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved July 27th, 1874.
13 Cherry the 20th by Renown (2719).—Mr. J. Hill, 16 gs.
14 Vanity, calved 1865; by Vanguard (1109), out of Vanquish by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. Morris, 50 gs.
Her bull-calf, calved June 11th, 1874.
15 Victor the 4th, by Renown (2719).—Mr. Morris, 36 gs.
16 Violet, calved 1865; by Vanguard (1109), out of Vixen by Beefy Ben (1869).—Sir J. R. Bailey, 51 gs.
Her bull-calf, calved May 8th, 1874.
17 Victory the 6th, by Renown (2719).—Mr. Cocks, 60 gs.
18 Lady Mary the 2nd, calved 1866; by Zealous (2349), out of Lady Mary by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. F. C. Cobden, 60 gs.
19 Curly the 2nd, calved 1866; by Zealous (2349), out of Curly by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. Bailey, Rosedale, 37 gs.
20 Bella, calved 1866; by Zealous (2349), out of Bella by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. Burton, 46 gs.
Her bull-calf, calved March 28th, 1874.
21 Beau the 3rd, by Nobleman the 3rd (3991).—Mr. Powell, 21 gs.
22 Governess the 3rd, calved December 29th, 1866; by Loadstone (3213), out of Old Governess by Old Sovereign (404).—Mr. Morris, 46 gs.
Her bull-calf, calved May 16th, 1874.
23 Alderman the 4th by Renown (2719).—Rev. A. Clive, 27 gs.
24 Kitty, calved 1866; by Zealous (2349), out of Kitty by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. J. Hill, 35 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved May 4th, 1874.
25 Kitty the 4th, by Renown (2719).—Mr. Richard Tanner, 22 gs.
26 Polly, calved 1866; by Zealous (2349), out of Polly by Zealot (2344).—Mr. Herney, 78 gs.
27 Violet, calved 1867: by Tom King (2829), out of Violet by Zealot (2344).—Mr. F. C. Cobden, 43 gs.
28 Kate, calved 1867; by Renown (2719), out of Kate by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Hughes, 41 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved March 17th, 1874.
29 Kate the 4th, by Nobleman the 3rd (3991).—Mr. F. C. Cobden, 26 gs.
30 Duchess the 3rd, calved 1867; by Renown (2719), out of Dowager by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. Burton, Longnor, 44 gs.
31 Plum, calved 1867; by Lord of the Manor (2622), out of Constance by Sir Benjamin (1387).—Sir J. R. Bailey, 43 gs.
Her bull-calf, calved July 8th, 1874.
32 Protector the 2nd; by Renown (2719).—Sir J. R. Bailey 31 gs.
33 Cherry the 3rd, calved 1867; by Zealous (2349), out of Cherry by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. Featherstone 62 gs.
34 Prettylass, calved 1867; by Zealous (2349), out of Prettylass by Cholstrey (217).—Mr. Wheeler, 53 gs.
35 Beauty 2nd, calved 1867; by Zealous (2349), out of Beauty by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. J. Hill, 61 gs.
Her heifer calf, calved May 12th, 1874.
36 Beauty the 6th; by Renown (2719).—Mr. Purdon, 31 gs.
37 Pheasant, calved 1868; by Tom King (2829), out of Pheasant by Wellington (1112).—Mr. Wyndham, 45 gs.
38 Her heifer-calf, calved July 11th, 1874.—Mr. Wyndham, 38 gs.
39 Polly the 2nd, calved 1868; by Zealous (2349), out of Polly by Zealot (2344).—Mr. Morris, 50 gs.
40 Pearl, calved 1868; by Zealous (2349), out of Pearl by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. Morris, 44 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved May 31st, 1874.
41 Pearl the 4th; by Renown (2719).—Mr. Morris, 33 gs.
42 Rosebud, calved 1868; by Zealous (2349), out of Ringlet by Grenadier (961).—Mr. F. C. Cobden, 31 gs.
Her bull-calf, calved May 23, 1874.
43 Rambler, by Renown (2719).—Mr. Hemer, 37 gs.
44 Peach, calved 1868; by Zealous (2349), out of Peach by Beefy Ben (1869).—Colonel Bridgford, 40 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved June 2, 1874.
45 Peach the 4th, by Renown (2719).—Colonel Bridgford, 26 gs.
46 Beauty the 3rd, calved 1869; by Zealous (2349), out of Beauty by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. Wyndham, 62 gs.
Her bull-calf, calved July 29, 1874.
47 Bondsman the 4th, by Dauphin (3058).—Mr. Preece, Cressage, 23 gs.
48 Bella the 2nd, calved 1869; by Renown (2719), out of Bella by Zealous (2349)).—Mr. T. L. Brewer, 53 gs.
Her heifer-calf, calved March 28, 1874.
49 Bella the 6th, by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Burton, Ross, 21 gs.
50 Violet the 2nd, calved April 15, 1869; by Renown (2719), out of Violet by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. Morris, 50 gs.
Her bull-calf, calved July 4, 1874.
51 Victory the 7th, by Prizeman (4063).—Mr. Morris, 44 gs.

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52 Vanity the 2nd, calved May 6, 1869; by Renown (2719), out of Vanity by Vanguard (1109).—Sir J. R. Bailey, 76 gs.

53 Cherry the 7th, calved March 26, 1869; by Renown (2719), out of Cherry 2nd by Zealous (2349).—Colonel Bridgford, 72 gs.

Her bull-calf, calved July 13, 1874.

54 Benjamin the 7th, by Prizeman (4063).—Mr. Jones, 24 gs.

55 Rose, calved 1870; by Renown (2719), out of Ringlet by Grenadier (961).—Mr. Parr, 40 gs.

Her heifer-calf, calved May 17, 1874.

56 Rose the 3rd, by Prizeman (4063).—Mr. Richards, 20 gs.

57 Miss Grove the 2nd, calved April 9, 1870; by Renown (2719), out of Miss Grove by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. Wheeler, 71 gs.

58 Pink, calved 1870; by Renown (2719), out of Pink by Zealous (2349).—Sir J. R. Bailey, 49 gs.

Her bull-calf, calved April 14, 1874.

59 Pilgrim, by Prizeman (4063).—Sir J. R. Bailey, 38 gs.

60 Peggy the 2nd, calved May 8, 1870; by Renown (2342), out of Peggy by Zealous (2349).—Mr. J. Preece, Cressage, 41 gs.

61 Cherry the 10th, calved May 8, 1870; by Renown (2719), out of Cherry the 3rd by Zealous (2349).—Mr. T. L. Brewer, 60 gs.

62 Governess the 6th, calved June 20th, 1870; by Renown (2719), out of Governess the 3rd by Loadstone (3213). Mr. Jones, 51 gs.

Her heifer-calf, calved May 15th, 1874.

63 Governess the 11th, by Prizeman (4063).—Mr. Morris, 22 gs.

64 Vixen, calved 1870; by Confessor the 2nd (3038), out of Vixen by Premier (3329).—Mr. Jones, 32 gs.

Her heifer-calf, calved May 14th, 1874.

65 Vixen the 2nd, by Zealous (2349).—Mr. R. Tanner, 14 gs.

66 Cherry the 5th, calved June 14th, 1870; by Zealous (2349), out of Cherry by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. Fenn, 81 gs.

Her bull-calf, calved May 28th, 1874.

67 Character the 7th, by Prizeman (4063).—Mr. Tanner, 40 gs.

68 Duchess the 7th, calved March 27th, 1871; by Zealous (2349), out of Dowager by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. Burton, 130 gs.

69 Adelaide the 2nd, calved 1871; by Prince Leopold, out of Adelaide by Deception.—Mr. Preece, 50 gs.

70 Kate the 2nd, calved 1871; by Dauphin the 2nd (3783), out of Kate by Renown (2719).—Mr. J. Hill, 46 gs.

Her bull-calf, calved April 1st, 1874.

71 Kinsman the 2nd, by Nobleman the 3rd (3991).—Mr. Older, 41 gs.

72 Venus, calved January 15th, 1871; by Dauphin the 2nd (3783), out of Violet by Tom King (2829).—Mr. Wood, 41 gs.

73 Beatrice the 2nd, calved April 24th, 1871; by Renown (2719), out of Beatrice by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Jones, 37 gs.

Her bull-calf, calved April 17th, 1874.

74 Boatman, by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Jones, 20 gs.

75 Miss Benjamin the 4th, calved April 28th, 1871; by Renown (2719), out of Miss Benjamin the 2nd by Lord of the Manor (2622).—Mr. J. Hill, 38 gs.

Her bull-calf, calved April 15th, 1874.

76 Benjamin the 5th, by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Preece, Cressage, 25 gs.

77 Comely 3rd, calved April 28th, 1871; by Zealous (2349), out of Comely by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. Bailey, Rosedale, 40 gs.

78 Polly the 4th, calved June 2nd, 1871; by Renown (2719), out of Polly the 2nd by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Nott 48 gs.

79 Cherry the 9th, calved July 12th, 1871; by Renown (2719), out of Cherry the 2nd by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Morris, 58 gs.

Her bull-calf, calved April 2nd, 1874.

80 Character the 6th, by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Andrews, 36 gs.

81 Duchess the 8th, calved July 15th, 1871; by Battenhall (2406), out of Duchess the 2nd by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Wyndham, 45 gs.

82 Silver the 3rd, calved November 3rd, 1871; by Zealous (2349), out of Silver by Albert (2380).—Mr. Beamond, 43 gs.

83 Violet the 3rd, calved April 16th, 1872; by Renown (2719), out of Violet by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. J. Hill, 36 gs.

84 Cherry the 11th, calved April 16th, 1872; by Character 2nd (3011), out of Cherry 7th by Renown (2719).—Miss Sproule, 71 gs.

85 Bella the 3rd, calved April 18th, 1872; by Pirate (3317), out of Bella by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Stone, 34 gs.

86 Kate the 3rd, calved April 23rd, 1872; by Dauphin (3058), out of Kate by Renown (2719).—Mr. J. and G. Crane, 56 gs.

87 Cherry the 15th, calved May 8th, 1872; by Character (3010), out of Cherry the 4th by Zealous (2349)—Mr. Wood, 41 gs.

88 Beatrice the 3rd, calved May 9th, 1872; by Renown (2719), out of Beatrice by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Burton, 42 gs.

89 Governess the 7th, calved May 12th, 1872; by Renown (2719), out of Governess 2nd, by Agriculturist (1842).—Mr. Bach, 50 gs.

90 Cherry, the 13th, calved May 13th, 1872; by Renown (2719), out of Cherry by Vanguard (1109).—Mr. Purden, 61 gs.

91 Satin the 2nd, calved October 17th, 1873; by Grove (3859), out of Satin by Shamrock the 2nd (2210).—Mr. Morris, 25 gs.

92 Pearl the 2nd, calved June 9th, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Pearl by Zealous (2349).—Mr. J. Hill, 25 gs.

93 Pearl the 3rd, calved June 9th, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Pearl by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Garlick, 26 gs.

94 Rose the 2nd, calved June 18th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Rose by Renown (2719).—Mr. T. L. Miere, 32 gs.

95 Kitty the 3rd, calved June 20th, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Kitty by Zealous (2349).—Mr. J. Hill, 31 gs.

96 Beatrice the 4th, calved June 21st, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Beatrice by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Morris, 37 gs.

97 Pheasant the 3rd, calved June 30th, 1873; by Nobleman the 3rd (3991), out of Pheasant by Tom King (2829).—Mr. T. Duckham, 26 gs.

98 Cherry the 16th, calved July 7th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Cherry the 4th by Zealous (2349).—Mr. G. Preece, Jun., 51 gs.

99 Governess the 9th, calved July 10th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Governess 6th by Renown (2719).—Mr. Crawshay, 31 gs.

100 Peach the 3rd, calved July 17th, 1873; by Renown, (2719), out of Peach by Zealous (2349).—Mr. T. L. Miere, 55 gs.

101 Polly the 6th, calved July 26th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Polly the 3rd by Renown (2719).—Mr. Morris, 52 gs.

102 Plum the 3rd, calved August 1st, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Plum by Lord of the Manor (2622).—Sir J. R. Bailey, 61 gs.

103 Marlow Ringlet the 3rd, calved August 3rd, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Ringlet the 2nd by Renown (2719).—Mr. Darling, 27 gs.

104 Cherry the 17th, calved August 5th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Cherry the 7th by Renown (2719).—Mr. Wyndham, 37 gs.

105 Polly the 5th, calved August 7th, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Polly the 2nd by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Burton, 37 gs.

106 Fairy the 2nd, calved September 2nd, 1873; by Grateful (2555), out of Fairy by St. Clement (2201).—Mr. Wyndham, 26 gs.

107 Gem the 11th, calved October 14th, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Gem by Zealous (2349).—Mr. J. Hill 31 gs.

108 Vanity the 7th, calved November 1st, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Vanity the 2nd by Renown (2719).—Messrs. Smythies and Gresset.

BULLS.

1 Renown, calved November 11th, 1860; by Severn (1382), out of Star by Albert Edward (859).—Reserved at 50 gs.

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2 Candour the 5th (3720), calved 1870; by Zealous (2349), out of Curly by Beefy Ben (1869).—Mr. Hall, 40 gs.
3 Reform, calved June 17th, 1872; by Character the 2nd (3011), out of Ringlet the 2nd by Renown (2719).—Mr. Kerney, 40 gs.
4 Viceroy, calved June 11th, 1873; by Valour (4221), out of Vixen by Confessor the 2nd (3088).—Mr. Hutton, 41 gs.
5 Bachelor the 2nd, calved July 5th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Browney by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Thomas, 26 gs.
6 Saltan the 2nd, calved July 7th, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Sunflower by Lord of the Manor (2622).—Mr. Shipway, 50 gs.
7 Peter the 2nd, calved July 7th, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Polly by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Powell, 30 gs.
8 Provost the 2nd, calved July 16th, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Prettylass by Zealous (2349).—Mr. F. C. Cobden, 51 gs.
9 Provost the 3rd, calved July 18th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Prettylass 2nd by Renown (2719).—Mr. T. Duckham, 25 gs.
10 Victory the 5th, calved August 8th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out by Violet 2nd by Renown (2719).—Mr. Williams, 35 gs.
11 Candour the 11th, calved August 18th, 1873; by Zealous (2349), out of Curly the 3rd by Dauphin (3058).—Mr. Newbury, 35 gs.
12 Portrait the 2nd, calved August 21st, 1873; by Renown (2719), out of Peggy by Zealous (2349).—Mr. Hole, 41 gs.
13 Governor the 4th, calved November 26th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Miss Grove the 2nd by Renown (2712).—Mr. Stone, 65 gs.
14 Portrait the 3rd, calved December 25th, 1873; by Prizeman (4063), out of Peggy the 2nd by Renown (2719).—Mr. Stone, 32 gs.

SALE OF MR. MARJORIBANKS' ANGLO-ALDERNEYS,

At Bushey, Watford, on September 25. BY MR. JOHN THORNTON.

Some years since Mr. Marjoribanks changed over from Shorthorns to Alderneys, but his second venture has not been so successful. His present herd, bred from the whole-coloured stock of Mr. Dauncey, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Duncan, was often coarse, and the prices realised indifferent, considering the original outlay. Forty-one cows and heifers made 1,406 gs., at an average of just over 34 gs.; and four bulls 107 gs., at about 27 gs. each. Gladstone, the bull used of late, is chiefly noticeable for his size; and he was sold for a price at which if he carries all that "fat within," he might be salted down. Amongst the company were Mr. Simpson, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Fuller, and Mr. Beadel, all Jersey "fancy," but they were not very keen; and Mr. Drake, Mr. Barnes and others, did more to help the sale, while Colonel Wilson and Mr. Capel took a few really good cows at the best prices. A Southdown flock, showing more breeding than the cattle, was also sold, as Mr. Marjoribanks contemplates leaving Bushey, and 405 sheep, made £889 14s. 6d. The following are the prices and purchasers of the herd, all "self-coloured," and bred from English stock.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Peach, by Bushey, out of Pink.—Mr. Mutton, Brighton, 35 gs.
Amy, by Bushey, out of Ada.—Mr. W. Jones Loyd, Langleybury, Watford, 27 gs.
Queen, by Bushey, out of Quality.—Mr. W. H. Wakefield, Kendal, 30 gs.
Young Vision, by Mr. Dauncey's Dorsay, out of Vision.—Mr J. Anderson, Wraysbury, 24 gs.
Grade, by Bushey, out of Gracious.—Mr. T. T. Drake, Shardeloes, 40 gs.
Princess Ada, by Bushey, out of Pretty Maid.—Col. F. M. Wilson, Bury St. Edmunds, 34 gs.
Mab, by Bedesman, out of Madge.—Mr. G. Simpson, Wray Park, Reigate, 32 gs.
Lantana, by Bushey, out of Landscape.—Mr. J. T. Maunsey, Barnet, 40 gs.
Lady, by Lothair, out of Landscape.—Sir J. Marjoribanks, Coldstream, 28 gs.
Lobelia, by Lothair, out of Landscape.—Mr. J. Robinson, Berkhampstead, 37 gs.
Heiress, by Bushey, out of Harebell.—Col. F. M. Wilson, Bury St. Edmunds, 68 gs.
Miss Vision, by Bushey, out of Young Vision.—Mr. Capel, 52 gs.
Heliotrope, by Bushey, out of Harebell.—Mr. Capel, 63 gs.
Maggie.—Mr. W. H. Wakefield, Kendal, 30 gs.
Sunflower.—Mr. T. A. Mantel and Son, 47 gs.
Bluebell.—Miss Lyon, Emsworth, Hants, 36 gs.
Margaret, by Whaddon, out of Maggie.—Mr. Capel, 71 gs.
Beauty, by Bushey, out of Blossom.—Mr. J. Robinson, Berkhampstead, 36 gs.
Bracelet, by a bull of Mr. G. Simpson's, out of Bluebell.—Mr. J. Robinson, Berkhampstead, 27 gs.
Clara, by Bushey, out of Countess.—Mr. W. J. Beadel, 37 gs.
Rose, by Lothair, out of Ribbon.—Mr. T. H. Miller, Singleton, Lancashire, 34 gs.
Daisy, by Bushey, out of Dahlia.—Mr. W. H. Wakefield, Kendal, 25 gs.
Flora, by Lothair, out of Favourite.—Mr. J. Robinson, Berkhampstead, 30 gs.
Landlady, by Bismarck, out of Landscape.—Mr. W. Garne, Broadmoor, Gloucestershire, 33 gs.
Sunshade, by Lothair, out of Sunflower.—Mr. W. Chamberlin, Adderbury, Oxon, 40 gs.
Viola, by Dr. Syntax, out of Violante.—Mr. J. G. Smith, Watford, 37 gs.
Magenta, by The Palmer, out of Magnet.—Mr. Ely, Watford, 40 gs.
Laurustina, by Gladstone, out of Lady.—Mr. W. H. Wakefield, Kendal, 46 gs.
Buttermaid, by Bismarck, out of Beauty.—Mr. S. Hanbury, 34 gs.
Cowslip, by Bismarck, out of Clara.—Mr. W. J. Beadel, 26 gs.
Queenie, by Lothair, out of Queen.—Mr. J. Robinson, 30 gs.
Pineapple, by Gladstone, out of Peach.—Mr. J. F. Burrell, Surrey, 29 gs.
Verbena, by Lothair, out of Young Vision.—Mr. C. A. Barnes, Rickmansworth, 40 gs.
Butterfly, by Gladstone, out of Beauty.—Mr. H. E. Gurney, Norwich, 16 gs.
Graceful, by Gladstone, out of Grade.—Mr. C. Suewing, 16 gs.
Fanny, by Gladstone, out of Flora.—Mr. J. F. Christy, Kent, 16 gs.
Quamoclit, by Gladstone, out of Queen.—Mr. W. J. Beadel, 15 gs.
Ban, by Gladstone, out of Bluebell.—Mr. W. A. Peel, Watford, 17 gs.
Daffodil, by Gladstone, out of Daisy.—Mr. T. T. Drake, 30 gs.
Lapwing, by Gladstone, out of Lady.—Mr. J. F. Christy, 27 gs.
Hyacinth, by Gladstone, out of Heiress.—Mr. H. D. Lock, 31 gs.

BULLS.

Gladstone, by Lothair, out of Sunflower.—Mr. S. Armstrong, Watford, 28 gs.
Marquis of Salisbury, by Gladstone, out of Maggie.—Mr. W. Chamberlin, 50 gs.
Peter, by Gladstone, out of Peach.—Mr. J. Anderson, 7 gs.
Lord Landover, by Gladstone, out of Lobelia.—Sir J. Marjoribanks, 22 gs.
One Jersey Steer.—Mr. H. Squire, 15 gs.
One ditto.—Mr. A. Coleman, 13½ gs.
One Jersey Steer Calf.—Mr. Ely, 8 gs.
One ditto.—Mr. H. Squire, 5 gs.
One ditto.—Mr. H. S. Squire, 6 gs.

Summary.

45 Jerseys	£1,588	13	0
5 Steers	49	17	6
405 Sheep	889	14	6
	£2,528	5	0

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SALE OF MR. DUGDALE'S SHORT-HORNS,

AT WROXHALL, WARWICK, ON SEPTEMBER 23.

BY LYTHALL AND CLARKE.

The Shorthorns were full of Milcote blood, and the sale consequent on Mr. Dugdale giving up one of his farms.

COWS.

Wild Agnes.—Mr. J. Canning, 39 gs.
Lady Hews.—Mr. T. E. Walker, M.P., 44 gs.
Lady Hews 2nd.—Mr. T. E. Walker, 32 gs.
Lady Manchester.—Mr. S. Canning, 30 gs.
Lady Diana.—Mr. J. Canning, 30 gs.
Lady Columbine.—Mr. J. Cookes, 45 gs.
Lady Worsey.—Mr. Looker, 37 gs.
Lenton Lady.—Mr. Cruickshank, 56 gs.
Lady Snowdon.—Mr. J. Canning, 30 gs.
Miss Mann and Crocus.—Mr. T. E. Walker, 57 gs.
Hanley Lass.—Mr. Looker, 21 gs.
The Queen.—Mr. T. E. Walker, 32 gs.
Miss Jones.—Mr. G. Cooke, 17 gs.
Short-Horn.—Mr. G. Cooke, 22 gs.
Cock-Horn.—Mr. Staite, 20 gs.
Lily.—Mr. Staite, 20 gs.
Miss Hinks.—Mr. J. King, 21 gs.
Rosalind.—Mr. T. E. Walker, 24 gs.

BULLS.

Wellington.—Mr. Staite, jun., 42 gs.
Sir Roger.—Mr. J. Staite, 21 gs.
Leo.—Mr. Parry, 17 gs.
The Shah.—Mr. J. Smith, 15 gs.
Cremorne.—Mr. J. Cooke, 8 gs.
The Buck.—Mr. J. Ball, 10 gs.

STEER.

Master Hews.—Mr. Looker, 28 gs.

The Shropshire ewes sold at from 50s. to 60s., the ewe lambs from 30s. to 40s., and the rams from 4 gs. to 13 gs.

SHORTHORN SALES IN LANCASHIRE.

BY MR. JOHN THORNTON.

MR. ROBINSON'S SHORTHORNS,

AT EDGE HILL, ULVERSTONE, ON TUESDAY, SEPT. 29.

The excitement naturally arising from the great prices realised at the Holker and Underley sales had hardly subsided when three other sales took place in the county. These were, although good and pure bred Shorthorn cattle, not of the fashionable blood, nor in, we might almost say, the same element. Mr. Robinson, although living within half-a-dozen miles of Holker, had pinned his fancy to the show-yard and Booth blood, and certainly brought out some very fine cows and young bulls. The Rita tribe had taken a large number of prizes at the Ulverston and North Lancashire shows, and old Rita herself, lot 2, was a very grand cow to see; on short legs, while very deep and round in the body, with a sweet head, to these qualities she added milk and a propensity to breed heifers. Mr. Robert Jefferson got her in-calf at 71 gs.; the daughter, lot 7, was, if anything, as good if not better than herself, but having been gored by another cow she lost her calf prematurely and made but 50 gs. Another good tribe came from Mr. Jon. Peel, of Knowlmere. They were of short descent, with a missing link in the son of Major, whose daughter, Principessa, by Mr. Booth's Valasco, grew into a massive cow, and left her structure and heavy flesh to her issue. Lot 6, Queen of Somerton 2nd, was quite a model of symmetry, but being in use Mr. Chapman got her at a trifle over market price. He also took her heifer, a thick, good white, at 42 gs.; and here was noticeable the large number of whites, and their general excellence. They came doubtless, by their colour and their goodness also, through their sire Prince Alfred, a remarkably long, fine, white bull, bred by Mr. Hugh Aylmer, by Prince Christian, from Chamian by Valasco (15448). This bull had won several prizes and cups, but being now in years was retained with two or three cows as a nucleus for another herd.

The best day's work, however, that Mr. Robinson did in buying, was when he purchased two cows and calves of the Waterloo and Flower tribes from Aylesby. They were sold as culls, still they had the blood, and the public appreciated it; Water Fay, a white seven-year-old cow, rather rough but very useful and a good breeder, ran up to 100 gs., and her two heifers, both white, and of great promise, were bought at 95 gs. and 110 gs. respectively, by Mr. Beattie, of Newby, who has others of the same tribe, with one of which, Warrior's Plume, he won the first prize for cows at the Wolverhampton Royal. The Flowers had bred bulls, and nice calves they were, making 63 gs., 56 gs., and 30 gs. each. Julius Cæsar (31452), a red bull of the Fame tribe, bred by Messrs. Atkinson, having been bought of them as a calf, had grown into a massive thick show-bull, and had also taken several prizes in the county. Mr. Sisman took him at 165 gs. into Huntingdonshire, after competition from Mr. Easton on the part of an Aberdeenshire breeder. The sale was well attended by a large local company, Mr. Robert Jefferson doing the honours at the lunch; but heavy showers occasionally interrupted the business, which nevertheless was very satisfactory, the total exceeding the anticipations of the owners. Some pure Leicester sheep, the property of Mr. Kennedy, were sold after the Shorthorns, at prices ranging from 58s. to 72s. for ewes, and about 80s. for lambs.

COWS.

Bridesmaid, white, calved Nov. 2, 1864.—J. Grimes, Lincolnshire, 29 gs.
Rita, roan, calved Feb. 1, 1865.—R. Jefferson, Preston Hows, Whitehaven, 71 gs.
Flora, red, calved Aug. 13, 1865.—Grimes, Lincolnshire, 46 gs.
Rita 1st, roan, calved May 11, 1867.—Richardson, Hutton, Penrith, 30 gs.
Water Fay, white, calved Aug. 29, 1867.—Jefferson, Preston Hows, 100 gs.
Queen of Somerton 2nd, roan, calved Jan. 2, 1868.—W. Chapman, Nottingham, 36 gs.
Rita 2nd, roan, calved April 16th, 1868.—Richardson, Hutton, 50 gs.
Lady Fitz, light roan, calved March 25, 1869.—John Ashburner, Ellescales, Dalton, 31 gs.
Laura Maria, roan, calved Oct. 4, 1869.—Proud, Lane House, Ulverstone, 36 gs.
Christiana, roan, calved July 5, 1870.—Toppin, Skelton, Penrith, 58 gs.
Audrey 12th, roan, calved Sept. 6th, 1870.—H. Caddy, Rougholm, Ravenglass, 24 gs.
Lily, white, calved Sept. 25, 1871.—Mr. Jefferson, Preston Hows, 45 gs.
Rita 4th, roan, calved Oct. 18, 1871.—Mr. Jefferson, 51 gs.
Lavina, white, calved March 7, 1872.—Wm. Barton, Ulverstone, 65 gs.
Eliza 19th, red and white, calved April 21, 1872.—Currie, Halkerston, Gorebridge, 42 gs.
Christine, white, calved April 26, 1872.—W. Chapman, Nottinghamshire, 42 gs.
Rita 5th, white, calved Sept. 29, 1872.—E. Wortley, Ridlington, Uppingham, 33 gs.
Water Well, white, calved Oct. 3, 1872.—James Beattie, Newbie House, Annan, 95 gs.
Lively, white, calved Oct. 18, 1872.—Jefferson, 35 gs.
Catherine, roan, calved Jan. 1, 1873.—Currie, Halkerston, Gorebridge, 55 gs.
Nursemaid, white, calved March 30, 1873.—J. Atkinson, Peepy, Bywell, Felton, 32 gs.
Lady Fitz 2nd, white, calved July 28, 1873.—Withdrawn.
Flora's Beauty, roan, calved Aug. 10, 1873.—Grimes, Lincolnshire, 31 gs.
Audrey 13th, white, calved Aug. 24, 1873.—E. Warhurst, Lowick, 21 gs.

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Rita 6th, white, calved Aug. 27, 1873.—Gaitskell Hall, Santon, 31 gs.
Water Daisy, white, calved Sept. 18, 1873.—James Beattie, Newbie House, Annan, 110 gs.
Nursegirl, roan, calved March 16, 1874.—Atkinson, Peepy, 35 gs.
Comfort, white, calved June 14, 1874.—J. M. Richardson, Hutton, Penrith, 18 gs.
Caroline, red and a little white, calved June 19, 1874.—Toppin, Skelton, 23 gs.

BULLS.

Julius Cæsar, red and white, calved January 14, 1872.—Sisman, Buckworth, Hants, 165 gs.
Baron Rokeley, roan, calved Nov. 14, 1870.—Mr. Woodburn, Sandscale, Ulverstone, 45 gs.
Royal Hope, white, calved March 31, 1872.—J. Ashburner, Elliscales, 63 gs.
Rocca, roan, calved May 31, 1873.—B. Wilson, Cark, 32 gs.
Patroclus, roan, calved Sept. 16, 1873.—Bond, Lane House, 28 gs.
Romeo, roan, calved Dec. 18, 1873.—W. Threlfall, St. Helens, Wigan, 56 gs.
Royal William, roan, calved May 8, 1874.—R. Ashburner Gleaston Park, 30 gs.
Baron Studley, white, calved May 14, 1874.—Barton, Outcast, 9 gs.
Pandaras, roan, calved May 26, 1874.—R. Riley, Sunbreck, 17 gs.
Fitzroy, red and white, calved July 7, 1874.—Kellet, Wind Hill, 11 gs.
Finis, red and a little white, calved Aug. 3, 1874.—E. Warhurst, 5 gs.

SUMMARY.

28 Cows averaged	£47	3	1	.....	£1,330	7	0
11 Bulls „	44	0	1	.....	484	1	0
39 „	46	10	6		£1,814	8	0

MR. WHITESIDE'S SHORTHORNS,

AT HESKETH, PRESTON, ON SEPTEMBER 30.

Living on the borders of the Lancashire and Yorkhire Fells Mr. Whiteside had stocked a rather small grass-farm with a few well-bred Shorthorns, to which he added some of the Blanche tribe from Mr. Eaton's herd, and two or three from Lord Fitzhardinge and other breeders. The Rev. J. Swarbrick also put the bulk of his herd into the sale, so that the catalogue was swelled to forty-two head. The day was bright and cheerful, and Mr. Drewry, Mr. Harward, Mr. Purkis, Mr. Beattie, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. McLaughlin from Duncombe Park, Mr. Taylor from Wetherly Grange, were noticeable among the company. Some of the lots were large-framed good cows, but the heifers were thin and not very even. For the best-bred lots there was good competition; Mr. Willoughby Wood taking Emily by Second Duke of Collingham from Star of Eve, of Mr. Rich's breeding, of the old Bustin blood, at 61gs. Mr. Drewry purchased Wild Rose, a Booth topped cow, of the Wild Eyes tribe, at 50gs.; while she had just calved a roan heifer-calf, for which Mr. Harward gave 37gs.; as he also took a very good yearling from her at 61gs., quite the pick of the young things. Lot 7, a Sweetheart cow by Patrician, made 70gs., and her heifer, not of great promise, 37gs., to remain in the district. Lot 16, Minstrel 3rd, a cow bred by Lord Fitzhardinge, realised 120gs., the top price of the day, and goes to Capt. Schofield. The Blanche cows were in good demand. After competition from Mr. Drewy and Mr. Harward, Mr. McLaughlin purchased Lot 11, Midnight, down-calving, at 105 gs. Her sister, a year younger, having cast her calf went very cheap to Mr. Harward at 43 gs.; but Twilight, a promising red calf from Emily, created some competition between Mr. Wood and Mr. Harward, the latter finally getting her at 71 gs.

Baron Napier, descended from the Blanche tribe on both sides, had been in use, and a level bull he had grown into, although not of large scale. He went cheap at 40 gs., and oddly enough the highest priced bull-calf, lot 40 was by a bull of Mr. Jon. Peel's breeding. The sale all through was slow, but considering the stock they realised fair prices, as some of the calves were under a month old. The average of about 40 gs. was accordingly reduced to £38 17s. 6d. for the 42 head catalogued.

SUMMARY.

36 Cows averaged	£40	11	5	.....	£1,460	11	0
6 Bulls „	28	14	0	.....	172	4	0
42 head averaged	£38	17	6	.....	£1,632	15	0

MR. THOM'S SHORTHORNS,

AT BURGH, CHORLEY, ON OCTOBER 1.

A heavy steady downpour, a place in a state of general repair, and the contractor's conveyance with the luncheon broken down two miles away, were not inspiring for a Shorthorn sale. However, the cattle were got nicely under cover in the low steadings generally prevalent in Lancashire. Mr. Thom's herd is of short duration. Mr. Davies' sale supplied several, but most of them died off in that bleak bit of country, and other herds were resorted to. Mr. Blackwell's supplied Anna 5th and Lioness, as well as some others, at good figures. Mr. Bracewell's contributed Diamond Rose and Belle Flora, and Flag of Ireland and Bismarck Baron were private investments from Mr. Torr of Aylesby. Two very fine bulls they were: one a white, brother to Mr. Boustead's show-yard crack, Flag of Britain; the other a red thick-fleshed animal of the Bright tribe. Three Gwynnes from Mr. Caddy, and one or two Lucys from Mr. Dickinson, completed the purchases for a time, and with them the herd made a fair start. But last autumn Royal Rose was bought at Mr. Downing's Sale, County Cork; as she was at the time a show heifer, and her excellence as one of the most promising of those out this season made her a general topic both in the Yorkshire and the Lancashire show-yards. Hustled by a crowd at Preston, she became very excited; and the excitement brought on premature calving, spoiling her sale and also her chances of not only claiming her premiums, but affecting her future productiveness. Circumstances, however, caused the herd to be brought suddenly into the market, and although there were many breeders present, yet the wet day kept the bulk of the local people away. After some assistance, the tent was got into fair order, and a stand-up lunch took place, Mr. Towneley Parker not hesitating to give the company a toast. For the best lots there was ready and quick competition, but for the outsiders the bidding was slow and some bargains were to be had. Several of the cows were very grand animals, particularly Anna 5th, a fine roan, bred by the Rev. J. Storer, and one of the best cows out this season. She was bought by Mr. Tindall, of Lincolnshire, for Mr. Junius, as it was rumoured to go abroad. Rhoda Gwynne, another grand cow not breeding, made hardly beef price; and her heifer, Rhoda Gwynne 2nd, down calving, was a bargain at 135 gs. Mr. Pickersgill, who was the last bidder on Anna 5th, took two of the Gwynne heifers at moderate prices; and Lioness, a fine red cow which had just calved a roan heifer-calf, was also purchased by Mr. Tindall He likewise bought Flag of Ireland at a ridiculously low price, and Bismarck Baron goes to Mr. Smith, of Hull. Royal Rose was put up at 150 gs., but there being no bid she was reserved. After the sale an offer was made, but it was reported "not a thousand guineas would buy her." Some cart mares sold fairly well, some thought cheap; and a small lot of Leicesters went mostly to the butchers.

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SUMMARY.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
28 Cows averaged	56	14	0	.....	1,587	12	0
9 Bulls "	35	4	8	.....	317	2	0
37 averaged	£51	9	7	.....	£1,904	14	0

SALE OF THE WESTERTOWN BLACK POLLED HERD.

This herd was begun in the time of the father of the late tenant, Mr. Brown, but it only arose into notice under the management of the gentleman whose death is the cause of the sale. The best blood in the herd was drawn from the stock of Tillyfour and Mains of Kelly. No one better discerned the true promise of an animal of the Polled breed than the late Mr. Brown; and to this quality was due his success as an exhibitor and the reputation in which the herd was held. At the luncheon Mr. M'COMBIE, M.P., said although Mr. Brown was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, he placed himself in the highest rank amongst the farmers of Scotland. He had left few equals in Scotland. Mr. Brown was one of his oldest acquaintances, and his confidence in his skill as a breeder was unlimited. He had examined the stock for sale, and he must, in justice, pronounce them to be of the very highest character. This stock consisted of 23 cows, 2 two-year old heifers, 21 yearling heifers and heifer-calves, and 11 bulls and bull-calves. The whole were descended from two cows, Violet (389), and Rose of Westertown (381); a two-year-old heifer, Victoria (385); and three heifer calves, Rose 3rd (925), a daughter of Rose just mentioned; Duchess of Westertown (927), and Lady Ann of Westertown (926); being the sole survivors of the herd Mr. Brown had raised at Westertown previous to its decimation by pleuro-pneumonia, caught at the Dumfries show in 1860. The most numerous were the Rose and Duchess tribes, and the latter were particularly in favour on Thursday. The highest average was brought by the descendents of Victoria. The cows realised a total of £998 11s., or an average of £43 8s.

The following is the list of purchasers and the prices paid:

COWS.

Maggie (935).—Mr. Leslie M. Cartwright, Lady Bank House, Fife, 40 gs.
Mary (933).—Mr. Leslie M. Cartwright, 45 gs.
Duchess 6th (1242).—Duke of Richmond, 45 gs.
Rosemary (936).—Col. Ferguson, of Pitfour, 54 gs.
Beatrice (937).—Mr. M'Combie, M.P., of Tillyfour, 53 gs.
Carrie (939).—Mr. Paterson, Mulben, 35 gs.
Rosa Bonheur (940).—Mr. Brodie, of Lethen, 56 gs.
Kate (932).—Mr. Brodie, of Lethen, 29 gs.
Duchess 5th (1241).—Sir George Macpherson Grant, of Ballindalloch, Bart., 66 gs.
Victoria Regina (931).—Duke of Richmond, 51 gs.
Alice (1243).—Earl of Aberdeen, 55 gs.
Susanne (942).—Mr. Gwyer, Biallid, Badenoch, 46 gs.
Duchess 2nd (938).—Mr. Gwyer, Biallid, Badenoch, 46 gs.
Rosebud (1244).—Mr. Dingwall Fordyce, M.P., 41 gs.
Violet (929).—Duke of Richmond, 30 gs.
Lizzie Ann (1240).—Mr. Barclay, M.P., 32 gs.
Rosedale (934).—Mr. Brooke, Cardney, Dunkeld, 38 gs.
Blackberry (1903).—Mr. Hunter, Dipple, 30 gs.
Rose 3rd (925).—Sir G. M. Grant, Bart., for Tomore, 30 gs.
Dandy (949).—Mr. Leslie M. Cartwright, Fife, 37 gs.
Duchess (927).—Mr. Barclay, M.P., 29 gs.
Lady Ann (926).—Mr. Mackessack, Earnside, 39 gs.
Lucy, (1906).—Mr. Hay, Trochelhill, 24 gs.

TWO-YEAR-OLD HEIFERS.

Rosalind (1905).—Mr. Anderson, Viewfield, Urquhart, 49 gs.
Augusta (1904).—Mr. M'Combie, of Easter Skene, 48 gs.

YEARLING HEIFERS AND HEIFER CALVES.

Duchess 8th (1912).—The Earl of Fife, 38 gs.
Rosy Morn (1909).—Mr. Adam, Bowiebank, King Edward, 27 gs.
Mary Anne (1907).—Mr. Calder, Muriton, 23 gs.
Rosamond (1910).—Mr. Gordon, of Wardhouse, 45 gs.
Rosette (1911).—Mr. John Grant, Methlick, 25 gs.
Rosa (1908).—Sir George Macpherson Grant, Bart, 38 gs.
Maud (1913).—Mr. M'Kenzie, Elgin, for Mr. Fobes, of Culloden, 22 gs.
Rosanna (1914).—Mr. M'Kenzie, for Culloden, 20 gs.
Duchess 9th.—Mr. Paterson, Mulben, 24 gs.
Blaeberry.—Mr. Jas. Milne, Gateside, Tarves, 15 gs.
Heifer calf of Rose 3rd (925).—Mr. Walker, Altyre, 16 gs.
Heifer calf of Kate (932).—Mr. Brown, Linkwood, 10 gs.
Heifer calf of Mary (933).—Mr. Walker, Altyre, 36 gs.
Heifer calf of Maggie (935).—Mr. Bruce, Broadland, 18 gs.
Heifer calf of Beatrice (937).—Mr. M'Combie, M.P., 27 gs.
Heifer calf of Lizzie Ann (1240).—Mr. M'Kenzie, Elgin, for Mr. Walker, Geddes, Nairn, 19 gs.
Heifer calf of Duchess 5th (1241).—Mr. Fortune, Cullen House, 29 gs.
Heifer calf of Dandy (949).—Mr. Mitchell, Balgreen, King-Edward, 22 gs.
Heifer calf of Duchess 6th (1242).—Mr. Anderson, Viewfield, 17 gs.
Heifer calf of Rosa Bonheur (940).—Mr. Grant, Ballifurth, 16 gs.

BULLS AND BULL CALVES.

Duke of Perth (357).—The Marquis of Huntly, 95 gs.
The Shah (719).—Mr. Beattie, Dunnydeer, 27 gs.
Bull calf of Rosedale (934).—Mr. Hunter, Dipple, 25 gs.
Bull calf of Duchess (927).—The Earl of Aberdeen 48 gs.
Bull calf of Violet (929).—Mr. W. M. Skinner, Drumia, 16 gs.
Bull calf of Victoria Regina (931),—Mr. Brodie, of Lethen, 30 gs.
Bull calf of Carrie (939).—Mr. Skene, Skene Park, Nairn, 21 gs.
Bull calf of Rosa Bonheur (940).—Mr. Grant, Glenfarclas, 14 gs.
Bull calf of Alice (1243).—Mr. Davidson, Lochyhill, 15 gs.
Bull calf of Rosebud (1244).—The Duke of Richmond, 60 gs.
Bull calf of Lucy (1906).—Mr. Walker, Geddes, 21 gs.

The total proceeds of the sale amount to £2,002 7s.

SALE OF THE DUKE OF RICHMOND'S SHORTHORNS AND LEICESTERS,

AT GORDON CASTLE, N.B.

The prices realised will scarcely compensate for the great outlays that are made every now and again by the introduction of fresh blood. The first lot exposed was a strong dark roan, Cairngorm, calved 11th May, 1873, and got by Royal Hope, a roan bred by Mr. Pawlett, Beeston, and out of Duchess 8th, by Baron Colling, a bull that has been of signal service in the Gordon Castle herd. Cairngorm is descended from a cow Juno, got by Monsieur Vestris, got by Bates' 2nd Duke of Northumbland, and own brother to the celebrated Duke of Northumberland. Monsieur Vestris, we may mention, was the first sire imported into the herd, and was perhaps one of the most valuable animals ever in it. Cairngorm was knocked out at 39 gs. to Mr. Thomson, Tynet. The second lot was a red, calved on 6th January, 1874, and is got by Baron Colling, bred by Colonel Towneley, Towneley Park. Out of Duchess 6th, the second lot is descended, like the first, from Juno by Monsieur Vestris. He was knocked out at 21 gs. to Mr. John Adams, Wester Unthank, Duffus. The third lot is a roan, calved 24th December, 1873, and is got by Royal Hope, out of Fairy Queen 5th by Baron Colling. He was knocked out cheaply at 37 gs. to Mr. Alex. Gordon, Mains of Tannachy. The fourth lot, red, calved 8th January last, got by Royal Hope, out of Queen by Baron Colling, was sold for 20 gs. to Mr. Pirie, Auchanachie, Keith. The fifth lot, a red, calved on 18th January last, got by Royal Hope, and descended from the cow Sugar Candy, a daughter of Almond Flower, sold at 20 gs. to Mr. George Fraser, Aquherton, Kintore. The sixth lot, a red, calved 20th January, 1874, and got by Royal Hope, was knocked out for 28 gs. to Mr. Gregor, Wester Alves. The next, a red roan,

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alved 26th January, got by Baron Colling, and descended hrough the fine Ury cow Queen, Mr. Stevenson, Durn, Portoy, purchased at 20 gs. Lot 8, red, calved 10th February, 874, and possessing the same pedigree as lot 6, was disposed f at 18 gs. to Mr. Fraser, Dryburn. The ninth lot, a roan, alved 27th February last, by Baron Colling, and out of Destiny, lescended through Queen, of Ury extraction, is of large size or his age, very evenly fleshed, and has fine long soft hair. He was knocked out to Mr. Grant, Dandaleith, for 39 gs., the highest price paid for any of the young bulls, and a figure at which also the highest priced cow was sold. The tenth lot, a ed calf by Royal Hope, was disposed of to Mr. Fletcher, Roseaugh, for 28 gs. The succeeding lot was a roan, calved 18th March last, got by Baron Colling, and descended from the cow Lustre by 2nd Duke of Northumberland, was sold for 30 gs. to Mr. James Shearer, Mains of Croy. Lot 12, red, calved 21st March last, is a son of King Butterfly, bred by Mr. Jefferson, Preston Hows, a bull presently in the herd at Gordon Castle, and embracing in his pedigree four crosses of Towneley Butterfly blood. On the female side, lot 12 is descended through the Ury cow, Queen, before mentioned. The bull was disposed of for 28 gs. to Mr. Robertson, Auchinreath. The last lot of the bulls was a red and white, calved 17th April, 1874, by Baron Colling, and out of Crown Princess 4th by Resource, was knocked out at 16 gs. to Mr. Lipp, Haddoch, Rothiemay. The average price of the thirteen bulls was £27 9s. 3d. Seventeen cows and heifers were offered for sale, but, like the bulls, they did not fetch remunerative prices. The cows and heifers were all supposed to be in calf either to Royal Hope or to King Butterfly. The average price of the five cows was £34 4s. 7d.; of three two-year-old heifers, £33 5s.; and of nine yearling heifers, £23 9s. Immediately after the sale of cattle, 95 Leicester ewes and gimmers and 45 Leicester rams were offered for sale. The ewes and gimmers were sold in lots of five, and the rams were disposed of singly. The sheep were on the whole fully up to the average of the lots exposed at Gordon Castle, but the prices obtained were scarcely up to the mark, the average price of the ewes and gimmers being £2 18s. 6d., and of the 45 rams within a fraction of £4 1s. The total proceeds of the sale amount to £1,299 1s.

SALE OF SIR CHARLES F. SMYTHE'S SHORTHORNS,

At Acton Burnell, Salop, on October 7.

BY MR. W. G. PREECE.

A meagre affair at first sight in the eyes of the Shorthorn breeder was the Acton Burnell catalogue. Just some half-dozen bulls recently used had their names recorded, while on the fly-leaf it was remarked that "the foundation of this herd of Shorthorns was laid about forty years ago by the late Sir Edward Smythe, and first-class bulls were used from the late Lord Spencer and the Rev. Henry Berry. Unfortunately about twenty years ago the pedigrees of the herd were lost, and although every animal except one, now offered for sale, has been bred by Sir Frederick Smythe, and directly descended from a fine herd then in possession of his father, the pedigrees cannot be traced further back." Now, as we happen to know, both by oral testimony of several of the performers as well as from a bundle of carefully-stored letters, something of the breeding of Shorthorns in those days when the names of Vincent, Crofton, Priestley, Mostyn, Dawson, Hill, Hampton, Pennant, and Harvey represented an enthusiastic band who gathered around Berry and drew direct inspiration from Mr. Bates himself, and when Henwood, Wharfdale, and Badsworth were household names upon the Welsh border, we were anxious to criticise in the flesh the actual existing merits of those early sires, to whose solid merits none can better testify than the famous breeder of the Siddington Gazelles. Breeders calculated carefully at that date, and with the gravity of a senate, what move should next be taken. And they were ever ready, even for a small herd, to invest fifty to a hundred guineas in a bull-calf at a period when long prices were comparatively unknown. Now-a-days, when numbers buy who have no idea what they are about except that such and such a tribe made startling prices at such and such a sale, and when every catalogue they lay hands on is prefaced with a reference to Mr. So-and-so's celebrated cow, of which no one ever heard before, men have no conception of the trouble taken in building up those old herds; of the days spent in consultation and the pilgrimages taken in search of a cross, of the high-priced postal conferences upon the next move, when it took a fortnight to travel what you can now traverse in six hours. Never was coterie kept more select, never club more exclusive, than the deliberately sanctioned elements of those early Shorthorn herds. They went then for milk no less than for the mellow skin and quickly forming beef. They would have nothing to do (we have heard it from their lips many times) with any bull whose female relatives gave less than from 20 to 30 quarts of milk a day. Now that the era of keeping a conglomerate herd, something of all sorts, in fact, bought here and there and everywhere, is passing, and men are setting down each one to develop a distinctive family, it is to those early sorts that they will have to resort. The trade in Shorthorns is increasing, its delicious interest unabated. There is necessity for a new infusion into the veins of the precious Duchess tribe to which breeders will look long as they can for their bulls. Some would use the Red Roses, some (condoning the Bridecake blot) would sanction the Grand Dukes, others state fairly that they look for a coming race. Whatever shall it be? Time alone can tell. Mr. Bates in his sphere, and under his circumstances, was undoubtedly a grand man, and had grand chances. But would anyone superstitiously deny that now-a-days such chances are multiplied a thousandfold, or that there are breeders alive who are scarcely, if at all inferior to that distinguished pioneer. How did Messrs. Bolden, Wetherell, Eastwood venture to leave this beaten course, with such success, too, both pecuniarly and otherwise? Who can forget at the Dunmore sale the distinct and exquisite style of beauty a certain Bright Eyes heifer had clearly derived from a Butterfly cross?

And in last week's paper is not Mr. Drewry recorded to have bought a Wild Eyes cow having "some high-class intermixture of Booth blood" in her? This is the right thing to do, as this Acton Burnell sale amply showed. Their bulls, recently used, had in their veins the blood of the Charmers of Booth's Crown Prince, of Mussulman, of Favorite, of Bolinbroke and the Lame Bull, all upons sort of Bates' foundation and the result in elegant type of really first-class cattle of which some dozen might have graced the proud pastures of Underley and Holker was immediately and heartily acknowledged, and those who viewed them. The old disused silver mines will, consequently, have to be re-opened. Upon our arrival we were led at once to admire the deep meaty backs of the deer, which fed up right to the very windows of the hall, which is an interesting place at first sight. The two standing gables of the ruined house, where once an English Parliament sat, close by in the park, carried the mind deep back amidst the pages of history, yet prior to Shorthorn records. Substituting "lake" for "stream," the mansion of Acton Burnell involuntarily suggests Mrs. Heman's lines:

> The stately homes of England,
> How beautiful they stand!
> Amidst their tall ancestral trees,
> O'er all the pleasant land.
> The deer across their greensward bound
> Through shade and sunny gleam,
> And the swan glides past them with the sound
> Of some rejoicing stream.

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But hastening to the well littered and comfortable folds, where our business lay at the home farm, two hundred yards off, we found a lot of cattle that took our breath away at once with admiration. We had in our pocket a commission to buy two within certain limits of price, but we were able to secure not a single specimen, so well was their true worth recognised by the assembled crowd. Every neighbour knew how correct was the statement, that for forty years they had been bred from recognised sources, and of late with exceeding care. The shortleggedness of the Acton Burnell herd was once a joke. But, in a word, the animals subjected to the auctioneer's hammer this day were of about the *most uniform type throughout that we ever remember to have seen.* A number of short-cross animals disfigured the pure-bred lot and reduced the average. Their general character was this—their colour the old-fashioned yellow, neat stylish heads well set on, with full deer-like eyes; their quarters were long, dewlap square, their backs wide, their ribs round as a cask, and their meat was put on throughout where it was wanted. They were as stylish a lot as we have seen for some time. The company was small, but there was no lingering; and the average throughout (including all pure and half-bred) nearly 30 guineas.

Taking the pure-bred tribes—five being calves—of the females—

	£	s.	d.
Four *Janettes* averaged	29	14	3
Seven *Lunettes* averaged	38	5	0
Two *Daisies* averaged	42	0	6
Three *Rubies* averaged	49	7	0
One *Chilton Duchess* (doubtful breeder)	63	0	0
Three *Lilies* averaged	58	9	0

which must be considered, under all circumstances, an encouraging first sale. A number were bought for exportation to Canada, and will doubtless be heard of again. There was a hearty wish expressed that Sir Frederick Smythe may be able to put together as good a lot again. He has the same adviser to go on with in Mr. Smith, of Drax Abbey, a gentleman of proved experience in the business.

SALE OF MR. W. BARNES' SHORTHORNS.

AT WESTLAND, IRELAND, ON OCTOBER 13. BY MR. THORNTON.

Three years since the late Mr. Thomas Barnes died, and his herd, when sold whilst passing through a severe attack of foot-and-mouth disease, averaged nearly £100. From a few old cows the present proprietor of Westland, Mr. W. Barnes, endeavoured to rear another herd; but so severe was the complaint, that most of them turned out useless. From one of them (Blossom—lot 3) the bull-calves were bred, and another, also of the Isabella tribe, produced a heifer—Princess Charlotte—which sold for 61 gs. At Mr. Grove Wood's sale, Mr. Barnes purchased three females of the Lady Sarah tribe; but these were also smitten with the disease, resulting in abortions and the slaughter of the best of them, Lady of the Lake, as hopeless by barren. A few animals were got from Mr. Reynell's sale, and were more fruitful. Royal Prince (27384), of the Mantalini tribe, that had been hired by Mr. Torr just prior to the late Mr. Barnes' death, was returned in due course to Westland, and just as he was proving one of the finest sires of the day, he too died. Mr. Chaloner, whose beautiful demesne adjoins Westland, latterly increased his herd and continued the practice so long carried on by him and his neighbour, of hiring a bull from Mr. Booth, of Warlaby. Mr. Wm. Barnes joined Mr. Chaloner in this taking, and had a part share of King James (28971), whose calves were greatly admired, not only at King's Fort, where seventeen of them disported themselves in the park—the perfection of hair, colour, and symmetry—but at Westland, where the three youngest heifer-calves, all by King James, were quite the pick of the herd. There were also three nice bull-calves, two being white, an unfortunate colour for Ireland.

The company was not large, owing to the Kells quarter sessions, but they comprised several of the leading breeders from Ireland, Mr. E. A. Fawcett and Mr. Jackson (Sir F. C. Smythe's agent) being present from England. For lot 1, Lady Martha, of the Lady Sarah tribe, one of the best Booth and Mason bred cows in the country, there was keen competition, notwithstanding that she had broken her service and Mr. Gumbleton took her into County Cork at 71 gs.; as also Lady of the Valley, a red heifer of the same line, at 165 gs. Blossom, a good Isabella cow, still slightly lame from the effects of the distemper, had bred a couple of white bulls, both of which Lord Dartrey bought, whilst the dam herself goes to County Cork. Lot 5, Duke's Butterfly, with two Booth crosses on the Barnton Rose, was small and thin, still a good breeder, as her calf by King James made 140 gs., the second best price of the day, to remain in the county as an ornament to the herd of Mr. Garnett, who also got Princess Butterfly at 83 gs., and lot 5, Duke's Butterfly ran up to 81 gs., Mr. J. M. Doran the buyer. There were some nice animals of Mr. Holmes' Fairy Queen tribe, descended from a Matchem 22 gs. cow, which he bought of Mr. Bown in 1829, and from whom originally came the Oxfords. Lot 8, Arragh-na-Pogue, was a very cheap purchase at 37 gs. (Mr. Braikenridge), and a heifer-calf, the Last Rose of Westland, a very handsome roan, with abundance of hair and great substance, also went to the same purchaser at 41gs., as it was rumoured to go to England. Remus, the first bull, a twin, had the disease badly as a calf, and never grew to any size, so Major O'Reilly got him at 51 gs. The sale quite exceeded what every one had anticipated, owing to the doubtful state of several of the best heifers; while it was helped unquestionably by Mr. Barnes' known determination to relinquish Shorthorn breeding, the average being 63 gs. for Mr. Barnes' eighteen head, while Mr. Reynell's made about £34.

SALE OF MR. WELSTED'S SHORTHORNS.

AT BALLYWALTER, IRELAND, ON OCTOBER 15. BY MR. THORNTON.

This sale took place, as usual, the second week in October at Ballywalter, County Cork. Nine bull-calves of this year were catalogued, and twenty-two cows and heifers, several of which were missers—a complaint general this season throughout the South of Ireland. For the bull-calves, which were all after England's Glory (23589), one of Mr. Booth's sires recently in service at the Royal Farm, Windsor, there was brisk and keen competition, the two just making 51 gs. each; while Lord Rosslyn, a very fine roan calf of February, ran up to 73 gs. (Capt. Butler). As usual with Irish white calves, a very handsome-looking, and well-bred one too, made only 16 gs.; but a red and white April calf of the Victoria tribe was bought by Mr. David Gibson for 68 gs. For those cows and heifers which were safe in calf, there were half-a-dozen good bidders. Mr. Braikenridge got the two best—Cowslips the 15th and 17th—both heavy in-calf, at 61 gs. and 83 gs. respectively. Mr. Stowell Garnett, after strong opposition from Major McCraith, Mr. Franks, and Mr. Cremer, of Kenmare, bought Perseverance at 58 gs. and Golden Tint at 57gs., which may be considered the pick of the heifers. For the others the prices were low, owing, perhaps, to the Bandon show and a Limerick fair, which kept people away.

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he cattle were brought fresh off the grass, and were not any way prepared for sale. The bulls averaged £43, the ghest yet obtained at Ballywalter, and the nineteen ows and heifers £38. It was rumoured that King ichard 2nd is likely to be here during the next season.

MR. R. WOOD'S SHORTHORNS AT CLAPTON.

On October 9. By Mr. H. Strafford.

The Clapton herd has been very carefully bred for the ast thirty years, chiefly from the stock at Burleigh Park, nd of Messrs. Bagshaw, Jobson, Manning, and other reeders. During this period the following first-class ulls have been used: Reo Bulla (10703), Henry 5th 19944), Britannicus (17452), Fitz Sir James (19761), nd Viscount Oxford (23151); latterly the Royal prize-inner, Lord Chancellor (20160), and his son, Lord berdeen 2nd (29055), along with the Worcester Knight 30156). Lord Chancellor was bred by the late Mr. onas Webb, and sold at his sale in 1863 for 400 gs. The erd included twenty-one cows and heifers and eleven ulls. The former averaged £39 3s. each, equalling £822 s. for the lot. The bulls averaged £35 4s. 5½d. each, naking £387 9s. for the eleven. This made an average or the 32 head of £37 16s., thus giving a total of £1,209 2s. The following are the chief prices: Cows and Heifers—Alexandra, 44 gs., Mr. J. Freeman, Seven-aks; Louisa 13th, 31 gs., Marquis of Exeter; Mysie 24th, 46 gs., Mr. J. Freeman, Stoke Doyle; Louisa 11th, 51 gs., Mr. Thomas Mace, Sherborn; Joan 17th, 44 gs., Mr. J. Freeman; Dahlia, 40 gs., Mr. Wortley; Louisa 12th, 61 gs., Mr. Thomas Mace; Joan 19th, 43 gs., Mr. Wright, Nottingham; Louisa 14th, 55 gs., Marquis of Exeter; Louisa 15th, 55 gs., Marquis of Exeter.—Bulls: Lord Chancellor, 50 gs., Mr. H. Webb, Streetly Hall; Dairyman, 40 gs., Mr. G. Hodgkinson, Newark; Duke of Aberdeen, 41 gs., Mr. W. Linnell, Woodford Lodge; Lord Waterford, 42 gs., Mr. Thomas Elderkin, Keystone. Fawsley Star, 49 gs., Mr. J. Webb, Melton Ross, Lincoln.

SALE OF THE EARL OF SOUTHESK'S HEREFORDS AT BRECHIEN, N.B., BY MR. THORNTON.—On October 7, there was a large company, and a good competition for the Hereford cattle, several visitors coming all the way from the native district of the Whitefaces, and coming to buy. Some of the best went back—as lot 1, a cow twelve years old to Herefordshire—but more remained in the North, whilst a few go to Ireland and some cross the Atlantic. Diadem, lot 7 (a first prize heifer at the English Royal), was dead, but her calf made 27 gs.; this was said to go to America. Queen of Hearts (lot 11), a grand cow, with quality and style equal to any Shorthorn, was bought for 68 gs. by Mr. T. Rogers, Herefordshire. She was the top price for females; but Desdemona and her calf made between them 91 gs.; while King of the Lilies, the bull, after some strong competition, was knocked down for 135 gs. to Mr. W. J. Britten. The 43 lots sold made £1,495 4s., or an average of £36 15s. 6d.

SALE OF MR. LYALL'S SHORTHORNS AT SOUTHESK, BY MR. THORNTON.—Immediately after the sale of Lord Southesk's Herefords, a herd of Shorthorns, belonging to Mr. Lyall, was disposed of. The cows sold cheap, and possibly the sudden thought—to avail himself of the opportunity to relieve himself of the charge of a breeding stock, which had been in existence a quarter of a century—cost Mr. Lyall somewhat dear; as the local buyers took most of the lots, at their own prices; Mr. Jonathan Rigg (of Wrotham Park, Kent), and Mr. J. D. Allen (Wilts), and Mr. F. R. Smith (Derby), being, apparently, the only English competitors. The first named took the two best females of the Duchess Nancy (same as Kirklevington) tribe, at a little over 100 gs. the pair. Cactus, lot 19, caught Mr. Allen's fancy at 60 gs., the top price made by any of the herd; whilst Duchess Annie, lot 8, the oldest of her family, the Duchess Nancy, was not offered, though a good bull-calf from her was making 34 gs. The 36 lots sold made a total of £1,069 19s., or an average of £29 14s. 6d. The old Darlington bull, Duke of Dursley (25953), was reserved. His calves were of no special character.

SALE OF MR. FISHER'S SHORTHORNS AT PITLOCHRIE, N. B., OCTOBER 8TH, BY MR. THORNTON.—Although the company at Mr. Donald Fisher's could not be called large, it was evidently intent on business. The distance was too great to permit of the influx of the ordinary lookers-on; but the English buyers who did attend were active for all the Knightley lots (the average of the Coldcream family being nearly £113 a-piece), and the results of the sale exceeded expectation. The cattle proved to be in appearance fully up to their high pedigree, having plenty of hair, good quality, and were shown in excellent condition. The names of the buyers are a guarantee for this, as some of the most careful owners of fine cattle in Great Britain are to be found among the number. Besides these there were present: Mr. Chandos Pole Gell, Mr. Lesby Combe (Kentucky), Mr. Beans (Illinois), and Mr. H. W. B. Berwick. Mr. Mitchell, of Alloa, took the chair at the luncheon. Duchess of Knightley (lot 12) made the top price of the day (280 gs.); she had three fine Booth crosses in unbroken succession—*i.e.*, Great Hope, of the Vivandiere; Lord Hopewell, of the Halnaby, and Fitzclarence, of the Blossom tribes, from Warlaby. She was put up at 100gs. by the chairman of the day, and after keen competition knocked down to Mr. W. R. Davis (Middlesex), who took three others of the tribe, "quite the pick of the herd." Mr. A. H. Longman (Herts) gave 215 gs. for Fawsley (the solitary specimen of the Rosy tribe), and a good Coldcream heifer, too, for three figures, as did the Rev. J. Micklethwaite, of Taverham Hall, Norfolk for another heifer. The bulls were not so much in request; indeed, excepting the two sires in use these were only young calves. The oldest bull, of the same tribe as Lady Pigot's Rose of Wytham had a double cross of Lord of the Valley, and went into Aberdeenshire, where they go in for reds. But Mr. Fawkes, of Farnley, and Mr. Statter, of Manchester, brought bull-calves into England. Summary: 34 cows averaged £98 13s. 9d.—£3,353 14s.; 8 bulls averaged £34 13s.—£277 4s. 42 lots averaged £86 9s.—total, £3,630 18s.

SALE OF THE LATE MR. WETTON'S SHORTHORNS AT COLLINGTREE, BY MR. JOHN SHAW, ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH.—The total amount produced by the sale was £3,700. The following are some of the best prices: Cows—Charlotte Bronte, 31 gs., Mr. J. Gurney; Rose of Wellingborough, 48 gs., Mr. R. Phipps; Sweetbriar, 41 gs., Mr. P. Phipps, M.P.; Russett, 42 gs., Mr. H. Sanders; Duchess of Blaston, 41 gs., Mr. P. Phipps, M.P.; Juanita, 38 gs., Mr. J. N. Beasley; Ringdove, 45 gs., Mr. J. Gurney; Judy, 72 gs., Mr. F. U. Sartoris. Bulls—Fawsley Oxford 2nd, 29 gs., Mr. J. Watkins; Savoy, 35 gs., Mr. J. Gurney; George Frederick, 24 gs., Mr. R. Phipps; Robin Hood, 36 gs., Mr. R. Phipps; Sterling, 27 gs., Mr. R. York; Leolinus, 11 gs., Mr. Gillitt. A good flock of long-wools and horses went to make up the total.

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LINCOLNS AT PETERBOROUGH BRIDGE FAIR (October 2).—There was a very large number of stock in the fair to-day. Bullocks, of which there was a very fine sample, made from £25 to £35 each. A parcel of 28 cows were sold at £22 6s. A few milch cows of prime quality made from £26 to £31 each, stirks from £10 to £15 each. Cart horses from £50 to £80 each, Irish horses from £80 to £185 each. In the ram fair not above 200 were penned. The Welton-le-Wold (Louth) Flock, the property of Mr. J. J. Clark, were sold by auction; one made 17 gs., five rams 14 gs. each, two 13 gs. each, with an average of £11 13s. each. The Silk Willoughby Rams, the property of Mr. W. L F. Hack, of Silk Willoughby, near Sleaford, thirty in number, are descended from the Riscathorpe and other leading Lincolnshire longwools; one made 19½ gs. and others 16 gs., 10 gs., 13 gs., and 10 gs. The Bloxholme Rams, the property of Mr. Robert Graves, nineteen in number, were sold at an average of £7. The Nocton Rise Rams, the property of Mr Howard, twelve in number, made from £4 14s. 6d. to 5 gs.; the Potterhanworth Rams, the property of Mr. Thomas Petchell, twenty in number, at an average of 6 gs. The Ketton Rams (Mr. Swinford's) were sold privately, and made an average of from 8 gs. to 9 gs.

LINCOLN RAMS.—Messrs. Mason and Son, of Louth, offered for sale by auction, in the Cattle Market, three lots of rams. The first lot offered comprised about a dozen, bred by Mr. J. L. Needham, of Huttoft Grange, near Altoft. They sold from five to ten guineas each, among the purchases being Mr. F. Turner, of Armthorpe (at ten guineas), and Mr. Skelsey, of Park-lane (three at 7, 8½, and 9½ guineas). A lot of 35, bred by Mr. John Byron, of Kirby Green, made from 5 to 18½ gs. each. Amongst the purchasers were Mr. Vickers, of Pigburn (two at 9 guineas each), Mr. Keyworth, of Marr (at 8 guineas), Mr. Milward, of Clifton (at 8½ and 11½ guineas), Mr. Batty, of Conisbro' (at 18 guineas), Mr. Hewitt, of Almhome (at 8 and 11 guineas), and Mr. Eland, of Hatfield (at 10 guineas). Some very fine rams belonging to Mr. J. F. Clark, of Welton-le-Wold, were also disposed of.

THE HAMSEY PLACE SUSSEX CATTLE.—On Wednesday, Sept. 30, the herd of Sussex stock, the property of the late Mrs. Dorothy Guy, were sold by order of the executors, when the majority of the stock was bought by Mr. Ellis. Of the cows Mr. E. Cane (Berwick), bought one five years, for 26½ gs.; Mr. C. Ellis (Beddingham), one 7 years, 21½ gs., ditto, 24½ gs., one six (with calf) 22½ gs., one seven, 21 gs., and one four, 21½ gs.; Mr. W. Mannington, one five, 20½ gs.; and Mr. H. Poole (Lewes), one seven, 18½ gs. For an Alderney, Mr. Aylwin gave £12 12s., and for a cross-bred Mr. J. Martin gave £11. Of the heifers Mr. Ellis bought six three-years-old heifers for 17 gs., 20 gs., 23 gs., 22½ gs., 23 gs., and 20 gs. respectively, and four two-year-olds for 22 gs., 23 gs., 23½ gs, and 26 gs. respectively; Mr. J. Guy bought a two-years-old for 22½ gs.; Mr. Ellis also purchased five yearlings for 16 gs., 15 gs., 18 gs., 15½ gs., and 17 gs., and a yearling (with a cross-bred) for 23½ gs.; Mr. W. Mannington gave 22½ gs. for a yearling; and Mr. Ellis purchased a weanyer for 7½ gs. Mr. G. T. Coote bought five weanyears for 10½ gs., 10 gs., 9½ gs., 7 gs., and 12½ gs., whilst Mr. Thomas gave 5½ gs. for a cross-bred ditto. For steers Mr. R. H. Ellman paid 42½ gs. for a pair of two-year-olds, and £14 10s. for one; Mr. Ellis giving 39½ gs. for a pair. Mr. W. Mannington bought a pair of yearlings for 35 gs., and Mr. Ellis three for 40 gs. For a pair of weanyers Mr. Ellman gave 18 gs., and for three Mr. Colgate (Glynde), paid 26 gs., whilst Mr. J. S. Ade obtained one ditto, and one cross-bred for 17 gs. Mr. Ellis purchased a pair of two-year old cross-breds for £44 10s., and one for £14 10s. For two Mr. Colgate gave £37 10s., Mr. Rosseter (Iford), (three lots), £39 10s., £31 10s., and £32 10s.; Mr. S. Watford (Lewes), £37 10s., and one for Mr. Ellman gave £16 10s. For the two-year-old Sussex bull Warwick (315), calved December 6th, 1871, bred by the Right Honourable the Speaker, Mr. Ellman gave 23 gs. There was a good lot of horses, Mr. Ellis, the principal buyer, obtaining a cart mare, fourteen years, for 50 gs.; a gelding, five years, 77 gs.; four years, 48 gs.; a mare, eight years, 66 gs.; five years, 77 gs.; a gelding ten years, 48 gs.; a mare eight years, 42 gs.; and a mare, eleven years 30 gs. Mr. James Peckham gave 65 gs. for a gelding five years; Messrs. Nash and Co. (Brighton), 43 gs. for a gelding, twelve years; Mr. W. Smith (Lewes), 51 gs. for a mare four years, and Mr. Botting 26½ gs. for a black cob.

MR. GIRLING'S SUFFOLK CATTLE AT RENDHAM ROOKERY.—Of the several tribes the following were sold: Gloss, V11, five years old, Mr. R. E. Loft, 31½ guineas; Penguin, V11, three years old, Mr. Patrick, 28½ guineas; Kitty, V11, nine years old, Mr. D. Burrows, 29 guineas; a heifer-calf, 6½ guineas, Mr. Burrows; and a year-old [illegible] Young Monarch (246), Mr. W. Toller, 16½ guineas; Grace 3rd, V10, five years old, Mr. Patrick, 28 guineas; Grace 4th, V10, a yearling heifer, Mr. Toller, 9 guineas; Glee 2nd, V8, five years old, Mr. Patrick, 29 guineas; and a yearling heifer Mr. Woods, of Martlesham, 17 guineas. Glee, the grandam of Glee 2nd, sold for 16 guineas, Mr. Smith, the purchaser; Gambol 3rd, V8, went for 26½ guineas to Mr. Winter; Gaiety, V8, a yearling heifer of the same tribe, for 11½ guineas Mr. Patrick, purchaser; and a heifer-calf from Gambol [illegible] for 8 guineas, Lord Sondes, the purchaser. Mr. Woods gave 17 guineas for Prince (244), a Gambol bull. Mr. Patrick also bought a three-year-old heifer, Lady Rowley, for 23 guineas and her yearling heifer for 14½ guineas; her heifer-calf went to Mr. Burrows for 5 guineas. Mr. Allen was the purchaser at 23 guineas, of Glitcham, a three-year-old heifer, and a Cherry, an eight-year-old cow, at 24½ guineas. Lord Sondes bought at 4 guineas a bull-calf from Cherry, and Mr. P. A Damant at 7½ guineas, a bull-calf from Penguin V11. The first four cows offered averaged upwards of £30, six others £26, including one purchased by Mr. R. E. Loft at 3[illegible] The year-old bulls realised £17 10s. each. The yearling heifers averaged £11 15s., and the young calves £6 4s.

THE SUSSEX HERD AND SOUTHDOWN FLOCK AT COURT LODGE, CROWHURST.—The herd numbered about 50 head, and the Southdown flock 350. The sale took place [illegible] direction of the trustees under the will of the late Mr. B. Lacey of Court Lodge Farm, Crowhurst, Battle. Two-tooth ewes (in lots of 10), Mr. T. Wood (Sidley) bought at 60s., Mr. D. Noakes (Pett) at 49s., Mr. Bradford (Charleston) at 45s. (three lots), and Mr. Newman (Eastbourne) 45s.; four-tooth ewes (from lots of 10 and one of 13), Mr. G. Shorter (Pembury), bought at 57s. and 54s., Mr. Noakes at 55s., and Mr. Witherden at 51s. and 48s.; six-tooth ewes (three lots of 10 and one of 15), Mr. Hayler (the in-coming tenant), bought at 56s., 47s. and 46s., and Mr. C. Mannington (Battle) at 48s.; full-mouthed ewes (nine lots of 10 and one of 13), Mr. Hayler bought at 44s., 43s., 41s., 40s. (two lots), and 35s., Mr. James West at 44s., Mr. Simmons (Cowden) at 44s., Mr. Marmer Rose at 43s., and Mr. Bratt (Bexhill) at 39s., Mr. Tompsett (Hailington) bought one lot of 10 broken-mouthed ewes at 31s. ewe lambs (one lot of 10 and three of 20), Mr. G. Shorter purchased at 28s., Mr. Wood (Westfield) at 23s. and 21s. (two lots); ram tegs, Mr. Bradford bought at £5 15s., Mr. [illegible] Kenward at £5 5s., Mr. W. Thomas at £4 5s., Mr. Pocock at £3 5s., Mr. Noakes at £2 12s. 6d.; and Mr. Christmas at [illegible] ram lambs, Mr. Brett bought at 44s., Mr. Robinson (Ringmer) at 32s., Mr. Hayler at 30s. and 25s., and Mr. Newington (Battle) at 30s. For Sussex cattle the highest prices were for cows—21, 24, and 31 guineas. Two-years-old heifers in calf, Mr. C. Mannington, 23gs.; ditto, Mr. Howard, Millhouse, Crowhurst, 23gs. For steers, as follows: Pair of two-years-old steers, Mr. C. Lawrence, Battle, 50gs.; ditto, Mr. C. Lawence, 40 gs.

HEXHAM RAM SALE, Oct. 6.—Leicester shearling and aged rams: Messrs. Snowball, Hedley Grange, [illegible] £5 17s. 6d.; John Sturtees, Stamfordham, two, £3 [illegible]; Ralph Cowing, Low Morley, nine, £4 15s.; Messrs. Atkinson, Bywell Hall Farm, thirty, £6 2s. 6d.; John Annandale and Sons, Lintz Ford, thirteen, £8; A. Wood, Brunkinshaw, twenty, £9 5s.; T. Barron, Hexham, fourteen (naked), [illegible] 15s.; Wm. Lambert, Erlington Hall, seven (part naked), £2 [illegible]; Thomas Bulman, Hexham, five, £5 5s.; James and [illegible] Telfer, Donkley Wood, four, £3 2s. 6d.; the executors of the late G. Angus, Broomley, twelve, £11 15s.; W. Cathcart, Beaufront Castle, two, £4 5s.; Geo. M. Angus, Matfen, Eg[illegible] House, one, £6; Thomas Telfer, Green Carts, five, £[illegible]; Messrs. Dining, Nilston Bridge, twenty-two, £11, [illegible]; Dickinson, Esq., Wheelbirks, one, £8 10s.; Wm. White, Hexham, one, £5; William Glendinning, Swinburne Hexham, [illegible] two, £2 12s. 6d.; Wm. Charlton, Linnel Wood, one, £2 12s. 6d.; Thomas White Hedley, one, £7 15; John Stoke, Stanerod, one, £4 12s. 6d.; J. S. Young, Bracken Hill, [illegible] £4 10s.; Scott Nichol, Whitfield one, £4 2s. 6d.; [illegible]

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Berwick, Prior House, one, £2 5s.: A. Hunter, Haydon Bridge, one, £3; T. Pickering, Ellfoot House, one, £3 15s. Leicester ram lambs: Mr. Eshton, Chesterwood, two, £2 2s. 6d.; Thomas White Hedley, West Rytou, five, £2 17s. 6d.; Thomas Pickering, Ellfoot House, nine, £2 12s. 6d.; George Ellison, Lead Hill, Stocksfield, six, £2 15s.; J. and R. Telfer, Donkley Wood, two, £1 17s. 6d.; H. Carr, Slaley Strothers, two, £2 12s. 6d.; T. Dickinson, Low Gate, one, £2 2s. 6d.; R. Bell, New Rift, two, £2 12s. 6d.; W. Charlton, Linnel Wood, four, £1 15s.; G. T. Dickinson, Wheelbirks, eight, £3 12s. 6d.; Messrs. Snowball, Hedley Grange, five, £3; J. B. Lee, Stocksfield Hall, twelve, £2 5s.; J. Stokoe, Summer-rods, four, £2 15s.; George M. Angus, Matfen High House, five, £5; Thomas Rowell, Slaley, three, £3; C. and T. Richardson, New Ridley, ten, £4. Leicester ewes and gimmers: Messrs. Dinning, Nilstone Ridge, five, £6 12s. 6d.; Thomas Barron, Hexham, fourteen, £2 17s. 6d.; Thomas Bulman, Hexham, six, £3 2s. 6d.; Messrs. Atkinson (including eight Shropshire gimmers), eighteen, £2 12s. 6d. Shropshires: Executors of G. Angus, Broomley, twenty-two, £3; J. and R. Telfer, Donkley Wood, ten, £2 15s.; Thomas Dickinson, Low Gate, one, £3; Mr. Cook, Hexham, two, £3; McAllum, Oakerland, eleven, £2 12s. 6d.; Jasper Stephenson, Newbiggen House, fifteen, £3. Black-faced rams: Scot Nichol, Agars Hill, Whitfield, five, £2; A. Johnstone, High Aydley, one, £2. These sales were conducted by Mr. W. Cook.

ROTHBURY SHEEP SALE, Oct. 5.—The total amount realised was £8,936 3s. 6d. Fat sheep and lambs; Meldon, twenty, 37s. to 38s. 6d.; Ryehill, ten, 45s.; Yetlington, ten, 40s.; Row, six, 27s.; Nnocklaw, four, 32s.; Scrainwood, thirteen, 18s.; Thrunton Low Field, ten, 38s. 6d.; Holystone, twenty' 30s.; Woodhouse, eight, 14s. to 28s.; Long Lee, five, 32s. 6d.; Burradon, forty, 42s. 6d. to 43s 6d.; Easington Hill, twenty, 20s. to 32s. 6d.; Cartington, twenty, 32s. to 41s.; Blagdon Burn, four, 26s. 6d.; Snitter, six, 41s.; Overthwarts, ten, 36s.; Framlington, ten, 33s. to 39s.; Caterside, fat lambs, twenty, 32s.; Holystone, ten, 11s. to 15s.; Lee, two, 22s. 6d.; Longhorsley Birks, four, 20s.; Linden, five, 24s.; North Tyne, thirty, 23s. to 29s. 6d.; Thropton, twelve, 17s. 6d.; Carr, eight, 22s. 6d. Wethers: Ingram "Pack," fifteen, 38s.; Hazelton Rig, twenty-seven, 30s. to 31s.; Clennell, thirteen, 27s.; Long Edlingham, thirteen, 36s. to 76s. Tups: Hindhope Cheviots, eight, 61s. 10½d. to 105s.; Alnham, eight, 37s.; Blagdon Burn, three, 40s. Pigs: Rothbury Hotel, three, 60s. Draft ewes—Border Leicester ewes: Hepburn Bell, forty-five, 44s.; Roseden, eighty, 36s.; Snitter, fifty, 50s.; Wooler Haugh Head, three, 45s. Three parts and half-bred ewes and gimmers: Brockley Hall, half-bred, forty-five, 45s. 6d.; Lee, half-bred, forty, 33s. 3d.; Farnham, three-parts bred, thirty-three, 46s. 6d. to 47s.; Trewitt Demesne, three parts and half-bred, six, 40s. 6d. to 46s.; Low Trewhitt, three-parts and half-bred, eighty, 41s. to 47s. 6d.; Rosebrough, half-bred, one hundred and twenty, 37s. 6d. to 39s. 6d.; Lorbottle, three-parts and half-bred, one hundred and forty, 42s. to 46s.; Crosshill, three-parts and half-bred, part gimmers, forty, 34s. to 38s. 6d.; Great Ryle, half-bred, fifty, 44s. 6d.; Biddleston, half-bred, thirty, 37s.; Netherwitton, half-bred, forty, 33s.; Colt Park, half-bred, gimmers, thirty, 38s.; Roughlees, half-bred, seven, 38s. 6d.; Ewesley, half-bred, thirty, 41s.; Yetlington, three-parts bred, forty, 41s. 6d.; Titlington Mount, half-bred, one hundred and forty, 33s. to 41. 6d.; Meldon, half-bred, twenty, 36s. 6d.; Thrunton Low Field, half-bred, forty, 43s.; Rothbury Brewery, forty-five, 45s.; Ryehill, three-parts bred, twenty-three, 44s.; Roseden, half-bred, forty-seven, 35s.; Clifton, half-bred, one hundred and twenty, 34s. to 36s.; Darlingfield, half-bred, eighty, 29s. 6d.; Akeld, half-bred, one hundred and eighty-six, 26s. 6d.; Longhorsley Birks, half-bred gimmers, 30s., 34s.; Kirkhill, half-bred, thirty, 40s. 6d.; Hollinghill, half-bred, thirty-five, 37s. 6d.; Burradon, half-bred, forty, 36s.; Burradon, half-bred, forty-four, 37s.; Brinkburn, half-bred, twenty, 42s.; Titlington, half-bred, sixty, 40s. 6d., 40s., 37s.; Thirston, half-bred, ten, 35s. 6d.; Longlee, half-bred, ten, 24s. 6d.; Lorbottle Steads, half-bred, fifteen, 32s., 35s., 25s.; Thorneyhaugh, half-bred, fifteen, 45s.; Fawdon "Packs," half-bred, twenty, 35s.; Brandon "Packs," half-bred, six, 42s.; Roddam "Packs," half-bred, nine, 39s. 6d.; Newton "Packs," half-bred, twelve, 25s.; Alnham "Packs," half-bred, seven, 46s., 39s.; Whittingham, three-parts bred, five, 40s.; Broom Park, half-bred, seven, 41s.; Follions, half-bred gimmers, ten, 30s.; Holystone, half-bred, twelve, 21s.; Barnhill, half-bred gimmers, forty, 35s.; Todburn, half-bred gimmers, forty, 32s.; Nunriding, half-bred gimmers, twenty, 40s.; Linden, half-bred gimmers, thirty, 40s.; Unthank, half-bred, thirty-five, 31s.; Elilaw, half-bred, forty, 30s., 24s. 6d.; Caistron, three-parts bred, twenty, 44s. 6d.; Whittingham, three-parts bred, twenty-four, 38s.; Shawdon, half-bred, forty, 46s. 6d., 43s.; Overthwarts, half-breds, fifteen, 38s.; Flotterton, half-breds, gimmers, thirty, 26s.; Middleton, half-bred, six, 42s. Cheviot ewes: Ingram, two hundred and thirty-five, 27s., 28s. 6d., 14s. 6d., 26s.; Alnham, three hundred and twenty, 30s., 29s., 28s., 27s. 6d., 27s. 6d.; Fawdon, two hundred and three, 23s., 22s. 6d.; Alnham Moor, one hundred, 31s.; Ilderton Dod, one hundred and thirty, 27s., 26s., 27s. 6d, 17s.; Woolen Common, one hundred and three, 20s.; Kirknewton, eighty, 23s., 22s., 23s. 6d., 15s.: Newbiggin, sixty, 24s. 6d.; Pike, forty 20s. 6d. Messrs. Dunkin and Son conducted the sale.

EWES AT BRAMPTON.—The large annual sale of draught ewes from Tarn House and Geltsdale took place on Wednesday on Brampton Sands. About 800 sheep were presented and disposed of in three hours, there being a large attendance of ready buyers. The following is the quotation of some of the prices: Cheviot ewes from 25s. to 31s. per head, averaging 28s. 6d.; black-faced ewes, the average was 20s. 3d.; and a few Cheviot ewes were sold for 36s. each.

SHROPSHIRE SHEEP.—There was a sale of Shropshires at Shrewsbury on Monday. Several rams were bought for exportation. Mr. Minton, of Forton, obtained 32 guineas for a ram; Mr. Crane, of Shrawardine, 38 guineas for one and 16 guineas for another; Mr. Thomas Baschurch, 25 guineas and 20 guineas; Mr. Evans, Uffington, 13 guineas and 12 guineas; Lord Leigh, Kenilworth, 24 guineas; Mr. Nock, Shiffnall, 20 guineas; and Mr. Wainman, Newport (Salop), 19 guineas and 13 guineas. Mr. R. Wyatt, of Acton Hill, Stafford, sold ram lambs at £8, £4 10s., and £4. A pen of prize ewes of Mr. Wyatt's realised £6 10s. each. Mr. Pickering, Halston, sold two pens at £5 each, and one at £4 5s. Mr. E. Crane sold a pen at £4 16s., and another at £4 9s. per head. Mr. Preece was the auctioneer.

SIR G. JENKINSON'S STOCK AT EASTWOOD PARK.—Ten lots of ten each of wether lambs, by Cotswold rams, out of Shropshire Down ewes, made a total of £175 10s.; ten lots of ten Chilver lambs £157 15s., and 17 steers and fat cows and heifers made up the total of the sale to £823 5s.

MR. FROUDE'S, AT STOCKLEIGH, DEVON.—The sheep offered comprised 114 store ewes, 70 ewe hoggs, 61 wethers, 111 ewe and wether lambs, and 5 rams. The ewes fetched from two guineas to 55s. a piece, the wethers about 50s., the ewe lambs from £1 6d. to £1 14s. each, the wether ditto from £1 1s. to £1 18s. The rams sold at from £2 17s. to £3 6s. a piece. Two fat sows realised £6 10s. and £6 6s. respectively, and a barrener was sold for £4. Two yearling heifers made £22 and £21 respectively. A Molland cow, one of Halse's breed, fetched £15 10s., a Jersey £11, and a Guernsey £19 10s. A large number of heifers were next offered. One three-year-old Down fetched £25, and three Appledore heifers realised £19, £18, and £17 10s., while another was sold for £15. The remainder realised from £8 to £10 a piece. The steers were sold in pairs. The first pair, two-year-old ones, were sold at £23, and the others at £21 10s., £20 5s., and £19 a pair. One steer was disposed of by itself for £12. A Guernsey calf fetched £8 5s., a heifer £5, and two heifer-calves, put up together, made £14 5s. A Devon bull, 16 months old, bred by Mr. Bowcher, was sold for £29 10s. A collection of agricultural horses came next, with hunters and hacks, several of them prize animals. A cart mare, Violet, was sold for 45 guineas. A grey mare was knocked down at 41 guineas. A young cart mare realised 50 guineas, and all the cart-horses fetched over 50 guineas each, the highest price realised being 58 guineas

THE MARQUIS OF AILESBURY'S STOCK.—The sale occupied two days, and attracted a large assemblage of leading agriculturists. The Hampshire Downs fetched good prices. A lot of six-teeth ewes sold for 70s. per head, and out of several lots of similar age the lowest price was 45s. per head. The four-tooth ewes were the best lot, realising 81s. per head, and others 75s., 61s., and 58s. The two-teeth ewes started at 80s. per head, and ranged downwards to 47s. The best of the Chilver lambs fetched 63s., 61s., and 58s. per head, whilst the wether lambs sold at from 58s. to 47s. per

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head. The cart horses brought good figures, a mare fetching 75 gs., and others 67 gs. and 64 gs. A good-looking horse, 24 years old, sold for 54 gs. Two two-year-old colts sold for 51 gs. and 42 gs. respectively. The Shorthorns originated in a cow, Violet, by Mazeppa, bought by Lord Ailesbury 18 years since at the sale of the herd of the late Mr. Hurwood, of Thirsk, Yorkshire. The best animals realised from 50 gs. down to £35, but the majority sold at between 40 gs. and 50 gs. The yearlings sold at from 24 gs. to 14 gs., and the heifer-calves from 23 gs. to 11 gs. The Berkshire pigs came from a stock that has obtained much celebrity, breeding sows realising 10 gs., pairs of young sows 10 gs., and a young boar 12 gs. Messrs. Marsh and Dawes, of Devizes, were the auctioneers.

MR. DUNN'S SALE AT INLEASE, NEWBURN.—The Hampshire full-mouthed ewes sold at figures varying from 27s. to 41s. 6d. per head; 66 four-tooth ewes, 32s. to 41s.; 68 ewe tegs, 37s. to 41s. 6d.; 32 wether tegs, 42s. to 43s. 129 ewe lambs, 21s. 6d. to 34s.; 81 wether lambs, 21s. to 30s. 6d.; rams, 45s. 6d. to 63s. A herd of well-bred Shorthorns made only a moderate average.

REVIEW OF THE CATTLE TRADE DURING THE PAST MONTH.

Nothing of importance has transpired in the cattle trade during the past month. The supplies of beasts from our own grazing districts have been tolerably good, but the quality, although showing an improvement compared with the previous month, has been various. The condition of the Lincolnshire stock has, on the whole, been satisfactory, but the quality of the receipts from miscellaneous quarters has been rather diversified. Scotland has contributed more liberally than usual at this season of the year, and the appearance of the stock has been good. From Ireland a large number has come to hand, principally cows. The foreign receipts have been on a full average scale, chiefly from Tonning. Some of the animals have been of good quality. As regards trade, a moderate amount of animation has prevailed, and the general top quotation for the best Scots and crosses has been 6s. 2d. to 6s. 4d. per 8 lbs.

The sheep pens have been fairly supplied. The condition of the English stock has been mostly good, and that of the foreign has improved. Although not active, the trade has, on the whole, presented a fine appearance, and prices have been steady. For the best downs and half-breds 5s. 8d. to 5s. 10d. per 8 lbs. has been paid.

As regards calves, the trade has been alternately steady and depressed. At one time the top price did not exceed 5s. per 8 lbs., but it has since risen to 6s.

Pigs have been quiet, and without feature.

The total imports of foreign stock into London last month were as under:

Beasts	12,919
Sheep	48,769
Calves	1,994
Pigs	3,036

COMPARISON OF IMPORTS.

Oct.	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
1873	12,897	48,690	2,465	3,465
1872	11,694	47,906	916	820
1871	13,606	47,933	1,532	2,660
1870	16,598	42,584	3,035	3,370
1869	11,496	28,282	2,365	1,902
1868	12,744	17,891	962	1,948
1867	13,061	29,265	957	2,911
1866	15,876	30,108	1,578	4,859
1865	15,344	69,611	1,952	9,135
1864	16,074	38,715	3,339	5,537
1863	11,563	37,521	1,129	2,965
1862	7,906	28,109	1,327	1,600
1861	5,577	42,538	1,207	5,315
1860	6,750	24,980	1,662	2,074
1859	6,026	24,323	784	878
1858	4,600	24,145	1,581	553

The arrivals of beasts from our own grazing districts, as well as from Scotland and Ireland, thus compare with the four previous years:

	Oct. 1870.	Oct. 1871.	Oct. 1872.	Oct. 1873.	Oct. 1874.
From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, & Northamptonshire	8,690	6,200	9,300	11,520	8,540
Other parts of England, including Norfolk and Suffolk	2,200	1,100	1,560	4,720	1,8[illegible]
Scotland	625	25	308	14	4[illegible]
Ireland	1,300	350	1,740	1,000	2,000

The total supplies of stock exhibited and sold in the Metropolitan Cattle Market during the month have been as under:

Beasts	27,170
Sheep	111,240
Calves	2,945
Pigs	480

COMPARISON OF SUPPLIES.

Oct.	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
1873	33,270	112,910	3,460	1,46[illegible]
1872	22,906	115,000	1,500	1,0[illegible]
1871	23,415	116,330	2,011	9[illegible]
1870	23,290	130,820	2,955	1,9[illegible]
1869	23,840	86,930	2,375	5[illegible]
1868	26,562	109,160	1,446	1,3[illegible]
1867	28,340	103,870	1,129	2,86[illegible]
1866	27,060	99,200	1,666	4,34[illegible]
1865	30,210	157,840	2,932	2,47[illegible]
1864	33,840	137,464	2,671	3,5[illegible]
1863	30,618	110,100	2,029	3,43[illegible]
1862	28,975	118,870	1,855	3,3[illegible]
1861	28,220	121,390	1,696	3,65[illegible]
1860	26,240	128,250	2,289	2,62[illegible]

Beasts have sold at 4s. to 6s. 4d., sheep at 5s. to 5s. 10d., calves 4s. 8d. to 5s. 10d., and pigs 4s. 4d. to 5s. 4d. per 8 lbs. sinking the offal.

COMPARISON OF PRICES.

	Oct., 1870.		Oct., 1871.	
	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.	
Beef, from	3 8 to 6 0	.....	3 8 to 6 2	
Mutton ...	3 6 to 6 0	.....	4 4 to 7 0	
Veal	3 6 to 5 10	.....	3 8 to 5 8	
Pork	4 4 to 6 2	.....	3 6 to 4 8	

	Oct., 1872.		Oct., 1873.	
	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.	
Beef, from	3 10 to 6 0	.....	4 4 to 6 4	
Mutton ...	4 2 to 7 0	.....	4 4 to 7 0	
Veal	5 0 to 6 6	.....	4 4 to 6 8	
Pork	3 8 to 5 2	.....	4 6 to 5 8	

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REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE

DURING THE PAST MONTH.

The weather of October has been very variable, there having been much rain, producing floods in the North, while a tremendous gale blew on the third week, occasioning very serious disasters. We have had some cold also, and a few light frosts, but generally mildness has been the rule, and all vegetation has been making nearly a sping progress, as the greenness of the meadows and the revival of the esculents have testified. The previous drought has therefore made the rain of great benefit, and little or no hindrance has been felt in the work of autumnal sowing and the labours of the land. The young wheat now up may, however, yet become winter-proud, though everywhere hitherto it has gone on well. Prices have by no means recovered the shock they felt on the gathering of the last crop, English qualities having further yielded about 2s., with only moderate supplies in London, and foreign fully 3s., from the continued heavy arrivals and prospective imports, while the failure of a large house in the foreign trade towards the month's close greatly added to the dulness felt. It is true on the part of growers we have some signs of resistance to unremunerative rates, as seen practically by the weekly sales, for October this year, after a better crop, only sums up 263,807 quarters as the whole, when 1873, a really deficient crop, reported sales of 287,453 quarters. The difference certainly is not great, but the circumstances make it worthy of note, and if foreign importers were equally careful not to overdo the market there would be some chance of amelioration as to prices. But perhaps the most certain, though gradual, way to effect this, is more largely to employ the use of low-quality wheat for cattle-feed, as all spring corn of home-growth is literally dearer, and Europe has not yet conformed to English quotations. France and Belgium have lately been rather looking up, and in Hungary large growers are so dissatisfied with present rates that they send to market only enough for home consumption. Danzic has picked up a little; but in Southern Russia, where the crops have been unequal., those who are well off are availing themselves of every means of transit before winter sets in to get off what they can. While American rates keep low, and with the present crop equal to the last, wheat is sure to be largely used for export if rates become more encouraging. The following prices were last quoted at the several places named: Wheat at Paris 43s. to 49s. 9d. for native sorts, white at Bordeaux 50s., Berdianski at Marseilles 47s., Ghirka 48s., red Richelle 50s. per qr. Wheat at Bruges 46s., at Liege and Brussells 48s., at Louvain 49s., at Maestrecht 46s., at Amsterdam 42s., at Hamburg, cost, freight, and insurance; 49s., fine at Danzic 50s. to 54s., cost, freight, and insurance; Mayence 46s. 6d., free on board; Cologne 45s., Berlin 40s., Peath 45s., Odessa 38s. per qr.; New York, red spring, per qr. of 480 lbs., 36s. 1d., free on board; San Francisco 45s., cost, freight, and insurance.

The first Monday in Mark-lane opened on a moderate quantity of home-grown wheat and a fair arrival from abroad, about half being American. The show of fresh samples from the near counties was limited, yet the trade was extremely dull, and, not finding buyers at previous rates, factors were obliged towards the close of the day to accept a decline of 1s. per qr. to make a clearance. In foreign there was a moderate retail trade for fine parcels of old, at former rates, but new were occasionally sold at less money. There was but a limited inquiry for cargoes afloat, without change of values. Town advices continued the dull feeling in the country wheat trade, but several places made no change. Such was the case at Leeds, Gainsborough, Sheffield, Rotherham, Thirsk, &c. Some noted a downward tendency, as Alford, Birmingham, Louth, Lynn, Manchester, Newcastle, &c., but Hull was 1s. lower, and a decline of 1s. to 2s. was noted at St. Ives and Market Rasen. Liverpool was unaltered, both on Tuesday and Friday. Glasgow was 6d. lower for wheat, and Leith 1s., but a demand for seed at Edinburgh kept up prices. Dublin found but a slow sale for Irish qualities, yet a steady demand existed for foreign, at unaltered rates.

On the second Monday there was a fair supply of English wheat, and the quantity of foreign was nearly double, three-fourths being American, and the remainder from Russia. The exhibition of English samples this morning was small, and a firmer feeling was apparent in response to the country markets of Saturday, but no advance was realised, neither was there any activity in the demand, so much foreign being on offer. A retail demand for this latter obtained at previous rates for red sorts, and fine white occasionally obtained 1s. advance. Though but few floating cargoes were on the market, prices were in buyers' favour. The features of the wheat trade in the country were a stoppage in any further decline, while a rise of 1s. was reported at Brigg, Louth, Melton Mowbray, Manchester, &c. Liverpool was firm at both markets, Friday's being rather dearer for red American. Leith was again reported 1s. cheaper, and Glasgow 6d. to 1s., but Edinburgh only continued dull. A demand for Irish wheat was experienced at Dublin, but foreign was less in request, though unaltered in value.

On the third Monday the English supply was about the usual average, and the foreign plentiful, though rather less than the week previous. The fresh samples of English growth were not numerous yet there was but a quiet trade, at the previous rates. Old foreign went off steadily at the former currency but new American was rather in buyers' favour where pressed ex ship. Though the number of floating cargoes was limited, prices were unchanged. The wheat trade this week in the country was steady with very little alteration, and that upward in its tendency, and at Hull, Rotherham, Thirsk, &c., it was 1s. dearer. Liverpool on Tuesday noted an improvement of 1d. to 2d. per. cental on fine qualities. On Friday the market was the same. The wheat trade at Edinburgh was dull but not lower. Glasgow found but a slow sale. At Aberdeen no wheat was offered. Dublin found but a limited inquiry for native wheat, and Black Sea qualities gave way 6d. per barrel.

On the fourth Monday the English supplies were somewhat lessened, but the foreign were largely increased; chiefly from Russia and America, with a free scattering from various ports. Not many fresh samples were exhibited during the morning on the English stands, and the dampness of the weather had rather affected the condition. Business was excessively dull and sales could only be made by a concession of 1s. per. qr., a heavy failure in the foreign trade having almost paralysed the market. New American red was quite as much lower and to sell generally it was neccessary to make the same reduction. Floating cargoes also, though not numerous, tended downwards.

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The arrivals in London for four weeks were 29,544 qrs. English wheat, 164,487 qrs. foreign, against 26,026 qrs. English, 194,619 qrs. foreign in 1873. The arrivals into the kingdom for the four weeks ending 17th October were 3,397,940 cwts. wheat, 336,424 cwts. flour, against 3,296,174 cwts. wheat, 505,114 cwts. flour in 1873. The London exports were 4,493 qrs., against 18,167 qrs. in 1873. The London averages commenced at 47s. 7d., and closed at 47s. 3d. The general averages opened at 46s. 9d., and finished at 43s. 10d.

The flour trade has ruled dull and declining, but the first Monday was the worst, when town millers let down the top price 4s., making it 43s. per sack; while country descriptions were 1s. to 2s. lower, and foreign also about 1s. per sack and barrel. Since then there has been no rally, but prices have not been further reduced, Norfolks being worth 31s., and barrels 24s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. for mixing, but the finest qualities in Paris were not worth over 37s. per sack, and at New York extra State barrels were only quoted 20s. 1d.

The receipts of maize have been extremely light, but grinding barley being very abundant and seriously declining, it was impossible that this grain, though scarce, could maintain its price, and it has given way 1s. 6d. per qr., best mixed American not being worth over 35s., and round 36s. 6d. The arrivals into London for four weeks were 10,078 qrs., against 46,647 qrs. in 1873.

The arrivals of malting barley of home growth have been gradually increasing, but so small has been the proportion of fine that it has about maintained its price, say 45s. to 48s., but secondary French has given way 5s., and grinding sorts, from the Black Sea especially, have continued so abundant that it has been down 1s. per qr. every Monday's market, till rates are now lower than oats, say 25s. per qr., at 50lbs. per bushel; and as large shipments are still on their way, we see nothing to revive the trade, but rather a further decline, unless it should enter largely into consumption for horse-food as a substitute for oats, though lately there has been some foreign inquiry. The supplies of all sorts for London were 14,599 qrs. English, 131,892 qrs. foreign, against 15,857 qrs. English, 69,882 qrs. foreign in 1873.

The malt trade, with more new samples showing, has ruled dull, and rather cheaper for inferior qualities, though fine old has about maintained its price.

The supplies of foreign oats during the four weeks were fair, but scarcely more than half the arrivals in September; the surplus, however, of that time has kept prices quiet, and indeed on the first Monday there was a decline of 6d., which now seems likely to be soon cancelled, as the final Monday was short of an average. Rates, therefore, have been little changed since our last, and we cannot look for much reduction, as all over the Continent the drought was felt and sent up the value of this grain. The London receipts for four weeks were 4,750 qrs. English, 395 qrs. Scotch, 165,144 qrs. foreign, against 10,718 qrs. English, 790 qrs. Scotch, 722 qrs. Irish, 121,178 qrs. foreign for the same time in 1873.

The tendency of beans has certainly been upwards, but they have been kept from rising by the increased arrivals from abroad, though little can be expected from Egypt, and none from Morocco, from whence there is a prohibition to exports. The London supplies in four weeks were 4,442 qrs. English, 9,491 qrs. foreign, against 4,343 qrs. English, 9,013 qrs. foreign in 1873.

The supplies of English peas have only been moderate, and the foreign arrivals short, but the plentifulness of low barley has limited the demand for hog feed, and the warm weather has been 1s. against white boilers. The imports into London for four weeks were 4,469 qrs. English, 1,213 qrs. foreign, against 3,527 qrs. English, 1,595 qrs. foreign in 1873.

With moderate arrivals of linseed, this grain, without any stir, has kept its value. Receipts 15,551 qrs., against 24,557 qrs. in 1873.

With the belief in a poor crop of cloverseed holders of the small stock on hand were not willing to part with it on rates easy enough to satisfy speculators; so scarcely anything has been doing. Winter tares also have maintained their value—say 9s. per bushel.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES

For the week ended Oct. 17, 1874.

Wheat	56,188	qrs.	43s. 10d.
Barley	77,073	,,	42s. 8d.
Oats	3,420¼	,,	27s. 2d.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES.

Years.	WHEAT. Qrs.	s.	d.	BARLEY. Qrs.	s.	d.	OATS. Qrs.	s.	d.
1870	86,106¾	47	10	72,022¾	36	7	4,317¾	22	5
1871	73,767¼	56	6	52,420	36	10	4,047¼	23	2
1872	62,961¼	58	8	51,579¼	42	11	3,850¼	23	3
1873	68,967¾	60	2	72,992¼	43	1	5,023¼	24	2
1874	56,188	43	10	77,072	42	8	3,420¼	27	2

AVERAGES

For the Six Weeks ending	Wheat. s.	d.	Barley. s.	d.	Oats. s.	d.
Sept. 12, 1874	47	2	43	2	28	6
Sept. 19, 1874	46	8	42	5	27	2
Sept. 26, 1874	46	9	41	11	27	9
Oct. 3, 1874	46	1	42	4	27	4
Oct. 10, 1874	44	8	42	7	27	11
Oct. 17, 1874	43	10	42	8	27	2
Aggregate of the above	45	10	42	6	27	6
The same period in 1873	62	9	44	3	26	5

LONDON AVERAGES.

Wheat	5,399	qrs.	47s. 3d.
Barley	2,321	,,	42s. 5d.
Oats	—	,,	—s. 0d.

CORN IMPORTED AND EXPORTED

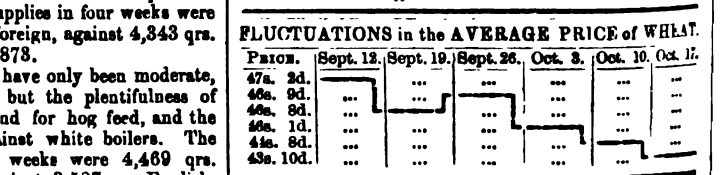
For the week ending Oct. 17.

	Imported into Engl'd.	Scotl'd.	Ireland.	Exported. British.	Foreign
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Wheat	463832	168728	284964	8676	1315
Barley	365581	30814	...	46	5
Oats	145748	...	...	3463	1064
Rye	9711	27700	...	...	...
Peas	16198	439	...	784	...
Beans	77756	22558	...	18	...
Indian Corn	160866	...	72347	...	...
Buckwheat	80	...	...	...	...
Total	1239766	250239	357311	12989	2387
Wheat Flour	27699	32524	1312	1198	235
Oat Meal	...	...	...	225	...
Rye Meal	...	...	...	...	...
Pea Meal	...	...	...	...	...
Ind'n Corn Meal	...	...	...	...	...
Total	27699	32524	1312	1418	235
Grand Total	1267465	282763	358623	14407	2622
Malt ... qrs.	...	...	...	803	...

FOREIGN GRAIN ENTERED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION during the week ending Oct. 23.

Wheat	cwts.	286439	Peas	cwts.	—
Barley	,,	94332	Maize	,,	31
Oats	,,	90950	Flour	,,	15718
Beans	,,	6717			

FLUCTUATIONS in the AVERAGE PRICE of WHEAT.



Printed by Watson and Hazell, 265, Strand, London, W.C.

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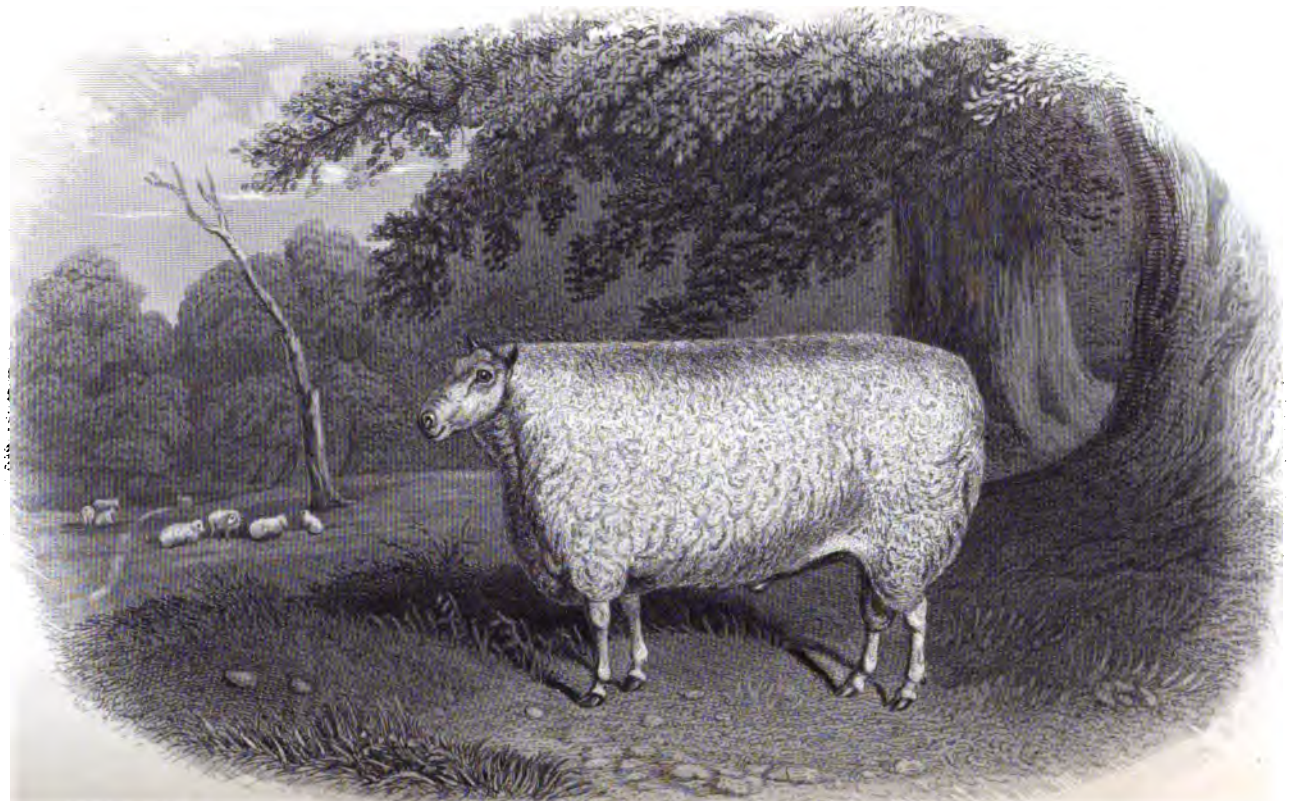

Engraved by F. Mackin

A Prize Leicester.

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PLATE III.

A PRIZE LEICESTER:

The Property of Mr. T. H. Hutchinson, of Manor House, Catterick.

This ram, now a two-shear, bred by Mr. Hutchinson, and known as Prince Charlie, is by Borton's Blair Athol, a Royal and All-Yorkshire first-prize sheep, out of a ewe from the Barton flock, also by a Royal ram.

In 1873, as a shearling, Prince Charlie took first prizes at the following shows: Doncaster, Ripon, Driffield, Crook, Thirsk, The Highland Society, Royal North Lancashire (Chorley), Keighley, Durham County, Richmondshire, Manchester and Liverpool (Chester), Northallerton, Barnard Castle, and Wetherby. In 1874 he was second at Doncaster, and first at Ripon, Malton, Driffield, Bishop Auckland, Durham County, Manchester and Liverpool (Staleybridge), Northallerton, Wetherby, and first at the Yorkshire Show at Sheffield, beating, amongst others, the second and third Royal sheep, thus making a total of 23 first prizes.

Last season this ram was used at home, although many tempting offers had been refused for his hire. This year he has been, with two others, let to Mr. James Hall, of Scorbro, master of the Holderness hounds, one of the best judges of a Leicester in England and the largest ram-breeder in Yorkshire. Prince Charlie has brought his owner upwards of £220 in prizes, exclusive of his services in 1873. His half-brother was sold last year with another shearling to the Hon. C. Sladen, Green Vale, Victoria, for 200 gs.; while his dam has bred sheep which have made upwards of £500 in prizes and letting. Mr. Hutchinson's Leicesters have become great favourites with foreigners, and of late years many have been shipped to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Holland, Belgium, France, and Germany. During the last two years sheep from the Manor House flock have gained upwards of 100 prizes, and won £443 13s. in the principal show-yards of England. At Bedford we spoke of the Catterick ewes as a very neat, uniform lot, symmetrical in their frames and of good thoroughbred character; while Prince Charlie is quite a prize sheep, what with his blood-like head, thick neck, wide loins, long hind-quarters, capital thighs, and bold carriage, backed by a heavy fleece of fine quality.

THE OPENING OF THE WINTER SESSION IN LONDON.

Rarely in the memory of man has there been so delightful or, at the same time, so dreary an autumn. The agricultural labourer has much to answer for, as he has overlaid alike rural gatherings and learned disquisitions; and if ever a topic were talked out, it has been his "condition." At the Farmers' Club, indeed, on the Monday evening Mr. James Howard fairly apologised for once more bringing such a thing forward. Had he foreseen how, morning after morning, special commissioners would have been giving "graphic accounts of village life," Mr. Howard himself might have shrunk from the subject. But the Club lecturer might have gone yet further when speaking to the way in which he had been anticipated. The landlords and county members have pretty generally taken refuge here; merely glancing at other agricultural questions, they have grown eloquent over the labour difficulty, as they counselled mutual concessions between master and servant. The squire, however, has found that it would not do to stop short at this point, but has commonly gone on to admit his share in the adjustment, and to speak to the necessity for more care being given to cottage accommodation and home comforts. In a word, the sanitary reform of our villages come as well-timed as many of the subjects at The Farmers' Club frequently fall, and the discussion cannot but do good, the more especially perhaps through the examples cited from Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire. Landowners will learn to show not merely their stables, their kennels and their homesteads, but their cottages; as, on the other hand, the labourer will himself be required to look a little more carefully to his own condition. There is no doubt but country folks have something like an indifferene to the enjoyment of such blessings as fresh water and pure air; and the tenour of the discussion on Monday went to show that the villager himself was but too often an obstacle to the sanitary reform of Our Village, as dear Miss Mitford wrote it long before the dawn of Mr. Howard. Coming from the quarter it did, all the main features were sketched in the opening paper; but the debate threatened to get wild at the very outset, as with Mr. Hope the very mention of sewage—

> That well-known name awakens all his woes.

And it was only a thoroughly practical speech from Mr. Treadwell that diverted the discourse again into its proper channel. We give a full report "upon authority," the day's proceedings being pointed by a very popular appointment—that of Dr. Voelcker to the Chairmanship of the Club for 1875, upon which we shall ask our contemporary, *The*

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Agricultural Gazette, to say more: "The London Farmers' Club have elected Dr. Augustus Voelcker, F.R.S., as their President for the coming year. Proving both life and vigour by stepping thus boldly out of the field from which their selections have hitherto been made, they have done honour both to themselves and to the scientific side of agriculture by a choice which will certainly bring into prominence, during their ensuing session, the importance of the agricultural aids which are offered by the student of science." In fact, the Committee may be congratulated on carrying out the motto of a kindred society, and strengthening the union between SCIENCE AND PRACTICE.

At the meeting of the Council of this said Society in Hanover-square on Wednesday, a very strong feeling was expressed as to the desirability of breaking through the bonds of the charter, which, as Mr. Holland, the ex-president, well said, "was more than a quarter of a century old, and since it was granted times and feelings had changed." Lord Lichfield, however, as the moving spirit, broached a resolution which should "bring members of the Council into more frequent communication with members of the Society," and permit the discussion of "measures of a practical agricultural nature, although pending or to be brought forward in either of the Houses of Parliament." And as all this was carried unanimously the shades of Colonel Challoner and Mr. Raymond Barker will surely shudder at such astounding revolutions. Then, Lord Cathcart went so far as to characterise the general meetings as "shams"—as shams they will continue to be if the proceedings are not considered worth reporting, an omission which we have already dwelt on in our notice of the new number of the Society's *Journal*. However, the demonstration at Bedford has already been attended with other good effects, as a large proportion of the judges for the next Smithfield Club show, as appointed during the week, are new men. "Times," as Mr. Holland has it, "have changed" here also since they rang the changes of Steward and Judge, and Judge and Steward over each others' heads.

"The consideration of reform in Local Government will continue to demand the care and investigation of the Local Taxation Committee. The irregularity of existing divisions, the confusion of jurisdiction, and the multiplication of authorities are all evils for which a remedy is urgently demanded. A proper classification of local and imperial duties should, in their opinion, be followed by careful inquiry as to the areas, constitution, and duties of the local governing bodies, so as to ensure not only *efficient representation to the local taxpayer*, but wise and economic administration. The promises of the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the possibility of ultimately handing over to *local authorities* some branch of the general revenue will have to be steadfastly kept in view." So says the annual report of the Local Taxation Committee of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, as just issued; and if this be really intended to mean anything, it must mean a movement for the establishment of County Boards, already foreshadowed by Mr. Sewell Read. Accordingly, at the meeting of the Chamber, on Tuesday, the very mention of County Boards, so far as we can see, was carefully avoided; while the Council appeared to be quite at sea as to any other system of administration. Thus, the Business Committee in their *No.* 6 resolution proposed that all roads should be "under the management of Highway Boards," but these words were omitted when the resolution was put before the full meeting, and, on being replaced through an amendment, were again struck out by 14 to 13. The divisions, in truth, were close and continual, as the report, which we give with something of an apology for so doing, will show. This, however, can convey no proper notion of the hopeless muddle and utter confusion of the proceedings; as a contemporary, who perhaps with more discretion cut it down, says, "to every resolution nearly every person spoke twice, and several three and four times. The resolutions were in no case put until the entire patience of the meeting was gone, and the room resounded with cries of *Divide—for pity's sake, divide.*" We prefer to quote thus much, as our own opinion of the administrative ability displayed by the Council of the Central Chamber of Agriculture has long been known. Such agricultural exhibitions are happily not common.

As we intimated some months since, the Shorthorn Committee has been unable to come to terms for the purchase of *The Herd Book* from Mr. Strafford, who insisted on appointing his successor as editor, although the person named by him declined to act on such nomination. It is still satisfactory to see that the establishment of the Shorthorn Society, an institution much needed, will be proceeded with. There is only further to notice in the business of the past week the lecture delivered through its new chairman by the Council to the subscribers to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. It would appear to be considered very improper to take any notice of any merely general complaints, whereas we should have thought it the duty of the direction to ascertain, for its own sake, how much or how little complaint was warranted.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

MONTHLY COUNCIL, *Wednesday, Nov.* 4, 1874.—Present: Viscount Bridport, president, in the chair, the Duke of Bedford, Earl Cathcart, the Earl of Lichfield, Lord Chesham, Lord Kesteven, Lord Tredegar, the Hon. W. Egerton, M.P., Sir Massey Lopes, Bart., M.P, Sir A. K. Macdonald, Bart., Mr. Barnett, Mr. Booth, Mr. Bowly, Mr. Cantrell, Mr. Dent, Mr. Druce, Mr. Edmonds, Mr. Brandreth Gibbs, Mr. Hemsley, Mr. T. Horley, jun., Mr. Holland, Mr. Hornsby, Col. Kingscote, M.P., Mr. Bowen Jones, Col. Loyd Lindsay, M. P., Mr. McIntosh, Mr. Masfen, Mr. Milward, Mr. Ransome, Mr. Ridley, M.P., Mr. Rigden, Mr. Sanday, Mr. G. Turner, Mr. Jabez Turner, Mr. Wakefield, Mr. Welby, M.P., Mr. Wells, Mr. Jacob Wilson, Mr. Whitehead, and Dr. Voelcker.

The following new members were elected:

Adams, George, Pidwell Farm, Faringdon.
Barwell, Thomas, Spalding Common, Lincoln.
Best, Captain John Charles, Plas-yn-Vivod, Llangollen.
Brown, George Fowler, Newton, Desford, Leicester.
Burrs, William, Pomfret, Ashford, Kent.
Callan, Philip, Dowdstown, Ardee, Louth, Ireland.
Cummins, Edward Russell, Enfield, Middlesex.
Elkins, William, Elkington, Yelvertoft, Rugby.
Gartside, William, Smethcott, Wroxeter, Shrewsbury.
Gibbons, George, Tunley Farm, Bath.
Griffith, Charles Marshall, Llwyndurio, Llandyssil, South Wales.
Horner, George Wood, Athelhampton Hall, Dorchester.
Hosegood, Obed, Dellington, Iliminster.
Ingham, John, Marr, Doncaster.
James, James, Les Vauxbelets, Guernsey.
Keane, Richard F., Derriheen, Cappoquin, Co., Waterford.
Kennard, Rev. R. B., Marnhull, Blandford.
Langham, Herbert Hay, Cottesbrooke Park, Northampton.
Lyon, William, Arlington Manor, Newbury, Berks.
Morgan, Charles Elliot, Flatts House, Bishop Auckland.

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Phillips, Thomas Henry, Brooklands Farm, Perry Barr, Staffs.
Reynolds, William Smith, Spalding Common, Lincoln.
Robinson, William Walker, Southfield House, Sedgefield, Ferryhill.
Smith, Henry, jun., The Grove, Cropwell Butler, Bingham.
Starkie, Major L. N., Huntroyde, Burnley, Lancashire.
Stephenson, Robert, Brierton, Greatham, Durham.
Wheeler, Rowland, Steephill Farm, Ventnor, Isle of Wight.
Young, Captain F., The Terrace, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

FINANCES.—Colonel KINGSCOTE, M.P., presented the report, from which it appeared that the Secretary's receipts during the past three months had been duly examined by the committee, and by Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., the society's accountants, and found correct. The balance in the hands of the bankers on Oct. 31, was £622 6s. 10d. The quarterly statement of subscriptions and arrears to Sept. 30, and the quarterly cash account, were laid on the table. The arrears then amounted to £1,372.

The Committee recommended that the Secretary be instructed to take the necessary steps to sell out of the funded property of the Society, the sum of £3,000, to meet the excess of expenditure over receipts at the Bedford meeting.

The Committee directed the attention of the Council to the constantly increasing expenditure in connection with the country meetings. At present the expenditure on show-yard plant exceeds £6,000 per annum; that on trials of implements exceeds £2,000; the stock prizes and expenses of judges, forage, and other matters connected with the exhibition of stock, costs £5,000 per annum: printing, advertising, and bill-posting exceeds £1,000; while sundry matters bring the total to over £15,000. The Committee, therefore, suggested that the attention of the stock prizes, the implement, and the show-yard contract committees be specially drawn to this subject.

The ordinary receipts of the society have of late exceeded the expenditure by about £1,000 per annum, but the recent increase in the grants for education, potato investigations, and farm prize competitions, have now deprived the society of this aid towards supplying the deficiency in the show-yard receipts; it is, therefore, more than ever necessary that the expenses of the country meetings should be reduced, if possible.

With reference to the suggestion proposed by this Committee in August last, that local agents should be appointed throughout the country, for the purpose of increasing the number of members of the society, the committee recommended that the secretary be instructed to communicate with each member of council requesting nominations of suitable persons in their several counties.

Mr. Milward regarded the final paragraph of this report as derogatory to the society, and moved that it be cancelled, and Mr. Masfen seconded this proposition, which was supported by Mr. Jacob Wilson and Mr. Dent Dent, who hoped that the expenditure of the society on the country meetings would be reduced, but not that on experiments, education, or farm prizes. Lord Cathcart having asked a question as to the cost of the new dynamometer, which was replied to by Mr. Booth and Mr. Brandreth Gibbs, the paragraph in question was expunged, and the remainder of the report adopted.

GENERAL TAUNTON.—Lord Kesteven reported that Mr. J. S. Bult had been appointed steward of forage for the Taunton meeting, and had accepted the appointment. The Committee had consulted the members of the Taunton local committee, who were of opinion that Exmoor and Dartmoor sheep should be shorn before exhibition, and not shown in their wool as at Plymouth; the Committee recommended that this opinion be acted upon, and that copies of the proof of the stock prize sheet be sent to the local committee when printed. They also recommended that Mr. G. Turner and Mr. J. Hemsley be added to the Committee. This report was adopted.

STOCK PRIZES.—Mr. Milward (chairman) reported that the Committee recommended several alterations in the Bedford prize sheet for adoption by the Council for the Taunton meeting, and that the proposed new prize sheet be printed and taken into consideration in December. This report was adopted after a conversation, in the course of which Mr. Dent suggested the omission of prizes for Suffolk horses and hunters over four years old; Mr. Wells, the omission of the Clydesdale classes, Lord Cathcart the fixing of a superior limit of six years at the age for hunters; and Mr. Masfen, that the local committee might take up some of the classes.

Mr. Wakefield gave notice that at the December meeting he would move that no prizes be given for hunters over six years old.

REPORT OF JOURNAL COMMITTEE.—Mr. J. Dent Dent (chairman) reported that the committee, in placing upon the table the autumn number of the *Journal*, regretted the delay in its publication, which had been caused by the heavy work falling upon the reporter of the implement trials. No less than 370 implements, in 33 classes, in addition to those entered for the special prizes given for guards for thrashing-machines, had been tried and reported upon. This had also caused a considerable increase in the cost of the *Journal*, both in printing and in illustrations.

The committee recommended payments amounting to £859 18s.

There are 17 entries for farms in the three classes for Somersetshire, as follows:

CLASS I.—HILL FARMS.

George Babbage, of Nettlecombe, Taunton.
Joseph King, of Norton Hautville, Bristol.

CLASS II.—DAIRY FARMS.

Cornelius Collins, of Orchard Leigh, Frome.
Robert A. Day, of Ubley Farm, Bristol.
George Gibbons, of Tunley Farm, Bath.

CLASS III.—OTHER FARMS.

Alfred Bowerman, of Capton Farm, Williton, Taunton.
William Bullen, of Crewkerne.
Wm. Thomas Culverwell, of Durleigh Farm, Bridgwater.
John G. Davis, of Blagroves Farm, Milverton, Taunton.
Thomas Hembrow, of Stoke St. Gregory, Taunton.
Obed Hosegood, of Dillington Farm, Ilminster.
John R. Keen, of Chewton Mendip, Wells.
Thos. M. Lang, of Barrington Court, Ilminster.
James Mead, of Curry Mallett, Taunton.
Messrs. Musgrave and Sons, of Pyrland, Taunton.
Edward Paget, of Burnett, Bristol.
Thos. P. Waltham, of Spaxton Court Farm, Bridgwater.

Mr. Little, of Lanhill, Chippenham; Mr. Thomas Outhwaite, of Goldboro', Knaresboro'; and Mr. Bowen Jones, of Ensdon, Shrewsbury, had accepted the office of judge; and Mr. Bowen Jones will write the report. The committee trust that the first inspection will take place during the present month. This report was adopted.

MEMBERS' SUGGESTION SPECIAL COMMITTEE.—Mr. M. W. Ridley, M.P. (chairman), reported that the committee had met and considered the various suggestions referred to them. Many of these being of some importance they recommended that the suggestions and the decisions hitherto arrived at be printed for circulation among the members of the committee, in order that they may be revised if necessary, and a report presented to the December Council. This report was adopted.

POTATO DISEASE.—Mr. C. WHITEHEAD, chairman, presented the following report: The judges appointed to inspect the growth of the six varieties of potatoes which

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were entered for competition as disease-proof, and planted in trial plots in twenty different places in England, Scotland, and Ireland, have reported that none of the varieties have resisted the potato disease. During the period of vigorous growth, in all the varieties, in five out of the twenty localities the disease was virulent, and by the end of the season it was found that in almost all these places more or less disease was apparent; so that the question of disease-proof potatoes, as far as these trials are concerned, has been practically decided in the first year. The note-books of the growers and the reports of the judges contain much valuable information as to the influence of soil, climate, and various methods of cultivation upon the action and progress of the potato disease. The committee, therefore, recommend that Mr. Carruthers, who has carefully inspected every trial plot, be requested to collate these experiences for publication in the next *Journal* of the Society. The potatoes which were grown upon the trial plots, after having been carefully examined by the judges, and the per-centages of diseased tubers ascertained, have been sent to the Agricultural Hall. It is proposed that the competitors shall have the first offer to purchase the produce of their own entries, and that if they, or any of them, decline, the potatoes shall be sold by auction or by salesmen, as the committee may determine. It will be remembered that the Council reserved a power to enforce a penalty of £20 in case of the failure of the entries of any competitor to resist the disease, but the committee recommend that this penalty be not enforced in any instance. Most important communications have been received from Professor De Bary, who has ascertained, by recent experiments, that the potato disease is not propagated by infected tubers; that although the mycelium of the fungus (*Peronospora infestans*) was distinctly apparent in the stalks of plants raised directly from diseased tubers, no gonidia or germs were evolved. The Professor remarks upon this curious circumstance that he is struck by this result of seeing the fungus with the naked eye during two or three months in his little field, and all the plants and leaves intact. Professor De Bary, in a later communication, expresses sanguine hopes that he has at last discovered the certain nidi, or resting-places, of the oospores, or active primary germs of the fungus, which, as he says, would essentially accomplish its life history; and the great practical results of these discoveries, if perfected, will obviously be that measures may be taken by potato growers to avoid planting potatoes after, or in the immediate vicinity of plants known to be suitable to the development of the oospores of the fungus, or that steps may be taken to destroy them *in situ*.—This report was adopted.

HOUSE.—Colonel Kingscote, C.B., M.P., reported that the painting of the inside of the house had been done to the satisfaction of the committee, and that they recommended that the Secretary be instructed to procure two new hall lamps at a cost not exceeding £10. This report was adopted.

IMPLEMENT.—Mr. B. T. Brandreth Gibbs reported that the committee recommended that a meeting of the Implement Committee be held on the Tuesday of the Smithfield Club week, and that the judges who adjudicated on mowing machines at Manchester be invited to attend, to assist the committee in determining the scale of points and the method of trial. The committee recommended that the competing towns be requested to provide 50 acres of early-sown rye, for the trials of reaping machines in 1876; and that, upon the recommendation of the judges, there be a final trial of the selected machines at the time of wheat harvest. This report was adopted.

SELECTION.—Colonel Kingscote, C.B., M.P. (chairman), reported the following recommendations of the committee: 1, that the Duke of Bedford be elected a vice-president, in the room of the Earl of Egmont, deceased; 2, that the following new members of Council be elected, in the place of Colonel Kingscote, elected a trustee; Messrs. J. Wells, of Booth Ferry, and Mr. James Webb, of Fladbury, deceased, viz., the Earl Spencer, K.G., of Althorp, Northampton; Mr. J. Martin, of Littleport, Ely; and Mr. H. Chandos Pole-Gell, of Hopton Hall, Wirksworth. This report having been received, it was moved by Colonel Kingscote, seconded by Mr. Milward, and carried unanimously, "That the Duke of Bedford be elected a vice-president of the Society." The election of Earl Spencer as a member of the Council was then moved by Colonel Kingscote, seconded by Lord Kesteven, and carried unanimously; that of Mr. Martin was moved by Colonel Kingscote, seconded by Mr. Dent Dent, and carried unanimously; and that of Mr. Pole-Gell was moved by Colonel Kingscote, seconded by Mr. Booth, and also carried unanimously.

EDUCATION.—The Duke of Bedford (chairman) reported that 29 candidates had entered to compete for the Society's elementary scholarships, viz., two from the Bedford Middle-class Public School, and 27 from the Surrey County School at Cranleigh. Also that Mr. Charles Howard, of Biddenham, Bedford, and Mr. J. Bradshaw, of The Knowle, near Cranleigh, had consented to act as local secretaries. Mr. Bowen Jones having brought the question before the committee whether endowed schools, otherwise eligible, should be entitled to send candidates to compete for these scholarships in future years, the committee were of opinion that an endowment is no disqualification. This report was adopted. The committee gave notice that at the December Council they would apply for a renewal of the Education Grant for 1875.

SHOWYARD CONTRACTS.—Mr. B. T. BRANDRETH GIBBS reported that the surveyor's report had been received, showing a balance due to Mr. Penny (after deducting the 5 per cent. discount stipulated in his contract) to be £331.

The gross cost of the showyard, grand stand, and other works, amounted to		£6,055	14	7
Being an excess over Hull,	1873, of	£249	3	8
And over Cardiff,	1872, of	397	8	7

The surveyor reports that the levelling and preparation of the showyard at Taunton has been placed by the Taunton committee in the hands of Mr. Penny. The preliminary plan for the Taunton showyard was laid before the committee, and it was resolved that the same be reduced so as not to exceed the preliminary plan of the Cardiff meeting, and be subject to such alterations as may be found necessary hereafter. The surveyor handed in the agreement between the secretary and the contractor for the repairs to be done (as already ordered) to the permanent buildings, and the committee recommended that the secretary be authorised to sign the same. This report was adopted. The president reported the resignation of Viscount Hill, a vice-president of the Society.

The Earl of LICHFIELD then brought forward the resolution, of which notice on his behalf had been given by Mr. Holland, as follows: "That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the Society's charter, and to suggest what alterations, if any, are advisable to be made therein, for the purpose of bringing members of Council into more frequent communication with members of the Society, and also for permitting the discussion in Council of measures of a practical agricultural nature, although pending or to be brought forward in either of the Houses of Parliament." He wished at once to disclaim any suggestion that he or any other member of Council who had moved in this matter felt any dissatisfaction with the present management of the Society. His chief object was to

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popularise the Society with its own members and with the public, as there was a general impression abroad that the members have no voice in the management of the Society's affairs. He also wished to remove the prohibition upon the Council to discuss matters pending or to be brought forward before either House of Parliament, as he considered that this prohibition impaired the usefulness and efficiency of the Society. With regard to his first object, he looked upon the prevalent opinion of the members as well-founded, and he referred to the ordinary course of proceedings at the general meetings, and the stringent rule in the Charter (section 9), as showing that the sole management of the Society was vested in the Council, without any control on the part of the members, as is usual in other societies. The function of the members was limited to the making of suggestions at the invitation of the chairman, and to their comments in their individual capacity. It was no doubt true that members could express their sense of mismanagement by the Council, by declining to re-elect any of the trustees or vice-presidents, and any of the twenty-five members of Council who annually retire by rotation, and are eligible for re-election; but the Charter fixes the day for the transaction of such business so inconveniently, that the members have not a fair and full opportunity of bringing their opinions before the Council, even on that occasion. He considered that these questions alone furnished ample grounds for asking for a committee to consider the question of an alteration of the Charter. On the question of the prohibition of certain subjects from their discussions, he averred that nobody felt more strongly than himself the importance of excluding party politics from them; but he held that to be a very different matter from the childish law that the Council were not to discuss a given subject simply and solely because it already was before Parliament, or was about to be brought before either House of the Legislature. The progressive legislation of the present day often rendered it very desirable that the Government should obtain the opinion of the Council on practical questions; but their charter prevented them from discussing such questions as cattle diseases, except during the Parliamentary recess. It had also, some time ago, prevented their giving the Government any information as to the value of malt as food for stock; and although good roads were as useful to the farmer as good machinery, the Council could not take up any aspect of such a question. He confessed, however, that this matter alone would not have induced him to ask for a committee to consider a revision of the charter, and he thought that if it were granted they would require a very stringent bye-law to prevent the introduction of a question of party politics upon any pretence or in any guise whatever. He had heard with regret that it was found desirable to curtail their expenditure, for he held rather that the Society should increase its income. The number of subscribers was small in comparison with the extensive privileges which members enjoyed for a small subscription, greater, he believed, than that offered by any other society in the world; and therefore he could not help thinking that the small number of members pointed to a defect in the constitution of the Society. He believed that defect chiefly to be that members had not that share in the management of the Society that subscribers to all institutions naturally looked for. He, therefore, moved for the appointment of a committee in the terms of his notice.

Mr. HOLLAND seconded the motion. He had brought forward the notice in Lord Lichfield's name, as his lordship was out of England at the time, and had on a previous occasion brought forward a similar resolution. He believed that by a judicious alteration of the Charter they would gain subscribers, without altering the character of the institution. He thought that they should alter the date of the general meeting when the members of Council were to be elected, and that the members of the Society should have an opportunity of knowing beforehand what was proposed to be done. The Charter was now more than a quarter of a century old, and since it was granted times and feelings had changed. He, therefore, thought that the Charter should be amended to suit the circumstances of the present day, but that at the same time they should be careful not to admit party politics into their discussions.

Earl CATHCART, in supporting the motion, expressed the pleasure that he had felt in discharging the duties of president during his term of office on every occasion when his services were required in that honourable position, with the single exception of the general meetings of members. These meetings he held to be un-English, because the Charter did not allow the members to be outspoken, and at Bedford particularly not only his successor Mr. Holland) but also every member of the Council who was present at the general meeting must have felt that they occupied a false position, and that the meeting itself was a sham. He then urged the great importance of popularising the Society, the framework of which was now too narrow. He would himself suggest one important general meeting of the Society in December, to which the election of members of the Council should be submitted. He held that the more fresh air and ventilation they obtained the better; but they should always consider that the great object of the Society was to promote the production of the greatest quantity of food on a given space, and that the prosperity of the Society was only to be obtained by its promotion of English agriculture.

The PRESIDENT remarked that this was a question of the greatest possible importance to the Society, and was deserving of great attention. He thoroughly agreed that members of the Society should have more voice in the election of members of the Council; but, in discussing the list of members, it should be borne in mind that since the formation of this Society many other agricultural societies had arisen, which offered locally somewhat similar advantages to its members. He feared that farmers too often looked only to the circumstances of their own locality, and not to English agriculture generally. With regard to the question of discussing matters before Parliament, or having a political tendency, he thought they should exercise great caution.

The Earl of LICHFIELD expressed his great satisfaction that no opposition had been offered to the principle of his motion, as on the previous occasion when he had brought forward the question he had been met with the argument that the Charter had worked very well, and that it was better to let well alone.

Mr. CANTRELL quite agreed with the object of the motion, and stated that it was generally considered the Council was too exclusive in electing its members.

Mr. DENT DENT observed that at present the Council had no option as to the mode in which its members were elected, but he thought it most desirable that they should be enabled to consult the members of the Society on such matters. With reference to the other question, he reminded the Council that the motto of the Society was, "Practice with Science," and he hoped that they would always confine themselves within its meaning.

Mr. W. EGERTON would be sorry to see such questions as road-legislation brought before the Council, and he thought it most undesirable that they should trespass into the province of Chambers of Agriculture.

The motion having been put to the Council was carried unanimously, and the appointment of the committee was postponed until the next Monthly Council.

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The Secretary was instructed to send letters relative to the Country meeting of 1876 to the authorities of Birmingham, Peterborough, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Derby.

The Secretary was authorised to sign and seal with the common seal of the Society, a power of attorney to enable the London and Westminster Bank to receive the dividends on the Society's funded property.

An application from the Boiler Insurance and Steam Power Company (Limited), for the loan of the Society's Dynamometer, was granted on the usual terms and conditions.

A communication was received from the statistical and commercial department of the Board of Trade, enclosing a copy of the programme of an international agricultural exhibition to be held in Algiers.

The following special Committee for revising the list of judges was appointed on the motion of Mr. Milward:—Colonel Kingscote, Mr. Barthropp, Mr. Booth, Mr. Bowly, Mr. Cantrell, Mr. Dent, Mr. Druce, Mr. Hensley, Mr. Horley, Mr. Leeds, Mr. Masfen, Mr. Milward, Mr. Randell, Mr. Rigden, Mr. Sanday, Mr. George Turner, Mr. Wells, Mr. Jacob Wilson, with the Hon. Director, and the Stewards of stock and implements.

The general meeting of members was fixed for Thursday, December 10, at 12 o'clock. The Council then adjourned to Wednesday, December 9.

THE FARMERS' CLUB.

OUR VILLAGES: THEIR SANITARY REFORM.

The first meeting of the Farmers' Club for the Winter Session took place on Monday evening, November 2, at the Salisbury Hotel, Mr. E. M. Major Lucas in the chair. The subject fixed for discussion, as given above, stood in the name of Mr. James Howard, of Clapham Park, Bedford.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he was extremely pleased to see so good an attendance after what was termed the recess, and he hoped the gentlemen before him had all as good crops that year as they might expect. In April and May they discussed the interests of farmers and the subject of land-laws and landlords; that evening they were going to overhaul the villages and talk about sanitary reform. The subject before them would be introduced by a gentleman who had already read many excellent papers, and who did not require any introduction from him to ensure attention to his contributions to the discussions of that Club. Without any further remarks, he would call upon Mr. James Howard to open the subject.

Mr. HOWARD then read the following paper:—

INTRODUCTION.—REVIVAL OF SANITARY SCIENCE.—As far back as 1848, and on many subsequent occasions down to quite a recent date, the London Farmers' Club has discussed the great subject of the sewage of our towns and cities; but, singularly enough, it has never once turned its attention to the more home question of village sewage, and the sanitary condition of our rural population therein involved. Two or three months after the subjects for discussion in 1874 had been selected by the committee of the Club, the great contest in the rural districts between capital and labour occurred This naturally attracted a large share of public attention to the general condition of our rural population. Could I have foreseen that "special commissioners" would have been despatched to the disturbed districts, and graphic accounts of village-life morning after morning would have been given to the country by the daily papers, I should probably have shrunk from handling a subject which was shortly to engage the attention of so many able men. There are, however, phases of the question, and questions of a practical character, the discussion of which by the members of this club may tend to throw light on some of the problems yet unsolved.

In a celebrated speech of the present Prime Minister of England the remarkable statement occurred that "the first consideration of a minister should be the health of the people." Mr. Disraeli, like ministers in another sphere, did not, however, lead his hearers to suppose that the work was to be left exclusively to the ministers; for he observed, "I think public attention ought to be concentrated on sanitary legislation. I cannot impress upon you too strongly my conviction of the importance of the legislature and society uniting together in favour of these important results." The prime minister evidently recognises the force of the well-known aphorism of Franklin, "Public health is public wealth." My object in bringing the subject before the Club is to enforce the same maxim, and to induce its members and the agricultural public to unite in supporting the legislature in carrying into practice a wise, a thorough, and a beneficent system of sanitary legislation.

The stage of civilisation at which a country has arrived may be gauged by the attention paid to cleanliness, and a natural observance by its members of the laws which govern health. The Greeks, the Romans, the Egyptians—to say nothing of the Jews—have left behind them faithful records, both in their literature and in the ruins of their cities, of the care they bestowed upon cleanliness and its kindred subjects. After a long reign of ignorance, extending over many centuries, the present generation has witnessed a gradual awakening to the importance of sanitary matters; already great strides have been made in sanitary science, and, as Dr. Arthur Ransome has remarked, when the time comes for writing the history of the reign of Queen Victoria, among the long list of beneficent enactments, it will be found that all the legislation of any real importance for securing the public health has been the work of the brilliant Victorian era.

It would be easy to quote sensational paragraphs from the official reports of commissioners as well as from other sources, but I shall refrain from attempting at any length to prove that our villages stand greatly in need of sanitary reform, for, notwithstanding Lady Stradbroke's pleasing picture, we must all admit the fact that a state of things exists in many, nay, I may say in most of our villages, which, as members of a civilised community, we deplore and would gladly see remedied. To retort that there is as great or greater need of reform in towns and cities, does not help the case, for, as a well-known Birmingham radical, in a recent article in *The Fortnightly*, says, "the dwellers in towns ought to be the first to admit the charge, and its justice should make them chary of condemning landlords and farmers in the country as more hard-hearted or illiberal than others. Both town and country are alike powerless to deal with the evil by individual effort or merely personal exertion, and they should strive to concert measures together for discovering and applying a remedy."

I have said that I should not take up time in attempting to prove, at any length, the necessity for reform, still, I cannot pass over the question without remark. I happen to reside in one of the best cared-for counties in England. The Dukes of Bedford have, during the past 30 years, erected many hundreds of convenient and handsome labourers' cottages; they have also carried out a variety of sanitary improvements upon their estate; their efforts to raise the labourer's condition have stimulated other proprietors, many of whom, I am glad to say, have followed their example, and yet what do we find to be the state of things in many of the villages of this highly-favoured county? If time permitted, I could, from the reports of the Medical Officers to the Rural Sanitary Authority, give a catalogue of facts and scenes as appalling and revolting as any to be found in Mr. Culley's or Dr. Fraser's (the present Bishop of Manchester) reports to the late Government Whole villages almost devoid of water, and dependent upon ponds and holes made by the roadside; families herded together in wretched houses unfit for human dwellings, without drainage or privy accommodation, and with foul middens at their very doors. Writing of overcrowding (against which evil, as I shall hereafter show, the law has not provided a remedy), the medical officer of the northern division of the county of Bedford, states "it is a common thing to find a married couple with five or six, and even seven or eight sons and daughters of all ages

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sleeping in one, or at most, two small rooms, without any chimney or efficient means of ventilation. I have often, in the course of my professional work, been called into these rooms at night when the greater part of the family have been in bed and when the state of the room has been sickening." Having alluded to such conditions militating against health, morality, and common decency, he concludes, "no more fertile source of the scrofulous diseases which are the scourge of our population can be conceived." Until the passing of the Public Health Act, 1872, the various Sanitary Act, so far as rural districts were concerned, were all but a dead letter, and useless. The Act of 1872, which, I may remark, was passed with the general concurrence of the public, although deficient in many particulars (a point I propose to take up at a later stage) was most important in this particular—it rendered the action of local authorities compulsory, so that most of the evils which exist can no longer be shirked, but must be dealt with in some way or other. Without dwelling farther upon the present condition of our villages, or wasting time in discussing theories, I propose at once to proceed to the more practical question, What can be done to remedy the existing evils? and in the first place I will take up the question of that essential requirement of every community—water.

Water Supply.—I place water first, because, next to the food of the people, it is the most important requirement for every community; and an abundant supply of pure water is not only of primary importance in a sanitary point of view, but one of the greatest blessings of life. On the other hand, it is now generally recognised that no more fertile source of disease and human decay exists than bad and contaminated water. One authority asserts that to its use he has traced the origin of a variety of diseases; among them he states "diarrhœa, dyspepsia, dysentery, malarious and typhoid fevers are the most prominent."

"At present the majority of villages suffer either from scarcity or impurity of water, or from both. Too long has the country been deluded by the fallacy that good water and plenty of it is the special quality of country districts." So wrote Mr. Bailey Denton, in the *Royal Agricultural Journal*, in 1870, and that the remarks were truthful has since been but too abundantly proved by the reports of medical officers in all parts of the kingdom. The incumbent of a parish near to my own writes me: "In this parish, of over 3,000 acres, there are no springs, and wells are out of the question, owing to the great depth of the stratum of clay. During this last dry summer poor people had to go miles for their pailsful of water, and farmers had to send carts to the river for their supply"—a distance of several miles. There are no natural causes for such a state of things. Providence supplies us with an abundance of water, and the fault rests with the community. This, one of the most precious gifts of Nature, is grievously wasted and neglected. We have our wet seasons and our dry seasons; we cannot yet store up the heat of our summers, but there are no insuperable difficulties in storing the rains of winter.

The average rainfall of England and Wales is at the rate of 32 inches per annum. Every inch per annum is equal to about 23,000 gallons—in weight no less than 100 tons—per acre. In our drier counties, with a rainfall of 20 inches, to say nothing of dew fall, upwards of 2,000 tons of water fall annually upon every acre.

It is calculated that for the twenty-five millions of population in England and Wales, the supply of water, by rain alone, is twenty-seven million millions of gallons, or one hundred and eighteen thousand four hundred millions of tons; that the quantity consumed by man and beast as well as by engines and other contrivances, is three hundred and sixty-five thousand millions of gallons—in other words, we only use about one-seventy-forth part of our total rainfall.

From wells, streams, rivers, reservoirs, and tanks our wants are supplied. It appears to be the general opinion of sanitary authorities, that where good water can be obtained at a depth not exceeding thirty feet, a well is the best provision. Having sunk many wells myself, as well as some reservoirs, my experience leads me to concur in this opinion. The only remark I would make about wells is, the great danger of contamination, if cesspools, privies, middens, sewers, or foul ponds are allowed near them. Many cases of filtration to wells from these sources, both in towns and villages, have come under my observation, so that, long ago, having narrowly escaped from dangers of the kind, I resolved that the first thing to be done in going into a new house is to have the well examined and the water tested. At a farmhouse in a village near Bedford, the occupier, some years ago, put up a water-closet, and ran the excreta into a large pond or moat some 100 or 120 feet from his well. No thought of danger was apprehended until an outbreak of illness occurred, when it was discovered that the well had been contaminated with human excrement.

As to wells, however, there are very wide tracts of country where they are quite out of the question, and where storage is the only available method; having long since been convinced by the reasoning of my friend, Mr. Bailey Denton, that it was a wise policy to husband the water which falls in winter for use in summer, ten years ago I dug a reservoir at Clapham Park for this purpose; it is situated in the line of a master drain which conveys the drainage water of about 150 acres. This reservoir contains about 400,000 gallons, and cost £50 excavating; a vast quantity of water passes through it in winter, and, ever since it was made, we have had an abundant supply through the driest summers. So satisfied was I with the experiment, that last year I made a second one, of about double the size, at the other side of the farm. I am convinced that on the retentive clay soils of the kingdom, where wells cannot be provided, an abundant supply of water might thus be stored in reservoirs, connected either with main drains or streams. Where the natural formation of the ground is favourable for embanking at one end, as was the case with the second reservoir I made, they could be constructed at a comparatively small expense. The water in my reservoirs is good enough throughout the year for most domestic uses; but, for drinking purposes, it should be boiled or filtered, especially in the summer months. A collateral advantage from the general adoption of reservoirs would be that our winter floods in the valleys would be sensibly diminished.

The vicar of a high-lying parish near to my own writes me as follows: "When I first came here (some 20 years ago), I had a well dug 40 feet deep, and bored another 40 feet, without any change in the hard clay; giving the work up in despair, I had a drain dug to a large pond about 20 yards off and well filled with washed gravel, and the water thus drained to the well has formed our supply ever since. It is cold and clear, and I believe, although I have not had it tested, quite pure. I attribute the pureness of the water to the length of the drain through which it has to percolate." I give this example, believing that many similarly situated will find this, or a less costly reservoir, the readiest plan of supplying their wants. I would advise them, however, to have the filter cleansed periodically.

Reservoirs are more easily constructed, and at less expense than is generally supposed. Mr. Denton is of opinion that, by combination, an average sized village could, in many cases, be supplied with a reservoir, iron service pipes, and stand pipes for taps at a first cost of 25s. per head; or, if the reservoir were constructed and paid for with money borrowed at 5 per cent., and the repayment spread over 40 years, sufficient water for each village could be obtained at a maximum cost of 1s. 3d. per year per head. Dismissing the question of reservoirs, which must depend more or less upon local circumstances, I will pass on to the mode of storing water in tanks.

Tanks for rain-water falling upon the roofs of houses are another means, now frequently resorted to, for storage. In a letter to *The Times*, about twelve months ago, Sir Phillip Rose called attention to a plan adopted upon the chalk formation in the Chiltern Hundreds; he stated that a tank, 10 feet deep and six feet over, sufficient for two ordinary sized labourers' families, if the drains from the cottage roofs are properly connected, can be made in that district at an outside cost of £3 per cottage; the ground is simply excavated to the required dimensions, and the sides and bottom plastered with three coats of Portland cement, mixed with sand and gravel. There would, of course, be greater difficulty and expense in other formations where puddle or brickwork, or perhaps both, would have to be resorted to in order to make the reservoir durable and water-tight. The expense will, of course, vary with the character of the subsoil, but in no case can it be very formidable. A tank, 16 feet long by 10 feet wide, will, for every foot of depth, hold 1,000 gallons, and it is estimated that from the roof of an ordinary cottage, covering only 2½ poles, as much as 7,000 gallons per annum may be collected when the rainfall is only 20 inches; and so, from a farmhouse with outbuildings, covering 10 poles, 28,000 gallons a-year may be collected. I

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need scarcely say that it is highly desirable that care should be taken in constructing such tanks to prevent the influx of impure water from surface drainage, and that, wherever practicable, the roof water should be passed through a filter bed of some kind.

The other day I went over to see the sanitary improvements carried out by Sir Anthony Rothschild in his cottages at Aston Clinton and adjoining villages. I found that in each cottage, water, brought from the Chiltern Hills, had been laid on. It is not everyone who can, in this particular, follow the example of Sir Anthony, or who, if willing, has a public water-works so near at hand. I have mentioned it, because on inquiry of the cottagers I found that it was a boon highly prized. One man remarked that he did not know what they should now do without it. The wife joined in, and said, "Yes, sir, it is a great convenience, and it saves us so much in soap." Indeed, who can estimate the value to these poor people of an abundant and constant supply of the purest water for drinking, cooking, and washing, or—what is also important—its value for carrying away a good deal of filth, which, without it, would be sure to collect in and about the dwellings? If time permitted, I could enumerate other means of providing water. In Egypt, where the water is only 12 to 20 feet below the surface, I have seen a mule or a donkey working a centrifugal pump, and often one of the primitive "sakias"—a kind of chain and bucket lift—raise water enough for the supply of a large village. To those, however, who would pursue this subject of water supply further, I would refer them to Mr. Bailey Denton's excellent paper, "Village Sanitary Economy," published in the Royal Agricultural *Journal* of 1870.

Labourers' Dwellings.—Passing to the subject of cottages, I would remark that the labourer's home has for many years past afforded abundant material for discussion. The circumstances alluded to at the opening of my paper have, during the present year, had the effect of concentrating public attention to an unusual extent upon the important and vital question of improved dwellings for our peasantry. The providing of a sufficient number of new cottages for our agricultural population, and the reconstruction of deficient ones already existing, form a question of momentous interest, and the financial aspect presented is one of the gravest importance. Some idea of its magnitude may be gathered from the remarks which fell from Lord Napier and Ettrick at the Social Science Congress, two years ago. His lordship remarked, "If a minimum of one-third of the agricultural homes of Great Britain require to be rebuilt, you have something like a measure of our great necessity on the rural side of the question. It is a matter of building 700,000 cottages, at a cost of 70 millions sterling." In the absence of complete census returns, Lord Ettrick made, perhaps, an estimate not far from the mark; but, looking to the wide extent of the subject, the knowledge already possessed, and the limits of my paper, I will not dwell upon this portion of the subject, but pass on to the question of drainage, sewerage, and the disposal of sewage. Before doing so, however, I would remark that a few years ago I built a block of six cottages, for my own farm labourers, entirely of concrete. This material is decidedly better than brickwork, is warm and dry—indeed, impervious. The walls are a foot thick, each cottage has three bedrooms, and each is provided with an earth closet at the end, but accessible from within. The cost of the whole, exclusive of the earth closets, was only a little over £600.

Drainage, Sewerage, and Sewage.—I would point out that drainage and sewerage, formerly interchangeable terms, have come to mean two things. Drainage is now understood to be the means of draining off and conveying water from the soil and surface; sewerage the means of removing refuse in a liquid or partially liquid state.

In an assembly of practical agriculturists, I need not enlarge upon the sanitary advantages of under-draining. The improvements which have taken place in our rural districts by draining away the subsoil and surface water are so manifest as to be universally recognised if not universally adopted. In my own county ague and fever, 30 and 40 years ago, were very common in certain villages; since draining has been carried out the former has altogether disappeared, and the latter has greatly decreased.

To prevent capillary attraction, and to ensure dry cottages, it is highly desirable—in some cases indispensable—to put in a drain completely around the buildings at a lower level than the foundations. Before building my own house, situated on boulder clay, I not only did this, but carried a drain right through the centre. As a proof of the good resulting from such drainage, even to the lower animals, I may say that some years ago being at the country stables of a well-known London horse-dealer, he complained to me of the trouble he had experienced in keeping his horses in health and free from colds. The soil is London clay. I advised him to adopt the same means I subsequently put in practice at my own house. On meeting him a few months ago he assured me that he had derived the greatest benefit from having followed my advice; indeed, that he had had very little trouble since.

I need not however dwell further upon drainage, a question well understood by agriculturists, but pass on to the more knotty points of sewerage, and how the sewage is to be disposed of. A great variety of schemes have been before the public for dealing with sewage, but in treating of village sewage, I do not deem it necessary to occupy time in discussing them, for practically there are only two systems open for adoption in rural districts, namely, earth or box closets, and water sewerage.

In scattered villages a general system of sewarage, like that adopted in our towns and cities, is in most cases out of the question, not only on account of the expense, but because waterworks are an essential portion of the plan. There is moreover an additional objection: sewage irrigation, a necessary part of the system, whilst most successful and economical on a large scale, is troublesome and expensive on a small one. Whilst strongly in favour of sewage irrigation, for what I may term "populous places," I have come to the conclusion that for most villages the earth or box system will have to be depended upon. As previously stated, I paid a visit lately to the estate of Sir Anthony Rothschild in Buckinghamshire. The worthy baronet has carried out the earth system in the most thorough manner, and, I may observe, as only an autocrat can do. Would that all autocrats were as enlightened and liberal as Sir Anthony Rothschild. Earth-closets have been supplied for 175 cottages and three schools. Two men and a horse-and-cart are employed the whole year round in attending to them; one man in collecting the earth and carrying it to and from the cottages and the drying-kiln, the other in preparing and drying the material. The kiln floor is over a retort at a private gas-works, and therefore the fuel costs nothing; and as to smell, so complete is the deodorisation that nothing offensive can be detected. About 200 tons of earth are required annually, which is dried twice over, and yields about 120 tons of excellent manure. The farm-manager informed me that it is a good fertiliser for any crop, and the lowest estimate to be placed upon its value is £3 per ton—perhaps £4 is nearer the mark; Sir Anthony, therefore, has not made a very bad investment. My experience of earth-closets has convinced me that it will not do to leave them to the cottagers without some oversight. I could if necessary give many proofs.

I have already spoken of the water-supply to the Aston Clinton cottages. The slops from the sinks, &c., are carried by a sewer to a small water-tight tank or cesspool in each cottager's garden. The sewers being trapped outside the cottage walls, no effluvium escapes. The occupiers empty the cesspools about once in a week or ten days, and use it upon their gardens. Mr. Rogers Field, C.E., of 5, Cannon-row, Westminster, has adopted at his cottages, situated at Shenfield, near Brentwood, a very simple and ingenious tank. Attached to the tank is a self-acting syphon, which, when the tank becomes full—not till then, draws off the liquid and discharges it into sub-irrigation drains laid one foot deep, with common two-inch agricultural pipes. The solid matter left at the bottom of the tanks is occasionally cleared out by the cottagers and used for manuring their gardens. This sub-irrigation has been carried on for six years past. The liquid is said to be readily absorbed by the soil and vegetation, and the plan to yield good results. Whether plants should be thus nourished or irrigated from *below* is open to question, but it is not a very material point so long as the refuse is got rid of without trouble or creating a nuisance. The price of the tank, £5, is a much more serious objection; but one, however, Mr. Field hopes to remove by getting the tanks made at half-price in earthenware instead of iron. In dismissing the subject of tanks or cesspools, I may observe that whenever adopted, in order to compel frequent

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emptying, they cannot well be too small, and, with a view to prevent leakage, too carefully constructed.

With respect to water-sewerage, I would for a moment call attention to the following typical case from a recent report of the medical officer to the Bedford Rural Sanitary Authority. In reporting his visit to a large village on the banks of a river, after urging the necessity of establishing some general principle in dealing with the disposal of excreta, Dr. Prior, the officer, states, "I find large drains or sewers in course of construction, the level of the lower portion of which will be two feet below that of the mill-head, and which will ultimately empty themselves into the mill-tail. This mill-tail and the mill-head in the next village are not very far from synonymous, and it is not to be supposed that the inhabitants of the latter place can look with complacency on any scheme for the discharge of sewage into the stream whence some derive their water for household purposes, and some their drinking-water. Moreover by the 11 and 12 Vic., c. 63 and 80, and the 29 and 30 Vic., c. 90 and 111, the pollution of any stream under the control of the sanitary authority is constituted an offence punishable by fine. We are thus immediately brought face to face with one of the preliminary difficulties which beset the application of a system of sewerage to villages; but there are many others so numerous and so formidable that they can only be met completely by a system of water-works and sewage irrigation, if they can be by that. It is therefore with grave reluctance that I should witness the attempted extension of such a system to districts purely rural."

I have described this as a typical case, for unquestionably where sewers are made in villages they, as a rule, empty their contents into the nearest stream. Looking to the certainty that the time is at hand when the public will no longer tolerate the practice of pouring filth into our beautiful streams and water-courses, it will be well that in the case of new sewers they should be laid with a view to the sewage being ultimately utilised by irrigation. Unless this is kept in view, many mistakes are likely to be made in the levels of the outfall sewers.

The Local Government Board has recently—as I think unwisely—sanctioned the opinion that "House Slops" do not come under the head of sewage, and can therefore be discharged into rivers and running streams. Notwithstanding this decision there is no doubt that the public will insist upon house slops—mostly urine and other filthy stuff—being included in the prohibition I have referred to. From conversations with Mr. Bruce (Lord Aberdare), I know that, but for the lenght of time taken by the River Pollution Commissioners in completing their report, the late Government were prepared to deal with this subject three years ago. Now that we have a Government whose policy is endorsed as a "sewage policy," there ought not to be a doubt that it will be effectually and quickly dealt with.

My friend, Mr. W. Hope, the well-known sanitary engineer and sewage farmer, to whom I wrote for information upon a point or two, has been good enough to furnish me with a copy of a report he had made to a rural sanitary authority in the North. I wish that time permitted to read it, for it is full of valuable information. Reporting upon three adjacent but scattered villages, Mr. Hope says, that to sewer them thoroughly and to connect every house and privy would be so costly that the people would abscond rather than pay the rates, and therefore recommends the pail or box system, a plan very much adopted in my own district. Mr. Hope recommends galvanised iron pails, with a handle at each end, and says if they are made to hold about 20 gallons each, they will last an average family of five persons for a week, and if emptied into a previously dug trench and covered over, the result will be that the garden will be manured, and the excretal matter will never be heard of again. The inspector to the Rural Sanitary Authority, Bedford, informs me that box-closets answer well, and, as a rule, are made to suit the old privies. He finds about 2 feet 6 inches long, 1 foot 6 inches deep, and 1 foot 6 inches wide are a convenient size. The closet lid should be made to lift up on hinges, and either the riser made moveable, or a door and frame made large enough to draw out the box at the end of the privy. Galvanised iron is the best material: with wood and zinc the soil percolates the zinc, and decays the wood: either ashes or earth answers very well. Unless the lid is made to lift on hinges a great nuisance is caused by throwing in the ashes, as some of these always remain on the seat if thrown down the hole carelessly.

On the question of house slops Mr. Hope states that he found that the total quantity escaping did not amount to more than 0.12 of an inch of rain; a small garden therefore is sufficient to deal with the slops, and recommends the system of sub-irrigation and subsoil drainage.

Reporting upon another village more densely populated, Mr. Hope recommends it being sewered, provided that fair terms can be made to connect the sewers with those of an adjoining town in possession of a sewage farm: a desirable plan for villages thus situated, and one, I may observe, which has been carried out between the borough of Bedford and the great County School, built in an adjoining village. Mr. Hope justly observes: "Nothing is so unsatisfactory or so expensive and troublesome as sewage irrigation on a very small scale. If the flow of the sewage does not run to 50,000 gallons a day there is not enough to give continuous occupation to one man, and the result always is that it is neglected; so it neither answers from a sanitary nor from a pecuniary point of view."

When circumstances are favourable in a village for water sewerage, perhaps the plan carried into practice at Eastwick Park Farm, near Leatherhead, will be found worthy of attention. In the *Sanitary Record* of Saturday last, Mr. Hutchinson, steward of the Eastwick Park Estate, calls attention to the effective and economical means of disposing of the liquid refuse of the village of Eastwick, and the liquid manure of the farm, by the use of a self-acting sewage regulator, the joint-invention of Mr. Bailey Denton and Mr. Rogers Field. This contrivance is said effectually to overcome the difficulty of dealing with a small flow of sewage without constant attendance, but as I have not seen it in operation I can express no opinion.

Sanitary Laws—Difficulties and Defects.—I now come to the difficulties of carrying the sanitary laws into effect, and the shortcomings of these laws. On this branch of my subject I have taken counsel with Mr. Sharman, solicitor, of Bedford, a gentleman of great experience as clerk to the Rural Sanitary Authority, and for years clerk to the Board of Guardians, and who has kindly given me the benefit of his knowledge and experience. One of the chief and most perplexing difficulties arises from the number of Acts of Parliament, partly in existence and partly repealed, also from the mixture in the Acts of urban and rural provisions in such a way as to render it a matter of considerable doubt, to all ordinary persons, what the law really is, and causing much trouble, even to experts. The only remedy is the consolidation of the Acts, or a new general Act, repealing all existing Acts, so framed that the provisions relating to urban and rural authorities, to gas, water, &c., shall be separated. The defects in the rural sanitary laws are chiefly manifest in the provisions which deal with (1) water supply; (2) sewerage; (3) overcrowding; (4) infectious diseases.

(1.) With respect to water, the law gives power to the sanitary authority to cause to be provided a necessary supply of water to a house without a proper supply, providing it can be furnished to it at a rate not exceeding 2d. per week. This rate of 2d. is found to be totally inadequate; practically there is no power to compel an owner to provide a good supply of wholesome water, and though under the Act of last session power is given to magistrates to close a well or cistern, people may still be compelled and are at liberty to draw their supplies from even more objectionable sources. Whilst feeling the necessity of not pushing sanitary regulations too far, I do think that this time of day a house which has not a decent water supply ought to be condemned as unfit for human habitation.

(2.) In the matter of sewers and sewage, when new cottages are built, the sanitary authority can compel owners to make suitable provision, but the law gives no power to compel an owner of any existing cottage to provide it with a privy or closet, and if he has one, and pulls it down, there is no power to make him build another.

In a vast number of villages a drain, originally made to carry off the surface-water from the road, runs down the main street; into this drain the inhabitants have assumed the right to pour their filth. The question often arises to whom does this drain belong? The highway board or parish surveyors repudiate it, and say it is a sewer; the sanitary authority repudiates it as a mere surface-drain. Should not powers be conferred upon sanitary authorities to cut off the communi-

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cations, and thus compel the inhabitants to make suitable provision for their sewage?

The powers given for the prevention of pollution of streams are apparently ample, but the remedies are by no means simple. It is next to impossible to persuade county magistrates to cut off these drains, converted into sewers, especially in the absence of any other provision for the sewage. Indictments and Chancery injunctions are not nice proceedings against neighbours, and therefore the abominations, with their evil consequences, continue, because the law is puzzling, and the county magistrates timid or squeamish. Perhaps the county court judge of the district might be armed with power to grant an injunction, and to deal with such cases.

(3.) As to overcrowding, this is a question of no little difficulty; still, as matters stand, there is no law to prevent a dozen grown-up people, if of one family, living and sleeping in one room. The Acts of the 29 and 30 Vic., c. 90, and the Nuisances Removal (1865) appear to clash; perhaps the simplest method would be to fix a minimum space to each individual, and in accordance, give powers to sanitary inspectors to prohit overcrowding.

(4). As to infectious diseases, owing to the circumlocution now necessary where disinfectants are required, disease is often spread half over a village before steps can be legally taken to arrest it. Power should be invested in the sanitary authority, upon an *ex parte* order of a magistrate, at once to disinfect any such premises in case of default upon the part of the occupier. Powers should also, I venture to think, be given to sanitary authorities to erect or hire houses to be used as hospitals, without having to wait for the sanction of the Local Government Board. As a further precaution against the spread of infectious diseases, some amendment of the Act of 29 and 30 Vic., cap. 90, is required, with a view to prohibit children from an infected house going to schools or other public places.

In the Society of Arts report, just published, the following appears; "The past session has shown that the President of the Local Government Board was at last becoming aware of the reasonableness of the views, so persistently urged upon him by the committee, that somebody of higher authority, and presiding over an area of greater extent than that of a Town Council or Board of Guardians, was required to control a direct local action, and that a supervision and correction of boundaries of districts was an essential to the initiation and completion of sanitary measures."

At a conference of medical officers of health, held at King's College, London, in January last, at which the defects, requirements, and difficulties appertaining to the present sanitary laws were fully debated, an important string of resolutions was unanimously adopted. Without setting aside the present machinery, the necessity was affirmed by the first resolution, that if combined sanitary districts were to be maintained, each should possess a central committee consisting of members appointed by the several sanitary authorities entering into the combination; and further, that each of the latter should manage its sanitary duties through the medium of a special committee of its own body, instead of attempting to do it by the agency of the whole board of guardians at large.

It was argued in favour of combined districts, that it would economise the time both of officers of health and other persons concerned; that much labour would be saved in keeping books, making returns; attending meetings; that it would tend to uniformity of action, for it would not have to contend with the conflicting opinions of the proper interpretation of the law by the clerks of adjacent districts; and also put an end to much waste of labour and inefficient administrations to which the want of a completely organised constitution now gives rise.

Another point rigorously insisted upon was, that the district medical officers should not be appointed health officers, as even men of good professional standing felt the duties to be a serious embarrassment; and in the case of a needy practitioner, holding perhaps a local appointment, how could he be expected to fulfil the duties of the office in the face of the magnates of the neighbourhood?

"S. G. O.," in one of his vigorous letters to *The Times* upon this subject, asked "Where is the town or village which has not its influential magnate or magnates?" and argued powerfully against local control. Grand schemes for sanitary government are being propounded; the country is to be mapped out for the purpose into districts corresponding with its natural watersheds, and other great changes advocated; but if the present rural sanitary authorities will only carry out the Acts with willingness and a fair amount of determination, such is the fear entertained by the public of being over-governed by sanitary officials, that they may be let alone for many years to come; if, however, an opposite course should be pursued by them, the signs of the times point to a speedy transfer of their powers to other bodies.

Concluding Observations.—In bringing my observations to a close, I would call attention to the fact that where well-considered sanitary measures have been adopted in towns and cities the advantages to the inhabitants have been so marked that the circumstances should act as a powerful stimulus to exertion in carrying the same benefits to our villages. In the borough of Bedford, where a comprehensive scheme of sewerage and water supply was carried out a few years ago, the general health of the inhabitants has greatly improved, and the death rate has fallen to the very low average of 16.08 per thousand, or about 20 per cent. below the former mortality; indeed the town of Bedford is now healthier than the surrounding country districts. Again, at Salisbury, it was stated at the recent meeting of the British Association that in consequence of the sanitary improvements carried out in that city the death-rate has fallen from 27 in a thousand to 16 in a thousand.

As farmers we have the deepest interest in rearing a race of men "strong to labour;" unquestionably the strength, moral and physical, of our peasantry depend to a large extent upon the sanitary conditions with which they are surrounded. There is nothing more certain than that the race cannot improve, but will degenerate, unless the conditions are favourable. The subject I shall conclude with is one I would willingly pass over, but the labour question is one in which the landlord, the tenant, and the labourer, as well as the public, have the profoundest interest, for upon the labour supply the value of land in all countries mainly depends. I am not an alarmist, still I do not think it wise that we should shut our eyes to the fact that our colonies and other countries are coming forward in a way they have never done at any former period—in something like an organised form—to bid for our labour, and the competition and the organisation both appear to be growing. Danger at present does not appear to be imminent, and it is, perhaps, an idle boast of the emigrant agents that they will drain our rural districts of their best blood; still it is the object at which they aim, and the movement, disfigured though it is by violent language, may just as well be looked fairly in the face. To argue this subject would however be beyond the scope of my paper, and might lead to differences of opinion. I therefore content myself by simply alluding to the facts by way of preface to the remark that the natural affection of an Englishman for his home and country is proverbial, but when that home is a wretched hovel, what is there to bind and localise the labourer's sympathy or attachment? How can we, under such circumstances, expect him to withstand the wiles of emigration agents and other interested leaders? Put the same man into possession of a sweet and comfortable cottage, a well manured garden, with its vegetables and flowers, an orchard with a prospective crop of fruit to pay the rent, home under such circumstances is a reality not to be hastily bartered away for the frozen fields of Canada, the plains at the Antipodes, or the more tempting prairies of the Far West.

Mr. Hope (Romford) had listened with deep interest to the paper just read, and there were only one or two points in it with which he did not agree. Mr. Howard though that the Sanitary Act of 1872 made the action of the sanitary authorities compulsory, and that interference on their part could no longer be shirked. He could wish that were the case, but unfortunately he had had a good deal of experience to the contrary. It was, perhaps, within the knowledge of many gentlemen present that for the last five years he had been endeavouring to utilise the sewage of Romford, in Essex. Instead of making a handsome profit of it, as he expected, he had sustained a heavy loss. For some time he could not understand why that was the case, as everything was conducted *secundem artem*, and he had the assistance of the Committee of the British Association in recording his experiments. At last it was discovered that the population of Romford, instead of being, as he was told, 8,000, was only 6,500, and of that number only 4,500 were included in the area which supplied the sewage. The Local Board of Romford had advertised the sewage, and they entered into a lease "demising" the sewage to himself. In the first year he

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obtained such results as he expected, the quantity of land being only 60 acres; but the case became different when his operations were extended, the reason being obvious. The Local Board being a public body, he appealed to them with confidence for justice, but they would have nothing to say to him, and the result was that he had first to go into a court of law, and was now in the Court of Chancery; and when he was likely to get out of the latter court he did not know (laughter). As regarded the question of compulsion, the first Act said that if a complaint were made to the Secretary of State that a local authority was not doing its duty, he might enforce compliance with the object of the Act, the word being "may," not "shall," and a subsequent Act transferred the permissive power from the Home Secretary to the Local Government Board. He did not know whether Mr. Howard meant to apply the word "circumlocution" to the latter, but it seemed to him to apply to all Government departments, and he ventured to say that the existing powers were insufficient. With regard to the question of providing reservoirs for water, he feared that the word reservoir was almost synonymous with pond, and that if open reservoirs were used—unless the water were boiled and filtered before being used, which was not likely to be done very carefully in labourers' cottages—serious consequences to health would ensue. The nidus of typhoid fever was supposed to be vegetable substances, such as leaves, and with open reservoirs there was great danger of fever being spread from that source. But covered reservoirs sufficient for the purpose need not be exceedingly expensive. Some time ago he provided one to contain 800,000 gallons at a cost of £2,500. As regarded the construction of new cottages, it had been proposed by Lord Napier that the entire cost of construction need not be repaid in 25 years, and he did not see what was the necessity for repaying within that period; or why a certain proportion of the costs—say two-thirds or one-half—should not remain as a permanent burden on the estate. For the disposal of slops by subsoil drainage, the system alluded to by Mr. Howard was at once simple and efficient. But it was necessary that the subsoil pipes should be socket-pipes or else have collars. They should be placed like an inverted herring-bone, and as near the surface as possible, so that it might easily be cleared, in which case, if no great manurial value were obtained, there would at all events be no nuisance. In the case of fæcal matter, he had used such galvanised tanks or pails as Mr. Howard had described, and found them to answer completely.

Dr. Voelcker (London) wished to make one remark in reference to what had been said about tanks. He was an advocate for the use of open tanks in villages, provided that the bed were properly formed. He believed, in fact, an open tank to be preferable in the country to a covered one. He was a great believer in the potential agency of atmospheric oxygen, which, coming in contact with shallow water, would fully oxydise everything of an organic character which it might contain. He must remind Mr. Howard that the reservoirs of the largest companies were open, and the advantage of that was that there was a readier access for the oxygen than when closed reservoirs were used. [A Member: "That prevents evaporation."] Yes; but under that system they also saved great expense. Again, he thought they should be very careful how they introduced the sewage system into rural districts. As to the water-closet system, he believed that in villages and small towns they could easily get rid of human excreta without having recourse to that expensive system, which had, he might observe, polluted their rivers and their small water-courses to a fearful extent. Only that morning he had read an account of an alarming outbreak of typhus fever in the Over-Darwen district, in Lancashire. He was not surprised at that state of things, recollecting what he had seen there two years ago. At that time he had spoken very strongly against the use which was being made, by the mill-owners and other inhabitants of the locality, of the border of a small river for the sewage. He could not help saying that he thought it quite possible to get rid of human excreta without polluting water in that way, or running the risk of injuring persons who lived at a distance.

Mr. Fowler (Aylesbury) having visited the village of Aston Clinton, referred to by Mr. Howard in his admirable paper, could bear testimony to the excellent results of the earth-closet system, under the management of Sir Anthony Rothschild; and he could also state that he had seen the system in operation elsewhere, and anything more foul than the operation of that system without proper supervision it would be impossible to conceive. He had found the receptacle for dry earth converted into a place for keeping faggots and storing wood; and on opening a lid underneath he found a liquid cesspool. They all knew how careless poor cottagers were apt to be in reference to everything relating to sanitary matters, and they might feel quite certain that, generally speaking, if there were a pail of slops to be disposed of, it would be likely to go into the earth-closet, supposing that to be the nearest to hand. Sir Anthony Rothschild's system was admirably carried out; but the earth-closets were all kept under lock and key, and neither Mr. Howard nor himself could get a sight of them. The man who had the key lived two miles off, and on going there they found the earth being prepared for carting to the village, where it would afterwards be carted back again. As a contrast to the admirable manner in which Sir Anthony managed matters, he might observe that, while staying at the house of a member of Parliament, he went to an earth-closet in an adjacent garden, and found it covered over with cobwebs, none of the earth having been removed for two or three months. As regarded the question of the sanitary condition of the people, and how it might be ameliorated, he might appeal to his friend Mr. Treadwell, who was the chairman of a local board in his district, whether the great object there was not to save money? He did not think much was being done practically for the sanitary improvement of labourers' cottages. He knew, indeed, that it was a most difficult thing to do any good in that respect; the first point was, in his opinion, to educate people into love or care for sanitary improvement (Hear, hear). If there were a broken window, the poor would stuff the hole with a rag, and they could not bear to leave a window open. There was, in fact, the greatest difficulty, as a rule, in getting them to attend to matters that concerned their own health. A labourer of his having had his hand injured driving steam cultivation, and lock-jaw having supervened and resulted in death, he afterwards found the deceased's family living in such a wretched dwelling that the dead body had to be left in the room where the family lived, and the whole family slept in one room; yet the father and two sons were earning among them 45s. a week, and younger children from 8s. to 10s. besides. As to sewage irrigation, he felt that the question was a very difficult one, but he was fully convinced that, where practicable, it was the only solution of the question. He had been to see the works at Luton, and anything more foul or filthy he had never witnessed. The effluent was, he believed, about equal to the standard laid down by the committee on that subject, and it was as black as ink. This was carried out under the precipitation or lime principle.

Mr. Treadwell (Upper Winchendon) having been pointedly alluded to by Mr. Fowler, as the chairman of a local sanitary board, could not help rising to repudiate the character which had been given to that board. He totally denied that their first aim was to save money: their first aim was to get the people into clean habits as quickly as possible, and they found that a very difficult job (laughter). They found themselves thwarted at every step. Some parties were very much averse to being interferred with at all, while in many instances the Act of Parliament did not allow them to go far enough. As regarded the erection of new cottages, he thought there should be power on the part of the authorities to compel owners to supply them with water and consume their own nuisances (laughter). It was too bad, that when men had built cottages for their own interest and benefit, they should call upon the occupiers of the soil to supply their tenants with water, and to convey the filth away from their property. Supposing that were done, the pecuniary result as regarded those owners would be that they would exact more rent, because the cottages would be worth more money (Hear, hear). So far as his advice could be of any use, he would insist that the owners of cottages should be made to do all that was necessary for sanitary purposes, instead of the cost being thrown on the general rates of the parish. He did not agree with Mr. Howard, that the local boards had no compulsory powers in respect to privies. He thought they had, at all events, power to say whether or not there should be one privy or two privies for two cottages. He was one of those who did not like to move too fast in those matters [A voice, "A Conservative,"

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followed by laughter]. Yes, if they pleased. He would rather not see people driven in such matters, if it could be avoided. He would, however, insist on having at least one privy for two cottages, and, perhaps, as the people advanced, they would be enabled to go beyond that. As to the earth-closet, those of Sir Anthony Rothschild's cottages, they were, no doubt, perfect, but that was not the case with all closets of that kind. He should be very glad if owners of property generally would imitate Sir Anthony. As regarded water, there was in his district a good supply running from the Chiltern Hills; but all owners would not avail themselves of it, what they desired being that the Sanitary Board should do the work for them, whereas, in his opinion, they ought to be compelled to do it themselves. He believed that the local Sanitary Boards had power to prevent over-crowding in cottages, even if all the inhabitants be onged to one family, in cases in which the overcrowding was such as was injurious to health. The water supply was a very serious question. In many villages it was impossible to get an adequate supply of water in such a summer as the last. In a village in his district, on the recommendation of the Local Government Boatd, the practice was adopted of sending a man round the village every day to sell water; but after the third or fourth day the practice ceased, because no one would buy any water. He supposed that when people could not get water without paying for it, they did not require so much (laughter).

Mr. H. Trethewy (Silsoe) felt that they were greatly indebted to Mr. Howard for the admirable way in which he had introduced that question. Practically, it was the most absorbing question of the day, and no member of the Club was more competent to do justice to it than Mr. Howard. Their friend had told them what he had done on his own estate, but he had not told them that he was the main mover in the changes at Bedford, which had been attended with so much benefit. All of them, who had had ought to do with that question practically, must have felt how difficult it was to carry out the various Acts of Parliament. Mr. Sharman, the clerk of the Bedford Board, who was alluded to by Mr. Howard, had remarked that there were so many Acts that it was really difficult to know how far any of them applied to a particular case, an evil which had been felt very much on his own Board. Boards had to administer the law, but it was truly and properly observed by the last speaker that they should endeavour to lead the people and not drive them. It was very uncertain how far the powers of Sanitary Boards extended. Allusion had been made to privies. It had been said that there could be no difficulty in securing the requisite privy accommodation. Mr. Treadwell contended that there should in all cases be at least one privy for two cottages, but unfortunately cottages were sometimes so arranged that it was scarcely possible to have a separate privy. Of course, it might be replied, that that was the business of the owner; that if he chose to build a cottage in such a situation he must take the consequences. As a rule, he thought there would not be much trouble in that respect. With regard to overcrowding, he differed from almost every one who had spoken on that subject that evening. Mr. Treadwell said he thought there was power to prevent it; in his opinion, there was not power. He knew an instance in which the magistrates had recently dismissed a complaint. It was a clear case of overcrowding, but the magistrates could not see that it was a clear case for them to adjudicate upon.

Mr. Treadwell inquired where that occurred?

Mr. H. Trethewy replied that it was at Woburn.

Mr. Treadwell said he believed the magistrates had now adjudicated upon it.

Mr. Trethewy proceeded: As regarded the application of the sewage system to villages, he thought there would be great difficulties in carrying it out successfully, and he believed that there were simple remedies, for the evil to be dealt with which might be effectually applied. Having had some experience in reference to earth closets, he did not believe they could ever get people to attend to them on a large scale, or that they could be carried out generally as they were under Sir Anthony Rothschild. On the whole, he could see nothing better than the old-fashioned privies, provided the cesspool were not placed too low and were well cemented; and the smaller it was made in reason, the better. They ought to bear in mind that the new Act had come upon them very suddenly. In dealing with that question, men were too apt to speak as if all the cottages belonged to the owners of landed property, and that it was their duty to do all that was necessary; whereas, in fact the majority of the cottages, especially in small parishes, belonged to small proprietors, a great many of whom had not the means of doing what was requisite. Again, they ought not to be hasty in carrying out the provision of these Acts, and condemning all cottages which did not come up to the standard set up by the medical officer of the district. If all such cottages were to be pulled down, where were the poor inhabitants to go? Surely a bad home was better than no home at all (Hear, hear). They should endeavour to remove evils gradually, and not go too fast; and he had no doubt that it was in that way that they would do the most good in the end. If the Act was strictly carried out, the result might be that a large proportion of the cottages of this country would be declared to be uninhabitable; their doom would be sealed, they would be pronounced unfit to live in; and although he did not mean to say that no step should be taken in that direction as respected a great many cottages, yet he did think that those who had to administer the law should deal with the evil gently and gradually.

Mr. T. Horley (Warwickshire) agreed with the last speaker that, the Act having come upon them suddenly, they should rather endeavour to educate the people up to it than carry out its provisions hastily; and he believed that if it were carried out according to its strict letter, the result would be the condemnation, not only of a large portion of the cottages of the labourers, but also of a large portion of the homesteads of the farmers (Hear, hear). He had taken considerable interest in that matter ever since the question first came under his notice. In his Union they were fortunate in having a very sensible man as their medical officer, and they had endeavoured to educate people up to the new law rather than put it in force before they knew what it meant. He was not an advocate for providing earth-closets, unless they could be placed under some responsible management like that alluded to in the case of Sir Anthony Rothschild. He believed that the old-fashioned midden system would, in most cases, be found better than the earth-closet system, but if that system were pursued the smaller the pan the better. An earth-closet, of the size of which Mr. Howard spoke, would require a man to attend to it; and unless it were attended to regularly, it might become a great nuisance. He thought the introduction of sewage irrigation into villages would prove a great nuisance. The contamination of wells was an evil which it was always difficult to avoid, and the danger would be increased by the adoption of that system.

Mr. A. Pell, M.P. (Leicestershire), lived in a Union where it was decided from the first that the new Act should come into operation through the action of a committee, and not of the whole Board, and he believed that, unless the sanitary authorities generally proceeded in that way, it would be found very difficult to give effect to the Act. The chief disputed point in Mr. Howard's paper appeared to be the closet system *versus* the water conveyance of fæcal matter. However desirable it might be to adopt the earth system in cottages, it would be impossible to dispense with the other system. Mr. Howard had mentioned a clever way of disposing of fluid matter by sub-draining—Mr. Field's system of sub-irrigation; but any plan which was adopted by an authority should be one generally applicable, and the system in question was clearly not applicable where there was no garden, or where the garden rose above the level of the site of the cottage. That objection seemed to him unanswerable, and he ventured to say that, whether the earth-closet system was adopted or not, there must be some apparatus or means adopted for carrying away the sewage water, and it must be carried away rapidly and effectually, in order that it might not soak into wells, and contaminate the drinking water. The district in which he lived was most favourable for the spread of fever. The soil was of a loose description, resting on an impervious clay; you seldom had to dig down more than five or six feet before you got to water, and that being the case, it was not very difficult to understand that the inhabitants of cottages might, without great care, be easily poisoned through what came from the surface, there being perhaps, in many cases, a pig kept very near the well, and slops being constantly thrown down in the same direction. In that Union they had been favoured with a visit from a gentleman from Whitehall, who was in favour of the adoption of the earth-closet system. In point of fact, they knew very well what was required, but the question was, how far they were justified

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in taxing the public for such an experiment. Wherever fever had been found to exist—and, alas! it was a frequent visitor to the Union—the locality was immediately mapped out, and a public sewer was constructed on the system suggested by Col. Rawlinson, the engineer of the Local Government Board In some parishes the cost of such a work was a thousand pounds, in others only five or six hundred. They had been able to borrow money of the Government for such purposes at a very low rate of interest, and they had found the sanitary rate to be less than the fever rate. To that he might add, that the one fell upon the right persons, and the other upon the wrong ones (Hear, hear). In the case of a charge for meeting a fever rate, with proper sanitary appliances, three-fourths of the burden fell on the owners of the house property, and one-fourth on the land in the immediate locality; whereas, if sanitary measures were neglected, and fever and pauperism resulted, the cost thus occasioned did not fall on the immediate locality, but was spread over the entire Union. One word with regard to Medical Officers of Health. The employment of such men was in many cases a very serious matter. He would go so far as to say that, in many instances, that great and expensive gentleman was not merely not necessary, but that he was a positive mischief. It was perfectly well known that fevers arose from imperfect drainage and bad water. They did not want a doctor with £800 a-year to tell them that, or to weaken responsibility: what they did want was good practical men to carry out the improvements which were necessary—men who had some knowledge and experience with regard to building, drainage, and other matters of that kind. It was useless to have a number of medical officers writing the same reports of the same kind for their several districts. The sources of small-pox and fever were the same in all districts, and money which was spent merely in repeating theories was thrown away. What they wanted were good engineers, and he hoped that one effect of the Act would be to provide them with such men. The ultimate disposal of sewage was a question on which he had avoided expressing any opinion. He wished he had a field just outside any village, in a convenient situation to receive it; but he should be very shy of constructing expensive filtration works, or apparatus for the disposal of liquid sewage.

Mr. H. Neild (Manchester) said, those who occupied as he did, the position of chairmen of Sanitary Boards could not but feel that it was necessary to proceed with caution in respect to drainage. The question was, where drainage was to end? and what was to be done with the sewage? The public were contemplating the adoption of a drainage system of enormous extent, and, in the present position of agriculturists, that question was a very serious one. In his own district they had had a gentleman from Whitehall to give them advice, but he left them more confused than he found them (laughter). That gentleman gave them a great deal of instruction as to what they were to do, but he did not tell them what was ultimately to be done with sewage. They had never found any difficulty in compelling owners of house-property to comply with the requisitions made upon them as regarded privies and water supply. That question was a new one: it was now beginning to be appreciated; and if he mistook not, in the coming Session of Parliament it would be a question of questions.

Mr. Rogers Field thought sufficient attention had not been paid to the importance of draining the sides of houses. He had tried the experiment of such draining at a cost of only two or three pounds, and the result was very satisfactory. [A member: "How deep do you go?"]. That depended on the nature of the soil. In that case the soil was a clay one, and he went down 4 feet, and put gravel instead of clay. He fully agreed with previous speakers, that earth-closets, would not answer in cottages, except where more attention was bestowed on them than was likely to be generally found among the labouring population. Having adopted earth-closets he found that they were only attended to properly while he looked after them; and he believed that, as a general rule, a well-managed privy system would be found preferable. In connection with the question of sewage, they must take into account what were called house slops. The usual course had been to drain these into a ditch, but any one who had really studied the question must see that that was often attended with great evils. He concurred in the opinion expressed that evening that occupiers of cottages should, as far as possible, be made to consume their own nuisances; but the great question was, how that was to be done? He differed from those who thought that if a system could not be carried out universally it should not be carried out at all, holding as he did, that the appliances should be adapted to varying circumstances. He was in favour of sub-irrigation wherever it was applicable, and believed that if pipes were laid down properly, that system would involve the least expense. He had himself laid down a continuous bed of 3-inch pipes, so arranged that they could easily be taken up, and the plan answered well.

Mr. Trethewy would ask the last speaker what he would do in cases in which the garden was in a low situation?

Mr. R. Field said, in the instances to which he had alluded that was not the case; he had not maintained that the system was suitable for adoption in all cases.

Mr. T. Duckham (Herefordshire) wished to say a word or two about those receptacles for filth—the horseponds, which in many cases received the refuse water of the adjacent houses and the manure from the fold yards. Some years ago two such ponds in his own neighbourhood continually led to cases of fever. When they came into his hands he cleansed one of them, and filled the other up, and afterwards there never was another case of fever. There was another pond which one could hardly go near without being reminded of its existence by bad smells but though frequent complaints were made the magistrates refused to interfere. He thought the sanitary authorities ought to direct their attention to those fruitful sources of disease, and the landlords to the use which might be made of the pure water which fell from the heavens in supplying stock with more wholesome water by spouting the farm buildings, instead of allowing the fertilising properties of the manure to be washed into the ponds.

Major Dashwood (Oxfordshire) strongly supported the views of the speakers who had found the earth-closet and box systems to be not applicable to labourers' cottages in the country, though both plans are useful under certain circumstances. Such closets were costly to the owners of property, required much supervision, and both plans were not adapted to the habits of the people. He would speak only as to cottages with gardens attached. With such cottages there is little difficulty as to the disposal of the excreta or slops, and from the results of much experience he as a rule would advise, for the sake of all parties interested, an adaptation of, and an improvement on, the old-fashioned privy; the strong point of which improvement was this, that the vault was above and not below the ground level. This important point was arrived at by having a step of six inches rise at the entrance of the building, then a second step of eight inches, making a total rise of fourteen inches. This fourteen inches rise, together with the front of the seat (which is composed of bricks on edge), formed the vault, the bottom of which was raised three inches above the ground level. The whole of the inside of the vault was coated with cement, and a six-inch concrete floor extended, say, four feet at the back. The vault was emptied without the least trouble through an archway opening made in the back wall. When the vault was empty this opening ought to be stopped up with sods or earth, and all the dry refuse of the cottage should be thrown and heaped up against it, so as to exclude the air as much as possible. This plan of privy had been much approved of by Dr. Child, the chief officer of health for Oxfordshire. From his (Major Dashwood's) experience he could not advise for such cottages any drains from sinks, or underground drains for slops; and he was now pulling up and doing away with such drains, which he had put to cottages about fifteen years back. These drains, although well trapped, brought vitiated air into the cottages, and from getting stopped up had injured the water in the wells. He would suggest the following hints for cottagers as to the disposal of slops and other refuse, and the management of privies. All slops should be thrown into a shallow hole made in the garden (not near to the cottage or well), and as the hole becomes full or offensive it should be filled up and another made. Slops should never be thrown into the privy vault, and the opening through which it is cleaned should be well closed, so as not to admit air, which hastens decomposition; and vegetable and other dry refuse should be thrown against this opening to assist in excluding the air. The more frequently ashes and dry earth were thrown down through the seat into the vault, the freer from unpleasant smell would be the place.

The Chairman, in winding up the discussion, said he

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agreed with other speakers that the Club was deeply indebted to Mr. Howard for his excellent paper; and he congratulated those present, on the manner in which that subject had been ventilated. No one could doubt that it was necessary to look after the health of the community, and some of the magnates of the land having been stricken down with fever, it was probable that the question would now occupy more attention than ever. The discussion of that evening should show the labourers of England that the Farmers' Club was not unmindful of their interests, and, not wishing them to freeze among the snows of Canada, was desirous of securing for them habitations which would promote their health and comfort at home.

Mr. J. Howard then replied. After remarking that he was much gratified at the practical turn which the discussion had taken, he said that members who had differed from him must not suppose that he was unaware of the difficulties and the responsible nature of sanitary improvements. Experience had taught him the very contrary. Replying to some points raised by Mr. Hope he (Mr. Howard) did not wish it to be understood that he considered the Sanitary Act of 1872 perfect. But he directed attention to the fact that it was the first instance of sanitary legislation which made it compulsory upon boards of guardians, and other local authorities, to put the existing Acts into motion. He believed that great good had attended their operation thus far, and that they were calculated to confer still greater benefits upon the community (Hear, hear). With regard to the storage of water, the great question at issue appeared to be one of expense. He himself thought that the wants of the rural community might be very well supplied by means of the less-expensive system of open reservoirs, supposing that the water obtained from such sources were afterwards boiled and filtrated for drinking purposes. Further it was a moot point with sanitary engineers whether open or covered reservoirs were best. Trees should not be planted around open ones as the vegetable matter falling into them would pollute the water. With regard to the very conflicting opinions which had been expressed respecting the powers of the sanitary authorities in reference to over-crowding, he still adhered to the opinion which he had himself expressed, and in support quoted from the 29th and 30th Victoria. It must not be supposed, as some of the speakers seemed to imagine, that he was in favour of pushing sanitary measures to extremes; on the contrary, he had advocated moderation, and should be sorry to see the stringent powers of the Acts pushed too far at once. He agreed in very much of what fell from Mr. Trethewy, but he did not concur in his preference for the old-fashioned privy system; and he believed that gentleman would find very few sanitary inspectors or engineers who would concur in it. He also dissented from the opinion of Mr. Pell on sub-irrigation, that any system which was not universally applicable must be useless; indeed, it was obvious that many good plans were only of service upon limited areas. Nor could he agree with the remark of Mr. Pell, that medical officers of health were useless. He thought special attention and study would be directed by these officers to the work so as to meet its requirements, and that in time we should have throughout the country a very valuable body of specially trained medical officers. Mr. Brown, of Tring, before he had left had given him the following short account of his earth-closets: "My earth-closet forms one end of a shed, in the corner of which I keep a supply of sifted dry earth taken from the garden. A box is fixed from the closet-seat to the ceiling, sufficient to hold a fortnight's supply; this is filled from an aperture opening to the shed. The earth is let down upon the deposit by means of an iron lever with a handle, which is connected with a roller, and allows a limited quantity of earth to fall down precisely in the same manner as a farm drill acts. A brick cesspit is constructed behind the closet, which receives the deposit, and is only emptied once in twelve months. The closet is perfectly sweet, and the earth is renewed without any offensive smell; it is put upon the meadow, and shows to a foot where it was placed."

Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Howard for his excellent practical paper, alluding to some calls which had been made for himself, disclaimed any want of courtesy in not responding to them; the reason being that on account of the official position which he occupied, he thought "discretion the better part of valour."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Mechi, and carried unanimously.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

At a meeting of the Committee, on Monday, November 2, Dr. Voelcker was elected Chairman of the Farmers' Club for 1875.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB.

A Council meeting was held at the Agricultural Hall on Wednesday, November 4th. Present—Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P., President of the Club, in the chair; the Marquis of Exeter and the Duke of Bedford, Vice-presidents; Messrs. H. Aylmer, C. Barnett, J. N. Beasley, E. Bowly, J. Druce, T. Duckham, W. Farthing, Brandreth Gibbs (Hon. Sec.), J. Greetham, W. Heath, T. Horley, C. Howard, J. Howard, J. W. James, W. Ladds, R. Leeds, C. S. Read, M.P.; W. Rigden, H. Webb, and J. Wilson.

Authority was given to the hon. secretary to take any steps that may be necessary in reference to holding the Show this year in conformity with the Orders of the Privy Council.

The committee was re-appointed to make the usual arrangements for disinfecting the cattle conveyances belonging to the persons sanctioned by the Club for conveying live stock to and from the Show.

The Council prepared, in conformity with the bye-laws, the house list of 16 members, from which the Council recommended the members to select 8 names to relace the 8 who retire by rotation and are not eligible for re-election for one year.

The Council, in conformity with the vote of the last general meeting, appointed three scrutineers to examine the voting papers previous to the next general meeting.

The following gentlemen were elected stewards of live stock. Mr. Henry Fookes, of Whitechurch, Blandford, to succeed his brother, the late Mr. Wm. Fookes; and Mr. T. C. Booth, of Warlaby, Northallerton.

The death of Mr. Samuel Druce, a trustee of the Club, having been announced, theCouncil resolved that the hon. secretary write a letter of condolence to Mrs. Druce, and that Mr. Joseph Druce be elected a trustee in his place.

Questions of qualification of live stock entries for the Show were decided.

Arrangements were made for the use of pails for live stock during the Show, so as to prevent those used at other shows being brought into the building.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Club: J. Brown, J. Turvill, W. Parham, A. F. Puckridge, E. P. Headly, J. S. Storr, T. Lucas, W. Stanford, A. M. Longman, E. W. Usher, W. Yates, R. Attenborough, W. R. Killick, H. Smith, jun., Colonel Luttrell, D. McIntosh, W. Ball.

The thanks of the meetin were voted to the President for his conduct in the chair.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

At the meeting of the Council on Tuesday, November 2, Mr. C. S. Cantrell in the chair,

Mr. J. Druce proposed that the December meeting of the Council should henceforth be always held on the Tuesday in the Smithfield show week, and not on the first Tuesday in the month.

Mr. J. K. Fowler called attention to certain complaints which had reached him from subscribers.

The Secretary stated that due replies had been given to any communications received from the local secretary at Boston.

Mr. T. C. Scott protested against the consideration of the Council being given to mere reports. If there were no tangible facts to be brought forward in connection with such cases as the Lincolnshire one mentioned, he was opposed to entering on any discussion of such matters.

Mr. T. C. Scott, of Moorgate-street, was nominated Chairman of the Council for 1875.

Mr. J. J. Mechi gave notice that he should move at the next meeting of the Council that "an increase of £100 per annum be made to the salary of the Secretary."

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THE SHORTHORN HERD-BOOK AND SOCIETY.

The Committee appointed at a general meeting of breeders of Shorthorns, held at Willis' Room on the 1st July last, met on Wednesday, November 3rd, at 34, Charles-street, Berkeley-square, the house of Col. Kingscote, who took the chair. It was, after much consideration, resolved that the negotiation for purchase of *Coates' Herd Book* from Mr. Strafford not having been brought to a successful termination, the Committee would, as soon as practicable, issue a report of their proceedings from the date of their appointment, and invite Shorthorn breeders generally to join in the formation of a Society in accordance with the second resolution passed at the general meeting. [The resolution here referred to ran thus: "Thatit is desirable to form a Society to consist of Shorthorn breeders and managers, with a limited managing committee, for the purpose of collecting and publishing accurate information as to past and current pedigrees and sales, and promoting the general interest of Shorthorn breeders."]

HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.

At the first monthly meeting of the directors for the season held on Wednesday, in their chambers, 3, George IV. Bridge, Edinburgh, the following resolutions were passed:

1. That the directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society desire nanimously to express the deep and sincere regret with which they have received the information of the death of their late chemist, Dr. Thomas Anderson.

2. That the Society having in the minutes of the general meeting held on the 17th of June last recorded, upon Dr. Anderson's resignation of the office of chemist, their sense of the great importance of the services which he had rendered to the science of chemistry by his original researches, and to the Society's chemical department by the fidelity and accuracy of the work executed on its behalf, it only remains for the directors to deplore the loss which they and the Society have now suffered.

3. That the directors request the Secretary to transmit a copy of these resolutions to Mrs. Anderson, with their respectful condolence and sympathy, upon the occasion of the painful bereavement which Mrs. Anderson and her family have sustained.

At the general meeting of the Society, held on 17th June last, it was, on the motion of Colonel Innes, of Learney, agreed to memorialise Government on the subject of agricultural education. The following is the memorial agreed to:

To the Right Hon. the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, the Memorial of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, incorporated by royal charters:

Showeth,—That your memorialists beg respectfully to bring under your consideration the desirableness of affording to the working-classes of the country instruction in the sciences specially bearing on agriculture.

That at present there are no schools for these classes in Scotland where such instruction can be obtained, though the importance of affording the means of such instruction can scarcely be exaggerated.

That agriculture is a great national industry, through which the country is supplied with the chief articles of food, and above three millions of the population of Great Britain obtain employment.

That agriculture, to be successfully prosecuted, depends now on knowledge and training very different from what were formerly sufficient.

That in times past crops were raised and stock reared by the operation of very simple and primitive processes. In the present age the implements required by farmers depend on ingenious and complicated mechanical contrivances. Not only for the construction but for the management and working of these implements a knowledge of mechanics is required. The fertility of the soil needs to be stimulated by artificial compounds, which must be prepared with special reference to the nature both of soils and crops. The stock bred and fed on farms must obtain particular treatment, so as to ensure production of good meat in a short time and at small expense. All these processes depend more or less on a knowledge of mechanics, chemistry, and physiology. The most important recent improvements in agriculture have been made by persons versed in these sciences.

That it is therefore necessary, both for a successful prosecution of the art and for its future development, that those of our population who wish to adopt agriculture as a profession should have an opportunity of obtaining instruction in the sciences bearing on agriculture.

That it is understood to be the object of the Department of Science and Art to afford to the working classes intending to follow any important industry means of instruction in the sciences bearing on it. Thus persons intending to be engineers, manufacturers, builders, miners, or mariners, are, in the schools or classes encouraged by the aid of the Science and Art Department, enabled to obtain the instruction required for those several arts and trades. They are instructed not only in the abstract principles of the sciences applicable to the several industries, but also in their practical application. For instance, the engineer is taught mathematics, geometry, machine construction, and applied mechanics; the miner is taught geology, mineralogy, metallurgy, mechanics, and the principles of mining; the mariner is taught astronomy, physical geography, mathematics, navigation, and steam.

That a similar arrangement is required for agriculture; and your memorialists now respectfully and earnestly ask that it shall as soon as possible be sanctioned.

That what has already been done for engineering, machine-making, ship-building, mining, navigation, and other great industries, your memorialists ask to be done for the not less important industry of agriculture.

That with this view your memorialists ask that the grants of the department shall be declared to cover instruction in chemistry, mechanics, physiology, botany, morphology, steam, and other scientific subjects, when taught in the abstract, in so far as necessary for agriculture; and also to cover instruction given in the "principles of agriculture" as an applied science, and to place it in the same position as "machine construction," "applied mechanics," the "principles of mining," and "navigation," which are already included in the list of scientific arts towards instruction in which aid is given and in which examinations are carried out by the department.

That your memorialists are happy to be able to state that there are many schools in Scotland into which the instruction now referred to will be at once introduced, if the department accedes to the application made by your memorialists.

May it therefore please your Lordships to take the premises into your favourable consideration, and your memorialists will ever pray.

(Signed) ROBT. A. B. TOD, Chairman.

Edinburgh, 14th July, 1874.

To this memorial the following answer has been received:

Science and Art Department,
London, S.W., 15th August, 1874.

Sir,—I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Council of Education to inform you that their Lordships have had before them your letter of the 14th ultimo, forwarding a memorial from the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, and in reply I am to state that while their Lordships are disposed to accede to the request contained therein, it is too late now to include for this year the science of agriculture in the list of subjects towards instruction in which aid is granted by this department. The case is therefore reserved for future but early consideration. I am, however, at the same time, to point out that the branches of general sciences, such as chemistry, mechanics, physiology, and botany, &c., which must form the foundation of any course of instruction in agriculture, are already aided, both in elementary schools and by the Science and Art Department. These subjects must to a certain extent be mastered by all students who intend to take up the applied science of agriculture. I am to add that the best means of giving effect to the suggestions of the Highland and Agricultural Society will be carefully considered.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, (Signed) NORMAN MACLEOD.

F. N. Menzies, Esq.

A letter was read from the Society of Arts, London, as to examinations in "the technology of agriculture."

STIRLING SHOW, 1873.—Two-year-old Polled Heifers: The

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second and fourth premiums, awarded respectively to Mr. M'Combie, M.P., Tillyfour, for Pride of Alford, and to Sir George Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch, Bart., for Eva, have been forfeited, owing to the animals having failed to produce calves within the specified time. The second premium has been transferred to the Earl of Fife, for Heather Blossom, which stood third. Two-year-old Galloway Heifers: The first and fourth premiums, awarded respectively to the Duke of Buccleuch for Melantho, and to Mr. Graham, Percelstown, for Hermione, have also been forfeited for the same reason. The first premium has been transferred to Mr. Cunningham, Tarbreoch, for Favourite, and the second to the Duke of Buccleuch for Mellona.

INVERNESS SHOW, 1874.—The secretary stated that the Local Committee had on 1st September last resolved not to proceed with the trial of reaping machines selected for trial at the show.

The subject of hefting was before the board, and after some consideration was referred to the General Show Committee to draw up more stringent rules on the subject.

It was remitted to the Committee on General Shows to arrange the premiums and adjust the regulations for the show to be held at Glasgow next year.

Requisitions addressed to the directors to hold the general show at Aberdeen in 1876, from the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine, and the town of Aberdeen, were laid before the meeting, and remitted to the Committee on General Shows to prepare the classes of stock for which premiums should be offered.

The minute of the Committee on Steam Cultivation of date 2nd September, containing the resolution of the committee not to hold the proposed exhibition of steam cultivators this autumn, in consequence of there being no entries, was read and approved.

The secretary reported that the preliminary examination of students for the Society's veterinary certificate took place on the 14th and 15th July, when 37 students entered their names for examination—namely 10 from the Edinburgh Veterinary College, 14 from the New Veterinary Edinburgh College, and 13 from the Glasgow Veterinary College, and that only six failed to pass.

The following remits were made: To the Committee on Office-bearers, to report on vacancies and suggest list for 1875: to the Committee on Essays and Reports, to read and report on papers lodged in 1874, and to revise the list for 1875; to the Committees on District Competitions and on Cottages and Gardens, to revise the awards for 1874 and consider the applications for 1875; to the Committee on General Shows, to consider and report on letters from the Marquis of Tweeddale, proposing to offer premiums for turnip thinners and manure distributors; and from Mr. Davidson of Tulloch, on having separate classes for Highland ponies.

The premium awarded to Mr. James Lawrence, Mills of Forres, and to Mr. Alexander Winton, Viewhill, for the second and third best mares at the local competition held at Inverness in August 1873, were forfeited, the mares having failed to produce foals within eleven months of the date of competition.

A letter was read from Overintendant Hammerherre Holst, Chamberlain of his Majesty Oscar II., and Director of the Central Agricultural School of Norway at Oas, expressing his deep gratitude for having been elected an honorary associate of the Society at its last general meeting.

GREENHILL FAIR.—Shepherds who attended with their flocks from long distances started from home two or three days, or even a week, before the fair, driving their charges a few miles each day—not more than ten or twelve—and resting them at night in hired fields by the wayside at previously chosen points, where they fed, having fasted since morning. The shepherd of each flock marched behind, a bundle containing his kit for the week strapped upon his shoulders, and in his hand his crook, which he used as the staff of his pilgrimage. Several of the sheep would get worn and lame, and occasionally a lambing occurred on the road. To meet these contingencies there was frequently provided, to accompany the flocks from the remoter points, a pony and waggon into which the weakly ones were taken for the remainder of the journey. When the autumn sun slanted over Greenhill this morning and lighted the dewy flat upon its crest, nebulous clouds of dust were to be seen floating between the pairs of hedges which streaked the wide prospects around in all directions. These gradually converged upon the base of the hill, and the flocks became individually visible, climbing the serpentine ways which led to the top. Thus, in a slow procession, they entered the openings to which the roads wended, multitude after multitude, horned and hornless—blue flocks and red flocks, buff flocks and brown flocks, even green and salmon-tinted flocks, according to the fancy of the colourist and custom of the farm. Men were shouting, dogs were barking, with greatest animation, but the thronging travellers in so long a journey had grown nearly indifferent to such terrors, though they still bleated piteously at the unwontedness of their experiences, a tall shepherd rising here and there in the midst of them, like a gigantic idol amid a crowd of prostrate devotees. The great mass of sheep in the fair consisted of South Downs and the old Wessex horned breeds. These filed in about nine o'clock, their vermiculated horns lopping gracefully on each side of their cheeks in geometrically perfect spirals, a small pink and white ear nestling under each horn. Before and behind came other varieties, perfect leopards as to the full rich substance of their coats and only lacking the spots. There were also a few of the Oxfordshire breed, whose wool was beginning to curl like a child's flaxen hair, though surpassed in this respect by the effeminate Leicesters, which were in turn less curly than the Cotswolds. But the most picturesque by far was a small flock of Exmoors, which chanced to be there this year. Their pied faces and legs, dark and heavy horns, tresses of wool hanging round their swarthy foreheads, quite relieved the monotony of the flocks in that quarter. All these bleating, panting, and weary thousands had entered and were penned before the morning had far advanced, the dog belonging to each flock being tied to the corner of the pen containing it. Alleys for pedestrians intersected the pens, which soon became crowded with buyers and sellers from far and near.—*The Cornhill Magazine.*

THE SO-CALLED CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.—It has given us little else but a discussion on the exceptional burdens of the landed proprietor and on the means by which in future he is to get off more cheaply. Just as reasonably might the Manchester manufacturers have confined themselves to the hardship of tonnage-dues, or to the unjust incidence of the Income-tax on the profits of trade. We will not conclude unfairly, that the members of the Chamber of Agriculture are at all more really selfish than the rest of us; but we may say without offence, that they might more appropriately, and with more justice to themselves, have shown a less narrow range of interests.—*The Times.* If there were one organisation more than another where the land tenancy question might be expected to appear, it is the so-called Chamber of Agriculture, which is now to be met with nearly everywhere. But, in England at any rate, these societies are almost exclusively engaged about taxation topics, such as Highway Legislation and those other incidents of the land which affect the parish or the county rate. These are, no doubt, important subjects; but it is plain that they are far more important in the long run to the owner of the land than to the owner of the capital employed upon it.—*The Agricultural Gazette.*

SEWAGE DIFFICULTIES.—Troubles come in legions to our local boards. The difficulty of getting rid of sewage appears to increase rather than decrease day by day; and it is now evident that Parliament must, at a very early date, reconsider the whole state of the law as regards sanitary questions.—*The Engineer.*

PRESENTATION TO MR. J. B. BOOTH.—The Bedale Hunt has presented the master, Mr. J. B. Booth, of Killerby Hall, a solid silver centre-piece, with richly-chased rustic base and groups of figures representing a huntsman holding a fox with the hounds surrounding him, and the following inscription: "Subscribed for and presented to Mr. John B. Booth, on his marriage, by the members of the Bedale Hunt and other friends, as an assurance of their good wishes, and as a mark of esteem and gratitude for his services as master of the Bedale hounds." There was also a pair of dessert stands to match these, with the silver hunting horn presented to Mr. Booth on the 28th of April last, and a bracelet presented to Mrs. Booth, set with pearls and pink coral, the cost of the plate and hunting horn being 200 guineas, and the bracelet 40 guineas. The Earl of Feversham made the presentation.

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MANURES.

The following paper was read by Mr. JOHN LEIGH, Medical Officer of Health for the City of Manchester, at a meeting of the Manchester Farmers' Club, from whose Journal we take the full report.

Before proceeding with the special subject of my address, will you pardon me if, for a few moments, I carry you back into the past, so that we may regard the present with some intelligible idea of how it is that things are as we now find them? There has been a time in the history of this globe during which there is strong reason to believe it existed as a red-hot, glowing, incandescent mass, the ocean surrounding it not as a liquid, but as a vast gaseous atmosphere. Such is the condition of the sun at the present moment, so far as astronomers can make out; and such, it is probable, is the condition of several of the planetary bodies of our solar system, notably of Jupiter and of Saturn. Everything that was capable of being raised into vapour by the most intense heat existed in that condition, just as we find that the sun's atmosphere at this time contains the elements of most, if not all, of the earth's constituents. A very distinguished French philosopher, M. Hor. Deville, has shown, by a series of beautifully-devised experiments, that at a very exalted temperature not only is there no tendency of different bodies to unite chemically with each other, but that even bodies already combined, and having a strong chemical affinity for each other, tend to become separated, or, as he has expressed it, to be dissociated. It is tolerably certain, then, that in this condition of things there would be no water on our globe, but only the elements of water existing as separate gases in the atmosphere. There would be no alkalies or earth, no clay, lime, or sand, but only the metallic bases of these, no rocks or soil of any kind. Everything liquid or solid (if solids, indeed, could exist) would be in the metallic state, with the exception of the few substances not recognised to be metals, as carbon, silicon, &c. As the earth cooled, by the radiation of its heat into space, the conditions necessary for the exercise of chemical affinities would be attained, and mainly by the powerful chemical tendencies of oxygen, the metals, with carbon, silicon, &c., would be burned; alkalies and earths would be formed; oxygen and hydrogen would enter into combination to form water, with such explosions as might well rend a world asunder. As the cooling went on, crusts of earth would be formed, broken through from time to time by outbursts of lava, even as takes place at this time from our volcanic outlets. In time the waters gathered in the hollows of the earth, seething and hissing through many a long millennium; the crust of the globe thickened, washed and abraded by the roaring seas, and the rain fell, and through countless ages the uplifted masses of strong rock were worn away and laid in beds in the depths of the ocean. And slowly, from time to time, these beds rose to the surface and became dry land, and the seas flowed over other lands; and in their turn these lands were washed into the sea, and so on and on, through such myriads of years as seems almost for ever. The surface of the earth, then, as we find it, is composed of rocks formed at the bottom of the sea, or projected from the interior as lava through the mouths of volcanoes (though some of these lavas have also been poured out in the sea depths), or of rocks which, though formed by sedimentary deposition at the bottom of the sea, have been so acted upon and altered by the internal heat of the earth as to have become crystalline (the metomorphic rocks), such as the white crystalline limestone, saccharine or white marble, which may have originally been chalk, the crystalline schists, and possibly granite, with many others. Thus we have our great thicknesses of sandstone, limestone, chalk, schists, shales, granites, greenstones, serpentines, porphyries, and the numerous other rocks which come up to the surface in various parts of this and other countries. But we have in this part of our country also great beds of clay, marl, loam, sand, and gravel; and we find that at this day beds of this kind are being formed by the grinding, wearing, powdering action of vast glaciers in Greenland, Norway, Switzerland, and elsewhere, where vast caps of ice have for thousands of years covered the lands; and it is assumed, on evidence now beyond dispute, that these beds of ours were formed by similar action. The hard and impenetrable rocks, worn and abraded by the irresistible filing and rasping of vast moving masses of ice, have yielded a mud, when we had another climate to this, which was deposited in the plains and valleys it is now your business to cultivate. Sand and gravel have been formed more of less out of this by subsequent washings of brooks, rivers, or the sea. Many times, however, in the earth's history has the land been covered with vegetation, and then great beds of coal have been formed for us. In this part of the country the surface has chiefly been formed by ice action. But even yet all was not accomplished. The wind, the ocean, and perhaps birds, brought the seeds of plants from other lands to these new beds; and the seeds germinated, and the plants grew, drawing nourishment from the air, flowered, and formed fruit. These withered and decayed, leaving in the soil a portion of the food they had taken from the air, in repayment of the support they had received. And as the green herbage spread over the land came herds and flocks to crop its freshness, manuring the land they roamed over, and leaving their bones upon the soil. Thus in the long centuries was formed the rich black mould which, in a covering of variable thickness, forms the basis of modern culture. No doubt it strikes you, gentlemen, as it does me, that there is something wonderfully beautiful and beneficent in all this. How reckless of time the Maker hath been, how vast the agencies He has emplied, how mighty the implements in fitting the earth for our occupation, and how beautiful and symmetrical are the results! I am reminded of a fine idea of Professor Ramsay, the Director of the Geological Survey, who says that, in trying to carry his mind back to the period of even one of the latest great geological changes," it seems to him like trying to measure the distance of one of the remotest fixed stars faintly glimmering in the far horizon, whose light, travelling at the rate of 200,000 miles per second, has taken thousand of years to reach our eyes. With this brief introduction, let us now consider what it is that we have to deal with. We have a soil ready formed to our hands, special plants to cultivate, flocks and herds to feed. The flocks and herds depend upon the plants; the plants upon the soil. How can we best maintain the fertility of the soil; how enrich it when it has become impoverished? We may dismiss the herds and flocks for a moment, and consider how the plants feed. The food of plants may be considered under two heads—air-food (by which I mean the food extracted from the atmosphere), and root-food or earth-food, though the latter includes a portion of the former. The organs by which the air-food is received are chiefly the leaves; the small fibrils of the roots imbibe the earth-food. Nothing enters the plants in a solid condition. The air-food, with the exception, perhaps, of water, is all gaseous; the root-food all liquid. Any liquid food imbibed by the roots is of matters in absolute solution, clear and transparent. From the atmosphere plants take, by the leaves, carbonic acid, ammonia, and water; from the soil, by the roots, carbonic acid, salts of ammonia, nitrates, and certain mineral matters, varying in quantity with the species of the plants, and, to some extent, with the nature of the soil on which they grow. A considerable quantity of the air-food, or that which plants derive from the atmosphere, is carried down to the soil by rain, in which carbonic acid and the salts of ammonia are soluble, and these are afterwards imbibed by the roots. The chief salt of atmospheric ammonia is carbonate. In the neighbourhood of towns small quantities of sulphate, muriate, and nitrate of ammonia are also found. All the atmospheric ammonia is probably darived from the decomposition of animal and vegetable bodies and from volcanoes. Much of the carbonic acid is probably due to the same sources. Liebig, from whom we have learned to differ in some particulars, from our enlarged experience, but who was one of our greatest agricultural teachers, taught us to find the ammonia in the atmosphere by analysing a shower. The rain, as it fell, dissolved the ammonia salts it found in the air; and Liebig, by distilling the water, extracted the salts. In dry weather, then, there will be more of the salts of ammonia in the atmosphere than in wet weather, but they are not brought in considerable quantity to the plants, being diffused through a large body of air, and largely occupying higher strata of the atmosphere. Nevertheless, winds and currents of air assist in

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bringing the ammonia salts and carbonic acid into contact with the plants. The leaves are the true lungs of plants. If you examine the under surface with a microscope you will find it studded with thousands of little oval valvular openings communicating with the interior of the leaves. Animals take in solids and liquids by the mouth, and exhale into the atmosphere by the lungs carbonic acid, and pass to the earth by the kidneys ammonia in the form of urea. Plants drink up by the roots and the leaves ammonia and carbonic acid, and exhale into the atmosphere by their lungs (the leaves) oxygen, and store up in their organs starch, gluten, oil, sugar, and other substances which they have elaborated from the ammonia and carbonic acid. Thus to a certain extent *we* find the materials for *their* life, and *they*, to a larger extent, for *ours*. We shall now be able to answer the question how it is that plants in the neighbourhood of large towns generally, and in that of Manchester especially at the present time, look brown and unhealthy and drooping, utterly unlike the bright, clear green of the country, even at this dry season. It is that the pores of the leaves, those beautiful little valvular openings of which I spoke, are choked up by smoke (which is only soot and tar), and dust and dirt, and they cannot breathe. They are suffocated by solid particles; their juices are poisoned by the corrosive vapours poured out by our chemical manufactures and from our chimnies. With less rain than we ordinarily have, our suburban trees would cease to live, and even in our greenhouses incessant washing is necessary to preserve our plants in health. From the earth plants drink up by the rootlets not only carbonic acids and the salts of ammonia, but phosphates, silicates, sulphates, nitrates, muriates, the salts of potash, soda, lime, magnesia, iron, and manganese. These are as necessary to the healthy growth of the plants as the carbonic acid and ammonia. Without these the latter cannot be assimilated so as to produce luxuriant vegetation. Silicate of potash forms the outer skeleton or coating of straw and of the stalks of grasses; phosphates are found in the seeds largely, and in root crops; magnesia in the husks; potash, soda, lime, iron, and manganese almost everywhere. Why do brass-polishers use burnt straw to polish their metal? Because of the finely-divided flint that the ashes contain. Yes, the outer coating of straw, that which it such a smoothness to the touch, such a polish to the eye, is flint, or sand, or crystal, for they are all the same. It is spread over it as a beautiful varnish, impervious to moisture, so that when the rain falls upon it it may glide over it and run down to the ground. Were it otherwise, and the stem became sodden and wet with rain, it could not sustain the weight of the ear; but the straw is a hollow column or shaft of the strongest form, bulging slightly in the centre, strengthened by bands at intervals, and varnished to protect it from injury. The ear is an overhanging cone, bristling with sharp points to split up and turn aside the drops of rain, and the grain has an extra tight-fitting coat of extra strength and thickness. Plants in a state of nature die on the soil in which they grow; and in their decay leave behind them in the soil a portion of the matter they have extracted from the atmosphere. Hence the formation, extending through a long course of ages, of that dark brown or black deposit which covers so large a part of the earth's surface, in varying depths, called humus or mould, and which mingled with clay or sand constitutes black or dark loam, and, with clay and lime, marl. That this humus or mould is organic and derived from the prolonged growth and decay of vegetation is evident from its combustibility. It may be burnt away, leaving the mineral matter behind. To a slight extent it is soluble in water. Its solubility, however, is much increased by the presence of alkalies, as potash, or soda. It does not seem, however, even when in solution, to be taken up with certainty by plants, as its solution is of a dark brown colour; whereas the juice or liquid contained in the extremest rootlets of plants is colourless, with the exception of a few milky juiced plants. It is capable of combining with ammonia, and has therefore, probably, acid properties; indeed, the ammonia can be separated from it by stronger acids. It is probable that it is, even when in solution, or when combined with ammonia, converted by oxidation into carbonic acid before it is absorbed by plants. It has very powerfully the property of condensing ammonia from the atmosphere within its pores, and of slow conversion into carbonic acid by the oxygen of the air. It is probable that its chief utility in the soil is in the absorption of the ammonia, and the gradual yielding of carbonic acid. Its power of condensing oxygen also from the air, by which its conversion into carbonic acid is accomplished, and by which possibly the ammonia salts may be partially converted into nitrate, is to be considered. At the first glance it may seem that the presence of this humus or mould in the soil should be sufficient for the growth of plants, and to a certain extent it is; as witness the pampas, the llanos, and the savannahs of America, where vast crops of vegetable matter, extending over thousands of miles, are yielded every year, the grave of the one crop being the cradle of the next. But here the plants are never removed; they furnish their own manure. All over the world plants of a certain limited luxuriance spring from this foster-mother, unaided by external appliances. Nevertheless, we have discovered, at a very early period of human history, that by breaking up the humus or mould, mixing it well into the subjacent soil, and loosening its texture, we can increase its fertility; and hence one reason of the operations of ploughing, harrowing, &c. By these operations we increase its porosity, by which it can absorb a larger quantity of ammonia from the air; we expose a larger surface to the air, by which a larger portion can be converted into carbonic acid, and we mix it well with the mineral soil, the constituents of which can be brought to the rootlets of the plants. Thus, so far as the humus or mould is concerned, the utility of ploughing, harrowing, and otherwise breaking up the soil is obvious. For the same reason deep draining is valuable. Water is capable of holding in solution a certain fixed quantity of oxygen. When lying on the soil this is very rapidly extracted by the decaying matter underneath, whether humus or manure, for the production of carbonic acid. When it has thus lost its oxygen it simply drowns and suffocates the plants, by preventing the access of the oxygen of the air to the matter surrounding the roots of the plants, and they thus become both starved and suffocated. I often hear the injurious effect of stagnant water explained by its coldness; but it is not this so much as the prevention of the access of air about the roots. Rain-water and running water is charged with ozonised oxygen, which it imparts to the decaying matter over which it flows; and oxygen in this state has a much more powerful and vigorous action in the conversion of decaying matter into carbonic acid than ordinary oxygen. Once that it has parted with it, however, it should get away as rapidly as possible. All stagnant water is injurious, for whilst running water oxidises, stagnant water produces putrefaction. In civilised countries, where the population is large and the land is limited, and where it is necessary that the latter should produce its maximum result, the humus or mould in the soil is found to be insufficient for the work required of it, and especially is this the case when the matters absorbed from the soil by the plants grown upon its surface are not returned to it. Hence the attempts practised in all ages within human history to supplement its natural action by additions made to it in the form of manures. These have been, and are very various in composition, qualities, and effects. In some, special adaptation to the soil has been attempted, in others to the *crops*. It has been observed that certain plants grow better on some soils than on others. Some are found to flourish best in limestone countries, others on chalk, some on red sandstone, and others on a granite soil. Some effect a rich marl, and others a mellow loam. An analysis of their ashes shows a corresponding proportion of their favourite minerals, and hence some attention has been given to the mineral constituents of soils in relation to plants, and by Liebig especially it was very minutely studied, and its importance in connection with manures somewhat exaggerated. He reasoned himself into a belief that the amount of ammonia and carbonic acid capable of being absorbed by the leaves of plants, with that taken up by the roots from both of these, condensed in the soil, was sufficient for the most luxuriant plant-life, and that it was only necessary to add to the soil such mineral ingredients as have been removed from it by any vegetable crop to secure a perpetuation of its fertility. The experiments of Boussingault and of Gilbert and Lawes fail to bear out Liebig's hypothesis. They found that these minerals, unaccompanied by carbonic acid and ammonia-producing materials, were productive of very trifling effects. It was necessary that abundance of nitrogenous and carbonic materials should be applied to the roots, in addition to these, for the production of high fertility. The most important mineral elements appear to be phosphates, and silicates, and salts of potash. It would

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appear that the form in which nitrogen should be applied to the soil is not necessarily that of ammonia, since nitrate of soda and nitrate of potash form very stimulating manures. The form in which nature seems to have intended manures to be applied to the soil is in that of animal excreta, and especially those of carnivorous animals. But the herbivora are themselves food to the carnivora, and unless the excreta of the latter are returned to the soil, this will lack a large part of what it has given. The excreta of herbivorous animals contain comparatively little nitrogen or phosphates, whilst those of the carnivora are rich in these. In civilised countries flocks and herds consume the grass, nations consume the flocks and herds. The cattle and sheep are removed to the towns, and not even their bones returned to the soil. Their excreta, mixed with straw, and forming farm-yard manure, are put upon the ground, but as these do not contain, by the amount of the bulk of the animals producing them, to say nothing of their condensed composition, what has been taken from the soil, it has been found necessary to supplement them by the purchase of extraneous manures—such as guano, sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, phosphate of lime, and a host of other compounds; but the best of all these is guano. The operations of agriculture are as important in bringing into utilizable condition the mineral constituents of the earth's surface as in their effects on the humus or mould. All the mineral food of plants is contained in greater or less abundance in the soil, the richest soils being furnished by the *debris* of some of the hardest rocks, especially the volcanic. By ploughing and exposing the under-soil to the action of frost, the soil becomes disintegrated or reduced to finer powder, and so made more amenable to the solvent power of rain; and thus the phosphates, potash, silica, &c., are made available to the plants. By alteration of crops and by lying fallow the same object is assisted, time being allowed for the liberation of the essential ingredients of particular crops by their non-absorption during fallow, or by putting crops on which do not require them. By manures we understand substances which, being put upon the soil, restore to it the matters which have been taken away from it by flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, and by the removal of crops of grain, of roots, and of hay, and which have the effect, if we may use the expression, of fattening the crops which spring from it, or of giving to them luxuriance of growth and richness of composition; for these conditions, as it appears to me, are necessary for the full development, and rich condition of the stock that feeds upon them. For several years I received from the late Mr. Leigh, of Lyme, a piece of wild beef from the wild cattle for which the park at Lyme has long been celebrated. They lived, and I suppose still do so, in the outer park, which was entirely uncultivated, and appeared as if it had never been otherwise, except in so far as it was manured by the cattle themselves, which were too few materially to have affected the surface. The beef, though very agreeable to the taste (at all events I liked it), was not fat, but mottled. It was lean and dark in colour, and had quite a different appearance to the bright red rich-looking and fat beef from our highly-cultivated pastures. The pasture on which the wild cattle lived was coarse and wiry and wanting in greenness. The want of fat was not from any excessive activity on the part of the cattle, for they always seemed to me to lead very quiet, easy, contented lives, perfectly satisfied with things as they found them, and by no means disposed to indulge an idle curiosity respecting other lands. When plants are burned they leave behind a quantity of ashes, and these ashes represent the indestructible, or rather fixed, mineral matters which the plants have extracted by their roots from the soil. Now, these minerals are those which are essential to the healthy growth of the plant, and the existence of which in the soil is essential to its fertility. They are the materials about which it may be said the organic atoms built up of the elements of carbonic acid water and ammonia are aggregated. They are part of the fabric of the plant; they strengthen and support it. No doubt they influence the formation of the organism of which they form a part in the grain, the straw, the blade, and the root. All soils are sterile without them, all fertile soils contain them. In what exact condition they exist in the plant—that is, in what state of chemical combination—I do not think has yet been sufficiently determined. In the very process of analysis some of the organic acids with which they may have been in combination are destroyed, and they are found in the ash united with carbonic acid, whereas in the plant they probably existed in a much more complex state of union. Moreover, the relative proportions of the elements of the ashes differ in the plants, varying with special circumstances. Nevertheless, the mineral elements themselves, if varying in quantity, differ little in kind, and the analyses that have been made represent them with sufficient accuracy. Fresenius found in the ashes of

RED WHEAT.

Phosphate of potass	36·51
Phosphate of soda	32·13
Phosphate of lime	3·35
Phosphate of magnesia	19·61
Phosphate of iron	3·04
Sulphate of potass / Common salt	traces
Silica	0·15
Coal and sand	4·99

WHITE WHEAT.

Phosphate of potass	52·98
Phosphate of lime	5·06
Phosphate of magnesia	32·96
Phosphate of iron	0.67
Silica	0·30
Coal and sand	8·03

RYE.

Phosphate of potass	52·91
Phosphate of soda	9·27
Phosphate of lime	5·21
Phosphate of magnesia	26·91
Phosphate of iron	1·88
Sulphate of potass	2·98
Silicate of potass	0·34
Coal and sand	0·50

OATS—(NORTON).

	Northumberland.	Ayrshire.
Phosphoric acid	38·48	50·44
Potass	20·96	20·65
Lime	6·57	10·28
Magnesia	8·69	7·82
Sesquioxide of iron	0·38	3·85
Sesquioxide of manganese	—	0·42
Sulphuric acid	17·37	—
Silica	1·29	—
Chlorides of potass and soda	—	1·03

PEAS—(WILL).

Phosphate of potass	52·78
Phosphate of soda	5·67
Phosphate of lime	10·77
Phosphate of magnesia	13.78
Phosphate of iron	2·46
Sulphate of potass	9·09
Common salt	3·96

The ashes of beans were found to have a very similar composition.

HAY—(HAIDLEN).

Silica	6 01
Phosphate of lime	16·1
Phosphate of iron	5·0
Lime	2·7
Magnesia	8·6
Sulphate of potass	2·2
Sulphate of lime	1·2
Chloride of potassium	1·3
Carbonate of soda	2·0

CLOVER—(HAIDLEN).

Phosphate of lime	11·97
Phosphate of magnesia	6·79
Phosphate of iron	1·24
Sulphate of potass	3·08
Chloride of sodium	1·67
Carbonate of potass	12·78
Carbonate of soda	13·25
Carbonate of lime	38·21
Magnesia	4·16
Silica	5·44

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WHEAT STRAW—(BERTHIER).

Silica	71·5
Potass with silica	13·0
Carbonate of lime	9·6
Phosphate of lime	2·3
Chloride of potassium	3·2
Sulphate of potass	0·4

OAT STRAW—(BERTHIER).

Silica	48·44
Potass and soda	38·55
Lime	7·02
Magnesia	2·84
Sesquioxide of iron	0·2
Sulphuric acid	18·0
Earthy phosphates	2·84

RYE-STRAW—(FRESENIUS).

Silica	63·89
Silicate potass	16·09
Silicate of lime	7·62
Magnesia	1·92
Phosphate of lime	2·50
Phosphate of magnesia	1·28
Phosphate of iron	3·20
Sulphate of potass	1·75
Alkaline chloride	0·81

TURNIPS (TUBERS)—(STAMMER).

Potass	42·71
Chloride of potassium	9·80
Lime	12·07
Magnesia	1·51
Phosphoric acid	14·18
Sulphuric acid	9·16
Silica acid	0 98
Carbonic acid	8·03
Phosphate of iron	1·40

CABBAGE (LEAVES)—(STAMMER).

Potass	41·45
Chloride of potassium	9·33
Lime	12·64
Magnesia	3·21
Phosphoric acid	13·71
Sulphuric acid	7·12
Silica acid	0·35
Carbonic acid	12·42
Phosphate of iron	1·10

SWEDES—(KEREPATH).

Potass	62·631
Lime	6·921
Magnesia	2·581
Oxide of iron	0·251
Silica	0·094
Phosphoric acid	15·890
Sulphuric acid	4·242
Alkaline chlorides	7·438

POTATOES—(PRINCE'S BEAUTY).

Potass	65·823
Lime	1·843
Magnesia	5·496
Phosphoric acid	20·831
Sulphuric acid	6·007

We now see what are the materials in the soil most important to vegetation. I have given you the analyses of the ashes of the chief crops you cultivate. The mineral matters are very few. They are—phosphoric acid, sulphuric acid, potash, soda, lime, magnesia, chlorine, iron, manganese, and silica. Of these the manganese, iron, magnesia, soda, and chlorine are found in the plants only in small quantities, and will always exist in sufficient abundance in the soil. The silica exists abundantly, but not always in sufficient quantity in the soluble form. Hence the occasional necessity for putting quick-lime on the land on which grain crops or grass crops have to be cultivated, as the lime renders the silica soluble, so that it can be taken up by the rootlets, and we have seen that these crops require a deal of silica. The lime is also useful against slugs and snails. In the experiments of Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert, at Rothamsted, wheat was grown on the same land for twenty years in succession without any manure being added to the land. The following was the amount of ashes or of mineral matter removed from the soil by each annual crop, averaging the whole:

AN AVERAGE ANNUAL CROP.

	Total produce. lbs.	Corn. lbs.	Straw. lbs.
Total ash constituents	112·00	18·00	94·00
Silica	61·48	0·18	61·30
Phosphoric acid	12·62	8·85	3·77
Potash	18·04	5·31	12·73
Soda	0·47	0·00	0·47
Lime	5·28	0·56	4·72
Magnesia	3·87	1·98	1·89
Sulphuric acid	2·59	—	2·59
Chlorine	1·89	—	1·89

Lime and magnesia exist in most soils in sufficient abundance. They are taken up by the plants as bicarbonates and sulphates. The carbonates are soluble in water charged with carbonic acid, and the sulphates are sufficiently soluble without any addition to them. The sulphuric acid of plants, except when sulphate of ammonia or other sulphates are added to the soil, is probably all derived from the sulphate of lime in the soil. What, then, are the materials removed in largest quantity from the soil? Why, by grain crops—silica, phosphoric acid, potash; by grass crops—silica, phosphoric acid, magnesia; by clover—phosphoric acid, potash, lime; by peas and beans—phosphoric acid, potash, magnesia, lime; by turnips—potash, phosphoric acid, lime; by cabbage—potash, phosphoric acid, lime; by swedes—potash, phosphoric acid, lime; by potatoes—potash, phosphoric acid, magnesia. The object of cultivation, then, is to liberate the soluble silica in the soil, that is, silica in combination with potash or soda, by ploughing, and otherwise breaking up the soil, assisting the action occasionally by dressings of lime (the disintegration giving the rain access to the soluble silica), to supply the soil abundantly with phosphoric acid, and with potash or soda, with salts of ammonia, and carbonic acid-producing materials in the shape of manures. Farm-yard manure contains, perhaps in greatest variety, the materials extracted from the soil and required to be returned to it. Composed of the dung of horses and cows, mixed with their urine and with the straw, which have served for their bedding, it necessarily contains all the matters extracted from the soil by these animals, less those contained in their own bodies. The straw and other similar substances in their decomposition yield carbonic acid and silicate of potash. But, inasmuch as their bodies do not return to the soil, and they carry away with them a large quantity of the soil extract in a very concentrated form, the farmer has to make up for the loss by the purchase of equivalent quantities of extraneous manures, these being chiefly sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, phosphates of lime, soluble and insoluble, and other phosphates, bones, both exhausted of their gelatine and with the gelatine extracted, guano, natural and artificial, and a host of compounds under various fancy names. The sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, phosphates of lime, and bones, though all exceedingly valuable, yet only supply their own particular ingredients, and not all the elements required by the partially exhausted soil, and which, properly intermingled and combined, are necessary to the composition of a true manure. Of the substances used, good natural guano fulfils these conditions the most fully, having all the materials required except that for the production of carbonic acid. From the latter consideration it might be best to use it in conjunction with farm-yard manure, or at least with rotting straw. Guano consists of the dung of birds, in this case both urine and fæces, as they are discharged by the same orifice, the urine becoming acid soon after its discharge. Hence guano is to a large extent simply solid urine, and hence its great richness in ammonia and phosphates. The birds producing guano are carnivorous, and the urine of all carnivorous animals is exceedingly rich in these two, ammonia and phosphates. The nearest approach to guano available for agricultural purposes is afforded by human urine, the composition of which, if evaporated to dryness, would be very similar to that of guano.

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COMPOSITION OF GUANO—(PURE).

	African.			American.		
Ammonia (carbonate, urate, &c.)	9·5	9·5	—	—	8·6	7·5
Phosphates of lime and magnesia	17·5	18·0	22·39	22·5	20·5	22.5
Alkaline salts, sulphates, phosphates, chlorides	7·3	6·5	7·08	8·1	6·5	8·2
Combustible organic matter (uric, oxalic, or almic acids, &c.), sand and earthy matter	1·3	0·5	0·81	1·6	1·5	2·6
Water	25·0	28·5	27·13	22·2	26·0	25·0

GUANO FROM LIMA—(VOLCKEL).

Muriate of ammonia	4·2
Oxalate of ammonia	10·6
Urate of ammonia	9·0
Phosphate of ammonia	6·0
Phosphate of magnesia and ammonia	2·6
Phosphate of lime	14·3
Sulphate of potass	5·5
Sulphate of soda	3·8
Oxalate of lime	7·0
Residue (water; insoluble matter, and loss)	37·0

GUANO FROM LIVERPOOL—(BARTEL'S).

Muriate of ammonia	6·5
Oxalate of ammonia	13·35
Urate of ammonia	3·24
Phosphate of ammonia	6·25
Phosphate of magnesia and ammonia	4·20
Phosphate of lime	9·94
Phosphate of soda	5·30
Sulphate of potash	4·22
Sulphate of soda	1·12
Oxalate of lime	16·36
Water, insoluble matter, and loss	28·518

AFRICAN GUANO—(TESCHEMACHER).

Oxalate, phosphate, and ulmate of ammonia and organic matter containing 5 per cent. ammonia	25
Equal to ammonia	—
Fixed alkaline salts, muriate, sulphate and phosphate of potass	11
Phosphates of lime and magnesia	32
Water	30

AFRICAN GUANO—(W. FRANCIS).

Ammoniacal salts, oxalate, muriate, carbonate of ammonia, and organic matter	42·59
Containing of ammonia	9·7
Phosphate of lime and magnesia	22·39
Alkaline salts, phosphate, muriate, and sulphate of potass	7·08
Sand	0·81
Water	22·39

AFRICAN GUANO—(URE).

Ammonia (combined with phosporic acid)	9·5
Combustible animal matter	37·0
Phosphate of lime and magnesia	18·5
Mixed alkaline salts of potass	6·11
" " " sand	0·5
" " " water	28·5

PERUVIAN AND BOLIVIAN GUANO.

Average result of analysis of genuine guano—(Ure).

Azotised organic matter, including urate of ammonia, and capable of affording from 8 to 17 per cent. of ammonia, by slow decomposition in the soil	50·0
Ammonia, phosphate of magnesia, phosphate of ammonia, and oxalate of ammonia, containing from 4 to 9 per cent. of ammonia	13·0
Phosphate of lime	12 to 25·0
Sand	1·0
Water	8 to 11·0

GUANO FROM THE CHINCHA ISLANDS—(URE).

Salts of ammonia	—
Muriate of ammonia	3·00
Phosphate of ammonia	14·32
Carbonate of ammodia	1·00
Sulphate of ammonia	2·00
Oxalate of ammonia	3·23
Urate of ammonia	14·73
Phosphate of magnesia and ammonia	4·50
Equal to ammonia	9·8
Soluble organic matter and urea	8·95
Phosphate of lime	22·00
Oxalate of lime	1.00
Sulphate of potash	6·00
Sand	1·00
Undefined organic matter	9·52
Water	8·50

PERUVIAN GUANO—(KERSTEN).

Ammonia	8·6
Phosphate of lime and magnesia	20·5
Alkaline fixed salts, phosphates, sulphates, and chlorides of potass and soda	6·5
Organic combustible matters	36.5
Sand	1·5
Water	26·0

PURE PERUVIAN GUANO—(KERSTEN).

Ammonia	7·5
Phosphate of lime and magnesia	22·5
Fixed alkaline salts	8·2
Organic combustible matters	35·0
Sand	2·0
Water	25·0

AFRICAN GUANO—(KERSTEN).

Ammonia	9·5
Phosphate of lime and magnesia	17·5
Fixed alkaline salts	7·3
Organic combustible matters	39·5
Sand	1·3
Water	25·0

SOUTH AMERICAN GUANO—(DENHAM SMITH).

Ammonia	6·78
Uric acid	16·52
Soluble animal matter	1·33
Soluble organic matter	1·50
Insoluble organic matter with water	3·45
Soluble phosphoric acid	0·85
Insoluble phosphoric acid	10·20
Soluble lime	0·10
Insoluble lime	11·87
Magnesia	0·82
Potash	4·37
Hydrochloric acid	1·75
Sulphuric acid	3·64
Oxalic acid	6·47
Sand	1·56
Water	22·2

SOUTH AMERICAN GUANO—(DENHAM SMITH).

Ammonia	5·43
Uric acid	2·30
Organic matter	8·05
Phosphoric acid	16·32
Lime	15·85
Magnesia	0·76
Potash	1·14
Soda	3·37
Hydrochloric acid	2·41
Sulphuric acid	2·10
Oxalic acid	12 85
Water, sand, and humus	29·46

SOUTH AMERICAN GUANO—(DENHAM SMITH).

Ammonia	5·08
Organic matter	1·73
Phosphoric acid	11·78
Lime	8·17
Magnesia	0·42
Potash	3·84
Soda	12·64
Sulphuric acid	14·41
Oxalic acid	12·54
Chlorine	1·81
Water, sand, and humus	28·97

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These analyses of guano all tell the same tale. They are, if genuine, mainly and essentially composed of salts of ammonia, phosphates of lime, with a little magnesia, alkaline phosphates, and sulphates. Now listen to the composition of human urine, according to Berzelius:

100 parts of the solid residue of human urine contain—

Urea	44·39
Uric acid	1.49
Muriate of ammonia	2·23
Lactate of ammonia and animal matters	25·58
Phosphate of soda and ammonia	6·85
Phosphates of lime and magnesia	1·49
Sulphates of potash and soda	10·26
Chloride of sodium	6·64

Now, the 44·39 parts of urea are equal to 57·72 parts of carbonate of ammonia, or to 25·2 of pure ammonia, to say nothing of the ammonia represented by the uric acid, muriate of ammonia, and animal matters. There is no guano so rich in ammonia as the dried human urine. Let us classify the contents according to Berzelius:

Urea	30·0 to 50·0
Uric acid	1·5 „ 1·6
Extractive matters, ammonia, salts and clorides	26·0 „ 50·0
Alkaline phosphates	5·5 „ 6·8
Earthy phosphates	1·5 „ 2·0
Alkaline sulphates	8·2 „ 11·5

It is like reading an analysis of the richest guano, except that it is richer than guano in all but the earthy phosphates. Let us now see what is the proportion of these earthy phosphates in the other human excretion. Enderlin analysed dry human fæces, and found in 100 parts:

Phosphate of lime and magnesia	80·37
Sulphate of lime	4·53
Silica	7·94
Phosphate of iron	2·09
Phosphate of soda	2·63
Alkaline sulphate and chloride	1·36

So that nearly 83 per cent. of the ash of human fæces is composed of earthy phosphates. No manure can equal, in all the richest fertilising materials, such a compound as would be formed by these mixed excretions, if all the ingredients were preserved. A very distinguised French philosopher, M. Bousingault, a gentleman of large landed estate, a profound geologist, and a skilful chemist, has devoted himself during many years to the scientific statistics of agriculture. In conjunction with his friend, M. Payen, amongst other works he examined a very large number of materials that have at various times been employed in agriculture, with a view to test the relative quantity of nitrogen that they contain. I have selected the following numbers from his table:

Table of the comparative values of manures experimentally determined by MM. Bousingault and Payen. All the materials are estimated as dry, and the numbers indicate the proportion of nitrogen in 100 parts of the dried substances:

Farm-yard dung	1·95
Dung from an inn yard	2·08
Solid cow dung	2·30
Urine of cow	3·80
Mixed cow dung	2·59
Solid horse dung	2·91
Mixed horse dung	3·02
Sheep dung	2·99
Horse urine	12·50
Guano imported into England	6.20
„ „ „	7·05
„ „ „ France	15·73
Urine of the public vats (human)	23·11

Some time ago I collected the urine of an average family of six persons—that is, of a family of adults and children—taking the morning and evening urine. I introduced four gallons of the fresh urine into a large glass retort, and distilled it off to dryness. An immense quantity of carbonate of ammonia distilled and sublimed over. On saturing it with sulphuric acid, and evaporating to dryness, I obtained 17¾ ounces of sulphate of ammonia. The matter remaining behind in the retort I washed with boiling water, and on evaporating the washings, obtained 895 grains of soluble phosphates, sulphates and chloride. The insoluble matter still left in the retort weighed 167 grains, and consisted chiefly of phosphate of lime. The essential element of ammonia is nitrogen, and as this element exists both in guano and other animal excreta, as well as in almost all natural manures in other forms of combination than as ammonia, becoming resolved into this somewhat simple compound by the decomposition of its more complex associations, it has become customary to express its presence and amount in organic bodies, or in complex substances of organic origin, under the term "organic nitrogen." Organic nitrogen is nitrogen capable of being converted into ammonia in the soil, and every 14 grains will produce 17 grains of ammonia.

Pollution of Rivers Commissioners' Report.—Röder and Eichorn give the following data respecting the amount and proportion of organic nitrogen in human excrements, their numbers being derived from the researches of Wolf and Lehmen.

Weight in grammes of solid and liquid excrements per person per day, and the organic nitrogen and phosphates contained therein (the gramme is nearly 15½ grains):

	Fæces.	Organic Nitrogen.	Phosphates.	Urine.	Organic Nitrogen.	Phosphates.
Men	150	1·74	3·23	1,500	15·0	6·08
Women	45	1·02	1·08	1,350	10·73	5·47
Boys	110	1·82	1·62	570	4·73	2·16
Girls	25	0·57	0·37	450	3·68	1·75

Pollution of Rivers Commissioners' Report.

Weight in avoirdupois pounds of solid and liquid excrements per person per year, and the organic nitrogen and phosphates contained therein:

	Fæces.	Organic Nitrogen.	Phosphates.	Urine.	Organic Nitrogen.	Phosphates.
Men	120·45	1·39	2·62	1,204	12·04	5.26
Women	36·08	0·81	0·86	1,083	8·61	4·38
Boys	88·33	1·51	1·29	457	3·79	1·73
Girls	20·07	0·46	0·29	361	2·95	1·40

Pollution of Rivers Commissioners' Report.

Weight in hundredweights of the excrements of 100,000 persons (37,610 men, 34,630 women, 14,060 boys, and 13,700 girls) per annum, and the organic nitrogen and phosphates contained therein:

	Fæces.	Organic Nitrogen.	Phosphates.	Urine.	Organic Nitrogen.	Phosphates.
Men	40,372	468	881	403,730	4,037	1,636
Women	11,045	250	268	334,541	2,653	1,354
Boys	11,067	183	161	57,354	481	217
Girls	2,453	56	36	45,012	360	171
	64,937	957	1,347	840,637	7,531	3,380

The River Pollution Commissioners, in their report on the Mersey and Ribble Basins, give a list of 22 towns in South Lancashire and North Cheshire, containing a population of about 1,330,000, in which are 120,000 privies and 45,000 water-closets. Of the water-closets, 30,000 are said to be in Liverpool alone. Towns: Ashton, Rochdale, Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Manchester, Salford, Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn, Liverpool, Blackburn, Chorley, Clitheroe, Preston, Southport, Stockport, Northwich, Macclesfield, Staleybridge, Glossop, and Wigan.

Weight of solid and liquid excrements and of organic nitrogen and phosphates per 1,330,000 persons, residing in the recited towns, per year, in tons:

Fæces. tons.	Organic Nitrogen. tons.	Phosphates. tons.
43,291	638	894
Urine. tons.	**Organic Nitrogen. tons.**	**Phosphates. tons.**
560,424	5,020	2,306
	5,658	3,200

Now, 5,658 tons of nitrogen are contained in 26,752 tons of sulphate of ammonia, which, at £17 per ton, cost £454,784. The 5,658 tons of nitrogen is contained also in 6,870 tons of ammonia. If the average quantity of pure ammonia in good guano be estimated at 9 per cent., then the 5,658 tons of nitrogen in the excreta of the cited 1,330,000 persons would be equal to 73,330 tons of guano, for it must be borne in mind that the combined excreta contains all the

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other ingredients of guano. And now let me request you to recall for a moment the statement of the Pollution of Rivers Commissioners, that the excreta of the 1,380,000 people residing in 22 towns of South Lancashire and North Cheshire, are received into 120,000 privies and 45,000 water closets; and the whole of these water closets, and all the privies, with the exception of the few that have been re-constructed on a better principle in Manchester and Rochdale, drain into the sewers of the respective towns, that the sewers discharge themselves into the rivers, and the rivers into the sea, carrying with them, dissolved in their waters and utterly irrecoverable, 73,330 tons of the finest guano. At the annual meeting of the Lancashire Farmers' Club and Chamber of Agriculture, held at Liverpool, May 28th, 1874, a paper was read by Mr. Thomas Rigby, the secratary, on "Lancashire farming: its favourable and adverse aspects." In this paper it is stated that of the 742,000 acres in the county from which returns were received, 103,000 were in corn crops, and 510,000 in green crops and grass, for pasture and hay. The live stock returned was 32,000 horses, 238,000 cattle, 348,000 sheep, and 39,000 pigs. Total of cattle, sheep, and pigs, 625,000 animals. Just fancy this vast number of cattle, sheep, and pigs taken off your land and driven into the sea, a large amount of the corn crops following in the same direction, for we consume the animals and the corn, and what they have taken from the land, being the substance of their whole bodies, we do not return to it. They all pass away in our excreta. From the water-closets nothing is recovered, and the night-soil that is collected contains not a tithe of the fertilising matter that drains away from the privies into the sewers, this being the urine, holding in solution, in addition to its own valuable constituents, all the soluble matter of the solid excreta. Thus are our towns underlaid by vast fever-breaking cesspools, whilst our polluted rivers roll their dark and fœtid waters to the ocean, which flings back on its shores the foul accretion. And now I have to ask you to assist me, and those who are willing workers with me, the members of the Health Committee of this great city, by your intelligence, your careful observation and patience, and by your frank communications to me, in saving for your soil the vast wealth, the utilisation of which it has been my desire in this brief address to lay open to you, that your land may be enriched, and your crops be increased, that your brooks and your rivers, and your running streams may ripple and flow, pellucid and clear, as they left their native mountains. The soil is your servant, and a very willing servant. Treat it kindly and it will repay you with smiles and with bountiful thanks. Let the frost loosen its hard masses, and the air penetrate its depths; let the plough and the spade bring its buried treasures to the light and to the sun; let the rain in kindly streams permeate its mass, leaving its heaven-born riches behind, and run—its work of bounty done—back, unpolluted, to its parent sea. Render to it again that which it cannot spare, but which you want no more; give it back that which it punishes you for withholding in fever and diarrhœa and in countless ills, and it will repay you with smiling crops of grain, gladdening the eye as it waves in the golden sunlight, and in rich fields of herbage, that fills the air with the fragrance of its dying breath as it yields to the scythe.

THE SEWAGE OF TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND COUNTRY HOUSES.

By Mr. J. Bailey Denton, C.E.

[The following paper was taken as read at the Social Science Congress in Glasgow.]

It having been suggested to the author of this communication by the authorities of the International Exhibition at South Kensington that he should illustrate the process known as "Intermittent Downward Filtration," as suggested by Dr. Edward Frankland, and first carried into practice by the author at Merthyr Tydvil by an example to be daily in operation in the western annexe of the Exhibition, it may be opportune to state briefly, for the consideration of the Association, the results obtained from it during the time it has been in operation. London sewage is delivered daily to the several exhibits of sewage treatment by the authorities of the International Exhibition, independently of the exhibitors. The quantity delivered to the author for treatment by intermittent downward filtration has been 25 gallons daily (except Sundays). This sewage has been distributed each day over the surface of three cubic yards of natural soil of a free description. Having filtered through the soil it is discharged as a clear effluent by a small outflow increased and diminished in volume as the sewage is applied. Owing to the necessarily limited character of the exhibit it was anticipated that the purification of the sewage by the soil would become less efficient the longer it was used. It will be seen, however, from the following analysis that the contrary effect has been the result. The sewage was first applied to the soil on the 23rd of June, 1874, and the application has been daily continued since that date, Sundays excepted. On the 30th of June, seven days after the first application, a sample of the effluent water was collected and sent to Dr. Benjamin Paul, F.C.S., for analysis, who forwarded to the author the following results—viz: Free ammonia ·009 in 100,000 parts, organic nitrogen ·049 in 100,000 parts. On the 10th of August, forty-eight days after the first application of the sewage to the soil, a second sample was collected and analysed by the same eminent chemist, when he reported the following results: Free ammonia ·006 in 100,000 parts, organic nitrogen ·038 in 100,000 parts. On the 14th of September, eighty-three days after commencement, a third sample of the effluent was taken, and of it Dr. Paul said that it was "even better than that of the 10th of August." This is shown by the following figures: Free ammonia ·002 in 100,000 parts, organic nitrogen ·022 in 100,000 parts. In order that these figures may be compared with the standards of purity recommended by the Rivers Pollution Commissioners it may be stated that, disregarding free ammonia as of comparatively little importance, they considered that any liquid containing more than ·3 part of organic nitrogen in 100,000 parts should be deemed inadmissible into rivers. In the supplies of drinking water to the metropolis by the eight companies the mean amount of organic nitrogen appears to be ·028 in 100,000 parts. The improvement in the condition of the effluent water which these figures of Dr. Paul show is doubtless due, in a great measure, to the means taken to deliver and distribute the sewage on to the soil with regularity, each cubic yard of soil receiving precisely the eight gallons of sewage it is designed to absorb, cleanse, and discharge. This is effected by the use of the "self-acting sewage regulator," the object of which contrivance is to apportion and deliver the precise quantity of sewage which land, prepared for irrigation or for intermittent filtration, is designed to utilise and cleanse, and this is done independently of all supervision, and of the outflow of the sewers contributing the sewage, which may at one time be extremely copious, and at another little more than a dribble. The irregularity of discharge attending the sewage of small towns, villages, mansions, and all kinds of large establishments is found to be the great difficulty in dealing with those communities. Besides overcoming this evil and thereby reducing the comparatively heavy cost of applying small quantities of sewage to land, the regulator secures with certainty that intermittency of application which is so essential to purification. Moreover, the action of the regulator is automatic and requires no attendant at night or on Sunday. The sewage as it is discharged from the town, village, or mansion flows into a tank of a capacity to hold the quantity of sewage it is desired to deliver to a certain area of land at one time. This tank is provided with a syphon or self-acting means of discharge, and directly the liquid rises to a given level the outlet comes into action and the liquid is at once discharged. When the tank is emptied the discharge ceases and the sewage commences to fill the tank again, or another tank, as found desirable, slowly or quickly according to the rate of influx. The author having carried out with complete success the intermittent downward filtration works at Merthy Tydvil, under order of the Court of Chancery, as a means of abating the nuisance arising from the pollution of the Taff—which after answering

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their temporary purpose for three years may be discontinued at any time now that the wide breadth of the land which the local board had previously purchased for surface irrigation has been laid out and completed as a sewage farm—is anxious to bring before the Congress this treatment as an effectual way of cleansing sewage permanently by recourse to a small area of land where land is very costly. The Rivers Pollution Commissioners show by six analyses taken in the years 1871 and 1872 the following results from the intermittent downward filtration adopted by the author at Merthyr Tydvil. Samples taken June and October, 1871, and July and October, 1872: Organic carbon .156, organic nitrogen ·032, ammonia ·063, nitrogen as nitrates and nitrites ·269; total combined nitrogen ·352, previous sewage or animal contamination 2·887, chlorine 2·84. Upon these figures the Commissioners say: "Judged by popular standards, these samples would be pronounced to be fairly good potable waters. They were colourless, transparent when collected, and even when viewed with reference to their chemical composition were considerably superior to the average of Thames water which is habitually used for household purposes in London; indeed there is a close resemblance in chemical composition between the effluent water issuing from the intermittent sewage filters at Merthyr Tydvil and that portion of the London water supply which is drawn from the Thames." Analyses by Dr. Paul and other chemists confirm these results. Intermittent downward filtration will be found equally valuable whether adopted by itself on a limited area of land for the primary object of purification, or in combination with surface irrigation or an extended area as a means of securing the best return from the utilisation of sewage. The value of the process in the former case cannot be over estimated, as it enables sanitary authorities to purify their sewage up to the standards recommended by the Rivers Pollution Commissioners, by the use of just as much land as they can get, if the quantity be not less than one acre to 1,000 persons, and of gaining some return in the shape of crops at the same time. When adopted in combination with irrigation intermittent downward filtration becomes the "safety valve" of sewage farming, inasmuch as where a certain quantity of land is specially prepared for intermittent filtration the farmer need not take sewage on the irrigated land when he does not want it, or when the cost of application will exceed the benefit to be derived from it. Where a small area of land only can be commanded by gravitation, and a greater breadth can be obtained for irrigation by pumping, the intermittent filtration process may be resorted to on the small plot of lower land with special advantage. In such instances the sewage may be lifted on to the higher land only when there are persons to pay a full rent for both land and sewage, in which case the quantity of sewage to be lifted will be precisely that which the farmer above desires to take, and only when he wants it. It would probably be lifted during the day and on week days, and during the night and on Sunday it would be run into the filtration areas. At times of extreme dilution, too, when the liquid might not be worth the cost of lifting, the filtration areas would receive it, and thus the cost of pumping would be reduced to a minimum. An illustration of the cost of adopting intermittent downward filtration in a case where the land was very costly, and the works of drainage and surface preparation, including carriers, &c., for distribution, expensive too, may serve to show how small will be the rate charged on a district for such a mode of disposal, when calculated upon the population and rateable value of the district contributing the sewage, which is the only proper way of considering the subject. In comparing the cost of intermittent downward filtration with that of any other process, it must not be regarded as an acreage outlay, but as one in which the total expenditure with its profit or loss must be fairly considered in relation to the ratepayers' interests. In the case of a district containing a population of 15,000, with a rateable value amounting to £45,000, and requiring fifteen acres of land to purify the sewage discharged from the district, the cost may reach the following items: Land, £3,000; under drainage, preparation of surface, carriers for distribution, chambers, &c., £2,000; total, £5,000. The charge on the district necessary to repay this sum with interest in fifty years would amount to £225 per annum. The fifteen acres of land, being divided into three equal areas of five acres each, one of which would be sufficient for the daily purification of the sewage while the other two would come into action in rotation, would be devoted to gardening purposes. The ten acres, not in daily use, would be let to market gardeners by auction at the highest prices they would give for the land, with as much sewage as they require, and no more. The lowest rent obtainable by this means would be £10 an acre, while the five acres devoted to the purification of the year's sewage would, if let at a rent or retained in the hands of the sanitary authorities, secure a return beyond the cost of attendance of at least £5 an acre. In this way £125 per annum would be realised, leaving a loss of £100 per annum upon the work. This sum of £100 apportioned on a rateable value of the property within the district amounts to less than one halfpenny in the pound. From this it will be seen that with a very limited area of land, and with comparatively costly works, the disposal of sewage by intermittent downward filtration may be attended with a loss unappreciable to the ratepayers, while if it be associated with irrigation under favourable circumstances, that loss may be turned into a profit, with the profit made larger as the area of irrigation is increased. It is to point out the great advantage of associating intermittent downward filtration with wide surface irrigation as a means of securing profit from the latter, as well as to show the small area of land that will suffice for cleansing sewage up to the standards of the Rivers Pollution Commissioners where land is difficult to get, that the present paper has been written.

A FRENCH FLOWER SHOW.—The exhibition of fruit vegetables, and flowers at the Société d'Agriculture et Horticulture, in the Rue de Grenelle, drew numbers of people. There was quite a crowd during the five days it stayed open. Flower fanciers, going there to inspect their favourites, found themselves admiring the productions of the orchard and kitchen garden. Indeed, the flowers were in the minority; and, with the exception of some magnificent double petunias and double begonias (both red and yellow), a fine show of crimson alosies, an exquisite bed of various kinds of violets, some beautiful dahlias and double pink geraniums, they were by no means striking. On the other hand, the apples and pears were magnificent both in quality and quantity. Nearly four hundred varieties of pears, and two hundred different sorts of apples, were set forth in tempting piles on long tables covered with dessert plates. Apples of every shape and every tint; the Alfriston, the Belle Joséphine, the Cadeau du Général, the Roi d'Angleterre, and the Gille de Gille, conspicuous for their enormous size; the Héliotte Dundas, the Calville, the Pomme d'Api, and the Reinette de Hollande Panachée, all exquisite in colour. Gigantic pears, the Belle Angevine and the Belle du Berry, the golden Duchesse de Berry, tapering pears, pears of dumpy growth, winter pears (sometimes ten on one stalk), mellow Beurrés, and delicate-flavoured Cressannes: they were all there in rare perfection. The grapes were not so fine. One exhibitor showed sixty-seven different sorts, but, as there are no less than two hundred cultivated at Thoméry by M. Rose Charmeux, the result was not brilliant, the examples being, as a rule, far below in beauty to what were to be seen on the *échasses* of Thoméry and By a few weeks ago. However there were some good specimens of Chasselas Napoléon, pink and violet Malvoisie and curiously shaped white Doigts de Demoiselle. There were also peaches and quinces, strawberries growing in pots, a few autumn cherries, and an interesting collection of edible berries. Nor did the public disdain the more homely shows of vegetables. One saw fashionably dressed women giving their opinion on potatoes and tomatoes, inspecting mushroom-beds, and transfixed before monster cauliflowers. Carried to such a state of perfection, even the humble cabbage is worthy of remark. Some of the rooms were most artistically arranged, especially one in which several enormous pumpkins, a curious collection of variegated *potirons*, and brilliantly-tinted gourds were shown up by a background of lofty cardoon, celery and leeks, and green banks of parsley and salad.—*The Queen.*

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THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

At the Severn Valley Farmers' Club, Mr. R. WOODWARD said: Leaving for the present the question of the relative values of wheat and barley crops, he would endeavour to account for the extraordinary decline they had had in the price of wheat in the last few months. Extracting twelve months' averages from the *London Gazette*, he found the average price of wheat in the cereal year, ending August 31st last, to have been 61s. 3d. per quarter, and that of barley 45s. 3d. He thought they would all agree with him that barley at 45s. 3d. would pay the grower very much better than wheat even at 61s. 3d. But what must they say when they found now that the best samples of barley were worth in the market 48s., and it was with difficulty they could command 44s. for the best wheat. The tables, he should think, were never so completely turned. Such an anomaly as they saw now in the corn market had never before existed in the course of his long life. Taking up corn merchants' circulars they saw wheat quoted at from 40s. to 44s., barley at from 44s. to 48s., old beans as high as 56s., hog peas 48s., oats of the best quality 40s. He did not believe such a disparity could exist six months longer. They had this strange state of things: finest wheat for human food at 1d. per lb., hog peas 1½d., beans for horses 1½d., and oats, which they also gave their horses, 1½d. He could look back to 1815, when the importation of corn was prohibited if the averages were under certain prices. Foreign wheat could not then be imported if the average of the six preceding weeks in England and Wales were under 80s. per quarter; beans, peas, and rye, if the average were under 53s.; barley if it were under 40s.; oats if it were under 27s. This was estimating the value of beans, peas, and rye at two-thirds, barley one-half, and oats one-third that of wheat. In 1828 the sliding scale was adopted, when wheat at 62s. the average was admitted at a duty of 24s. 8d. a quarter; as the price rose the duty fell, and *vice versa*. At that time they were as much frightened at the importation of one million quarters of wheat as they were now at ten millions. The growth of the population necessitated a larger supply of food, and eventually the corn-laws went by the board. It was idle to express regret that they had now no protection. What they had to do was to consider what kind of produce would best remunerate them. He was satisfied they would have to pay more attention to their grass lands, the improvement of which was much needed, and was perfectly feasible. The populous towns were inadequately supplied with milk, and he was convinced the farmers would increase their incomes by giving more attention to their dairies. They commanded 21d. or 22d. a lb. for butter. In 1842 or 1843 fresh butter was sold in the Shropshire markets for 6d. per lb. That amount was also thought a remunerative price for cheese; now 9d. per lb. could be obtained, and 10d. had been given for much English-made cheese this year. The north of England was very much dependent on America for cheese and butter, and from that country were also imported large quantities of pork. If it were more profitable to produce butter and cheese, why did they not do it? He was afraid they were too much attached to the old-fashioned practice of growing wheat. Could they afford to grow it at 40s. a quarter? If they could, let them continue to do it, for he did not think that at from 36s. to 40s. they would have any great importation from abroad. Until the present harvest they had not known the full effects of free trade in corn. He had named the price of 61s. 3d., which did not differ materially from that of the three previous years. But such bad harvests as those of 1871, '72, and '73 were seldom witnessed, and in the year ending August, 1873, they imported 12¾ million quarters of wheat and flour. France in 1873 had one of the most miserable crops ever seen, and it was doubted whether England and France could from every part of the world obtain a sufficient supply to last till the late harvest. But it happened they were all deceived, for instead of 12¾ millions being required they imported only 11¼ millions. He was puzzled to account for this difference, except it was that last winter was unusually mild, and there was a greater consumption of vegetables and less of bread. He found that the decline in the price of wheat was most rapid on the immediate approach of harvest. The people had made up their mind that there was to be a most abundant crop of wheat. He would ask practical farmers whether they had the very large crop they anticipated. He was willing to believe the crop was a good one, but he did not agree that it was an exceedingly large one. Mr. Jackson, in *The Times*, sounded the alarm that the price of wheat was too high and must come down, giving people to understand that the crop was 20 per cent. better than the average. Mr. Caird echoed Mr. Jackson's opinion. Later in the season, on August 12th, Mr. Saunderson gave it as his deliberate opinion that the crop was 7 per cent. under the average. Few would endorse this opinion. It was much more probable that the yield was 7 per cent. over the average. An average crop was generally considered to mean 28 bushels to the acre. He put this year's crop at 30 bushels as compared with 23 last year. He calculated the total produce of the country at 14 millions, and allowing one million for seed they had 13 millions to commence the year with. It was pretty well ascertained that for a population of 32 millions they required 22 million quarters of wheat, therefore there was still need of an importation of nine million quarters, or very nearly so, to carry them to the brink of the next harvest. They could not only get nine millions, but—from the reports of abundant crops everywhere—15 millions if they wanted that quantity. The question was at what price imports would cease. Considering the large amounts that had to be paid for freight, landing, &c., the question the merchant had to determine was at what price America in particular would send wheat. Would 40s. a quarter remunerate home-growers? He candidly confessed that during the 21 or 22 years he had been farming at Arley he had never been able to afford wheat at less than from 52s. to 56s. Therefore he recommended them to turn their attention to barley, with which this country could not be overdone, and which they could grow at remunerative prices. The farmers clung with remarkable tenacity to the growth of wheat. He confessed to the same weakness; he loved his wheat crop when he could produce it in such quality as in the present year. But love was often described as blind; he admitted the weakness, but must endeavour to cast it off. Such was the consumption of malt, that the revenue last year amounted to £8,620,000. Was not that an encouragement to produce malting barley? He might fairly congratulate them on the prices of many kinds of produce, the only exception being wheat. He attributed the great decline that took place in the price at harvest time to the necessity many were under of forcing their wheat to market to raise a certain sum. It was patent that they had to send 300 bushels at this time when 200 served last year to raise the same sum. The decline from the beginning of July to the beginning of September was no less than 20s. a quarter. He cleared out his last year's crop as late as 3rd July at 62s. 8d., and he saw at Kidderminster market within nine weeks of that date an equally good sample at 42s. 8d. He regarded the present year as the test of free trade; he meant as to the price at which the American grower would cease to send his wheat. It was possible that if they held their wheat for two or three months the prices might be a little better; he could not hold out any prospect that they would be materially higher. It depended very much on the severity or non-severity of the winter; if during the spring months the imports were kept up in the same ratio they had been of late then good-bye to high prices.

THE SHROPSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—In pursuance with a requisition signed by nearly 200 of the leading landowners and agriculturists of the county, the High Sheriff convened a public meeting in the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, to take into consideration "The desirability of establishing an agricultural society embracing an area of not less than the whole of Shropshire," when the following resolution was passed: "That a society be formed for the exhibition of live stock and implements, and for the general improvement of agriculture, embracing an area of not less than the whole of Shropshire." An amendment proposing to embrace within the Society's operation the adjoining counties, was not put. A committee was appointed to carry out the object of the meeting.

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NIGHT SOIL.

The following paper was read at a meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Agriculture, by Mr. W. H. YEOMANS, of Columbia.

So long as vegetation exists upon the face of the earth, exhaustion of the soil will be a consequence, and this must be provided for either by natural or artificial means. Where the agency of nature alone exists, acting towards the end of exhaustion, she also provides the means of restoration; so that, although the trees of the forest grow and wax exceedingly great, or the herbage of the fields increases in luxuriance, the trees shed their foliage and dead branches, and if left undisturbed the herbage also decays and falls to the earth, and hence the elements of which it has been divested are returned, with perhaps an additional accumulation from the atmosphere. Therefore, if this were a universal law man's ingenuity would not be taxed to devise ways and means of restoring lost fertility; for where crops are taken from the soil and appropriated, so that their elements go in a different direction, so far as the spoil is concerned it amounts to *lost fertility*. The subject of manures of all kinds is one that has engaged the attention and serious study of the farmer in all the long ages that have passed; and yet to-day its importance, and the necessity for study and investigation, are no less than at first. The great desire is to know how, by the use of manures, the waste places of our land may be made fertile and luxuriant, capable of benefiting the owner as well as adding more to the general ornamentation of the farm. Of all the various kinds of manure which might, be considered it is the purpose of this communication to present in as brief a manner as possible, *Night-soil; its saving and uses*. There is probably no fertilizing substance that is more universally allowed to go to waste than this, and yet its value is almost incalculable. Undoubtedly one great reason for this enormous waste lies in the fact that where proper absorbents or deodorisers are neglected to be applied, the great unpleasantness of manipulation deters many from any attempts to utilize the same. But the waste is not confined alone to the farmers of the country; it is in the cities, with their immense population, where the waste is most complete and enormous. A writer has said with a great deal of truth, "Manures of inestimable value are carried from the cities by rivers and lost in mid ocean." Guano has ever been looked upon as the great concentration of fertilizing material; and yet night-soil, with all its valuable principles held for man's use, occupies no mean, position even in comparison with guano. Jonathan Laurence stated at a meeting of the Vermont Board of Agriculture "that the waste from the kitchen and the contents of the water-closet, if properly composted, would be of greater value than the same amount of many of the commercial fertilizers that are bought at a high figure by our farmers." Professor Hilgard, of the University of Mississippi, in a lecture before the Marshall Company Industrial Association, stated that "all the products of our fields, excepting a portion of the feed crops, ultimately go to serve as food or raiment to man. Hence man's excrement, rags, paper, and bone, must and do contain the ingredients withdrawn from our soils; and were we faithfully to return all these things in the proper form and in the right place, we should need no guano islands to eke out the deficiency in the return made in the offal of crops and manure of cattle.' Prof. J. F. W. Johnstone says of it, "Night soil is the most valuable of all the solid animal manures. When dry few other solid manures can be compared with it weight for weight. Dried night soil is equal to thirty times its bulk of horse manure." It is necessary first to establish the value of an article, or else it is the height of folly to expend labour in attempts to save it. Therefore, unless we first establish the value of night-soil as a fertilizer, we should not be prepared to recommend its saving and use. There are hundreds of millions of people who till the soil for a livelihood, and whom we look upon as far beneath us in the scale of progress, enlightenment and civilization. We depend chiefly upon our barn-yards for our fertilizers. Those millions have no cattle and no barn-yards and yet they supply annually sufficient manure to ensure a good crop. The same resource that they employ is at our command. They use it, and we almost without exception, refuse it. We have no desire to recommend all the practices of the Chinese and Japanese, but it may properly be asked whether we may not learn a valuable lesson from their diligence in saving manures? An important item in their practice is carefully to save every particle of human excrement with which to fertilize their lands. As Professor Hilgard has expressed it: "The Chinese and Japanese save man's excrement to the letter, and their crops seldom fail: their soils seem to be fresh all the time. Why cannot we, with all our boasted enlightenment, do as much? It is said that when visited by friends a failure to leave on the premises either liquid or solid excrement is considered a great slight, and therefore the practice is adhered to with the utmost exactness. This kind of manure is almost their entire dependence; and from this source a greater number of persons are supplied with food from a given area than are fed from a similar extent of surface in any other portion of the globe. In the privy vault is to be found fæcal matter derived from flour, eggs, beef, cheese, pork, beans, &c., salted and peppered, and containing all the elements that are calculated to produce highly nutritious food; and since in the case of animals the value of the manure depends largely upon the food consumed, how highly valuable must be human fæces which is derived from such food! The laws of China, it is said, forbid that any human excrement or urine should be thrown away; and reservoirs are placed in every house, in which they are deposited with the greatest care. No other manure is used in their corn-fields. Says Liebig: "If we admit that the liquid and solid excrements of man amount on an average to 547lbs. in a year, which contain 16.41lbs. of nitrogen, this is much more than is necessary to add to an acre of land in order to obtain, with the assistance of the nitrogen obtained from the atmosphere, the richest possible crop every year." Think of this, ye men who have families containing six or eight individuals—fertilising in the best possible manner as many acres—when in all probability the same is at present but poorly applied, if employed at all! If the fact be so, is it not a proper subject for consideration? Let each farmer resolve that in the future, so far as lies in his power, he will endeavour properly to save and economically use all the excrement of the family, both solid and fluid; and what wealth will be added to our commonwealth! In an Essay upon Manures, published in the "Iowa Agricultural Report" for 1872, is found this language: "The economic relations of nightsoil is one of the most important questions that demand the attention of the agriculturist; and not until its importance is fully appreciated will the exhausted lands of the East regain their lost fertility, and the steady impoverishment of our western prairies cease." If the saving and use of human excrement is the wonderful alchemy by which the deteriorated soils of New England are to be restored to their original fertility, much gratitude ought to be felt, and expressed too, towards those individuals who by experiment or otherwise have discovered its great value. Waring, in his Book for Young Farmers, remarks, "Nightsoil, or human excrement, is the best manure within reach of the farmer." And so evidence might be accumulated upon that point from every one who has ever carefully husbanded and properly applied this substance as a fertiliser. It has been estimated that the nightsoil of England in the course of a single year is equivalent to 5,000,000 tons of the best guano. Allowing an average of 500lbs. of solid and liquid excrement to each individual in the United States, and the population to be 40,000,000, we have 10,000,000 tons of this fertilising substance; and allowing guano to be twenty times as valuable as the combined solid and liquid excrements, we should then have fertilising matter equivalent to 500,000 tons of guano; but, the population of the United States being about twice as great as that of England, with the same proportionate estimate as for that country the value of our excrement would be equivalent to 10,000,000 tons of the best guano, even taking our moderate estimate; and we are fully satisfied that by its full return to the soil incalculable advantage would be derived. Having thus established, as we believe, the value of nightsoil, it only

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remains to speak of its saving and use. As before intimated, the great waste of this valuable substance is owing partially to its extremely offensive odour when fresh, and partially to a prejudice some have that it affects the quality of whatever is grown upon it. The first of these objections can be readily met and provided for by the exercise of a little care, which is the very thing necessary to retain its full value; for with the offensive odours the volatile portions are escaping, and its strength and value as a fertiliser correspondingly diminishing. All that is necessary to prevent this is to use deodorisers and absorbents, of which there are a great number, all effectual; and if freely used, all unpleasantness is speedily removed, so that the compost, if it may be called such, is as inoffensive as dry earth alone. Probably the earth-closet system is the most perfect that has yet been devised; but it is not absolutely necessary that the earth-closet itself should be used: the application of that principle in the most convenient manner that is effectual is all that is required—*i. e.*, an application of dry earth in such quantities as to fully absorb all the gases of the urine and unpleasant odour is all that is necessary, provided it be so that it is beyond injury from the weather, rains, &c. Therefore, if the privy is to be used, it should be provided with a tight box or trough to receive all droppings and the application of earth, which should be made often—in point of fact, every time the privy is used—and when filled removed to some place of secure deposit, or else immediately applied to the land. Or a vault of sufficient size to hold a year's supply could be constructed of brick and water-cement, and so the removal of the contents be made at one time. It is well known that by exposure large quantities of ammonia are allowed to escape, and its value as a fertiliser greatly diminished. This is more particularly true in the summer months or in warm weather, when decomposition rapidly takes place and the ammonia in larger quantities passes off into the atmosphere than in the winter months. The sulphates are also dissipated as sulphuretted hydrogen, and the process is so rapid that it only requires a few days to be completed; therefore the necessity of providing some efficient means of preventing this escape can be readily seen. With an ordinary family, say of five or six persons, some two or three or perhaps more loads of fertiliser can be made in the course of the year by the use of dry earth, coal ashes, gypsum, and other substances. And, while the value of the contents of the privy vault, with all their losses from constant exposure, have been considered by those who have used them of great value by adopting the use of absorbents the quantity can be largely increased, and still the value of the whole be equal to equal quantities of the pure article subject to exposure. Nash, in his "Progressive Farmer," has said that "nightsoil should be removed to the land every spring. Its value as a fertiliser is greatly increased if mixed with six or eight times its bulk of dried peat or swamp mud. Its value would be still more increased if this could be added every day, and also a little plaster. It is valuable for all kinds of grains and grass lands. In whatever form it is used, it should be spread thinly." Now, as regards its use, it may be applied to any growing crop, but must be used with great care. It is hardly safe to apply it with the same liberality that might be or is usually employed in the distribution of other manures. A use of this manure for some years upon various crops and upon different soils has amply proved that a comparatively small quantity will answer equally as good or a better purpose than large quantities of stable manure. We have used this manure at the rate of about a pint in the hill for corn, and obtained equally as good, and sometimes apparently better, results than from the use of a shovelful of stable or hogyard manure. We have also used the same upon potatoes, placing a still less quantity in the hill, and obtained the best results. During the season just past we desired to test two or three new potatoes which we had obtained, and therefore used this fertiliser on a small scale, by putting not more than half-a-pint of the manure in each hill, and upon land too that had not been previously manured for a long time; and yet the comparative result was better than when a shovelful of hog manure was used upon a field that had been previously heavily manured for two years for corn. Again, a privy vault used by a tenant that had been uncared for and wholly exposed for a year was emptied, and its contents mixed with from five to six times their bulk of fine chipdirt, and the same being thoroughly incorporated immediately applied to a field of corn, at the rate of about a pint of the mixture to each hill, and the corn dropped directly upon it. The piece was greensward, and had not been ploughed for many years, nor had it been top dressed further than the usual droppings of the cattle as they fed upon it in the fall. The corn where the privy manure was used was equally as good as where a handful of phosphate had been used. Had the chip-dirt been applied regularly as the privy had been used, its value would undoubtedly have been much greater. We have very often used this upon corn in very moderate quantities and long since become fully convinced of its great value. In some cases our application has been moderate—very moderate—and yet good results have followed. In no case has a failure ever attended our use of it. In fact, we consider it one of the best concentrated fertilizers that can be employed. Our practice has been to use what earth, chip-dirt, soda, &c. were at hand, to throw them into the vault, and then when cleaned out mix it with some three or four times its bulk of sand, dirt and refuse, and let it stand a litle time, and then incorporate the same as it is thrown into the cart. There is no doubt but that it may be profitably applied as a top-dressing to grass lands, and although we have no remembrance of having tried it in that way, the effect upon a spot of meadow where we completed the composting of a heap and yet scraped up all that was possible, was sufficient to satisfy us that such an application would be the most satisfactory. Where earth closets or similar contrivances are used this might be the most profitable application that could be made—spreading the accumulations whenever it becomes necessary that they should be removed. When this is not desired to be done it would be well to have a proper place constructed, away from all exposure to the weather, where the accumulations may be deposited until required for use. It is no less important that the urine should also be saved, for it is equally as valuable as the solid excrement, although even not as much employed as a fertilizer. The accumulations of the night-chamber are usually thrown at some convenient point where no benefit is derived, and yet a cask could be placed in some out of the way locality in an out-building where all the urine and slops could be deposited, and as occasion required spread upon some field near at hand. All the valuable properties are at once taken up by the growing plant, the same being in the best possible condition for being received by it. Another practice which we have followed to a considerable extent, and one which we would recommend to all is to furnish a quantity of earth and compost material, depositing it under cover, and of easy access where the slops of the house are daily deposited, and absorbed. When the same is sufficiently saturated it can be removed and the operation repeated, being careful to have the same fully prepared before the setting in of winter. Another method is, instead of placing the absorbent in a pile put it in barrels into which the urine is to be poured, and which can be emptied as desired. In this way a large quantity of valuable material can be accumulated. A gentleman who has practised this to some extent remarked in our hearing that in that way, in the course of the year, he could make from fifteen to twenty barrels of fertilizer, and that he would rather have barrel for barrel than superphosphate. Some years since we tried the last-mentioned method by filling at the commencement of winter a barrel with coal dust upon which urine was poured until the same was thoroughly saturated and frozen solid, when it was discontinued. In the spring the preparation was used to plant corn, by putting about one pint in the hill, dropping the corn directly upon it. The result was that hardly a spire of corn made its appearance; it had been as thoroughly killed as it would have been with the same amount of the best guano. The piece was planted over, however, by striking into the hill with a hoe, dropping in the corn and again covering. This time the corn came up, grew vigorously, and maintained throughout the season the darkest and richest colour of any corn we ever saw. This satisfied us as to the great value of urine as a fertilizer. The past season we tried chip-dirt saturated in this manner, side by side with superphosphate, with very nearly equal applications in quantity, and could discover no appreciable difference in the growth of the corn or in the general result; of the two, that where the urine was used, as in the previous case, was of a deeper and richer colour while growing. We have for several years used this material almost wholly in the garden, and sometimes upon vines in the field, and always with success. Now if these substances, as we believe has been proven, do possess such valuable fertilizing properties, and have in the past been generally neglected and allowed to go to waste, is it not high time that an economical use be made of them, and so

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the alledged deterioration of our soils not only be arrested but their fertility in a great measure restored? Is not this better than to make the excessive expenditures for manures and commercial fertilizers which are now made? This is a subject of the greatest importance to the farmer, and should receive his careful consideration.

BOROUGHBRIDGE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FARM BUILDINGS.

At the annual meeting, Mr. J. D. Dent, Ribstone Hall, in the chair, Mr. FORD read the following paper on the Construction of Farm Buildings.

It will at once be apparent to all connected with the management of land, that there is almost no object of rural economy more worthy of care and consideration than the judicious arrangement of the outbuildings and offices which are necessary to the successful cultivation and management of a farm. There is so much depending on them, that it may be said the farmer's chances of profit or loss will turn upon their adaptability or otherwise to the land he cultivates. And in the present day economy of labour is so important an element of the farmer's success, that unless provision be made for effecting it in the arrangement of buildings, he will find that he runs an unequal race with his brother agriculturists, who have well-arranged buildings constructed with that care and consideration which has been given of late years to the proper construction of the outbuildings of a farm, where convenience of arrangement and economy of labour has been duly borne in mind, and regard has been paid to an effective system of drainage and ventilation, crucial points, coupled with improved accommodation, bearing upon the health and well-doing of live stock. There must be many varieties of buildings, suitable, first to the district or or country in which they are erected; also to the style or system of farming they are intended to serve, and further to the proportion of arable and grass land they are to accommodate. Dairy farms require their special arrangement, also sheep farms, meat-producing farms, and hay farms; but it will, I think, be sufficient for our present purpose to discuss what are the requirements of a mixed farm of from 300 to 500 acres in extent, in this part of the country, the grass land of which is of fair average quality The site is, of course, the first consideration, and in choosing it I do not bind myself to place it in the centre of the farm, but rather seek a position that is moderately sheltered, that is dry, where good water can readily be obtained, and with such a natural fall of the ground as will rapidly carry away all surface and roof water to the nearest watercourse or tank, and give an easy fall for the manure drainage of the buildings to a well selected spot for a liquid manure tank at a little distance away. The site should also be selected with special reference to making the most of adjacent converging roads, whether public or farm roads, bearing in mind that a divergence or unnecessary deviation of a few hundred yards, though of little moment for a single journey, magnifies itself into a terrible loss of time and of power when multiplied by all the varied and heavy traffic of a large farm in a twelvemonth or a course of years. And in these railway days there is a point which should not be overlooked when arranginging a site for new farm buildings—I refer to the practicability of introducing a siding on to the farm; the nearer the buildings, of course, the better, when it does not interfere with the working arrangements of the fields. Such a convenience is so obvious where large holdings have to be served, that I commend the matter the united interests of railway companies, landlords, and tenant-farmers. Just fancy having your artificial manure, your town manure, your lime and linseed cake, your coals and various other bulky materials, brought (so to speak) to your door, while the corn, stock, wool, &c., would be laden there and then in the trucks and run down to the line. Such a condition of things would surely attain to a farmer's notions of all earthly bliss, and if I may venture to predict, a system somewhat akin to this will in favoured and convenient localities be introduced before we are much older—for besides other considerations as to economy of labour, &c., it will be found that we shall become more dependent upon the manure of towns and large centres of population in order to increase the production of our fields, and such valuable aids as I have spoken of would be more eagerly sought after by farmers were it not for the immense cost of haulage of such bulky material for any distance. The site then chosen, the material is the next consideration, and I need not say that where stone is readily available, it is always the preferable material, as being most durable, warmer in winter, and cooler in summer. There are large districts, however, where stone cannot be procured except at great cost by railway. In such case bricks will usually be found in the neighbourhood, and must necessarily be employed. It is but poor economy in the erection of farm buildings by brick to wall too lightly. The main walls, at any rate, should be of substantial thickness; if not, they become mere shells. The walls rock; door frames do not hold; rats get easily under them; in fact, they are cold, unsubstantial, and very undurable. Where boarded floors are laid on the ground floor, such as in barns, &c., I strongly recommend the intervals between the joists being filled in with concrete or some similar and effective substance. It is an effectual step to rats, which often become so great a plague in buildings. Slates will be found the best roofing material. While on the subject of material I should not omit to call your attention to a recent article in the *Royal Agricultural Society's Journal* on "Concrete as a building material for farm buildings and cottages." This concrete it would appearis composed of various materials, such as gravel, shingle, sand, shells, broken bricks, tiles, and stones, burnt clay, and in fact almost any rubbish run together with lime and cement into frames composed of wood and iron, which when the concrete has set are removed. The writer, Mr. G. Hunt, architect and surveyor to the Society, claims for it great economy, durability, and warmth, and I must say has, as I think, made a good case in its favour. The preliminaries, therefore, of site and material having been decided on, the arrangement of the buildings becomes the next consideration, and in making suggestions for what I believe to be best, it need not be supposed that there is any arbitrary law to be universally followed, for to translate an old Latin proverb, we find that "so many men so many opinions," and again "circumstances alter cases." For a farm, however, of about the size suggested, from ten to fourteen horses will be required, and the cart horse stable should be placed with a south or west aspect—it should open upon a fold yard, with an end door, opening to the outside of the buildings. On all considerations, separate stalls are to be preferred, which should not be less than six feet wide. I think brick or stone mangers and iron hecks are best. There should not be less than eight feet clear from the stand-posts to the back wall of the stable. It is a great mistake to cramp the distance behind the horses. Draught horses are usually watered at a trough near the stable, and it is often not difficult to cause a drain or spring to be conducted so as to flow continually through the trough. Such an arrangement is of great value about farm buildings where the fall of the ground will admit of it, and may be extended to the houses, or at watering places in the fields with a little ingenuity. When cart horses are kept on oats, and you have a granary or corn-store above the stable (though I prefer the stable to be open to the roof), it is a convenient arrangement to have them shot down a spout into the stable, at the end of the spout being a receiving box that can be regulated to hold just the amount of one feed, and which works on the same principle as the shot belt; by this means the horse-keepers are limited to the regulation amount for each feed. I once saw this arrangement well carried out on the farm of a gentleman in Scotland. Where your grass land is of such quality that the cattle can all be summer fed, the best accommodation that can be provided for them in winter is, in my opinion, a good spacious open fold-yard. I do not intend here to go over the well-beaten ground of controversy as to the relative merits of open or covered yards. There is a good deal to be said on both sides, but for wintering cattle that are to be summer grazed, I should myself prefer open yards with abundant shed room on the north-east sides. Shed room is not half used in this neighbourhood as in Northumberland and the Lothians; indeed, I may say throughout Scotland, where the sheds are deep and wide, and increased

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up for an opening, and sometimes two openings at either end. And lately, in looking over some new farm buildings in Buckinghamshire, I was struck with the ample shed room that had been provided for the fold yards. There is abundant shelter in such places, and no matter from what quarter the keen wintry wind may blow, the cattle can protect themselves from it, while they also afford cover for a large portion of the manure. In this part of the country the sheds are often not wider than the length of a beast, and being open from end to end afford but partial protection from the weather. Such folds as I have described will probably afford accommodation for from fifteen to twenty beasts each, which, if not more than half the roots are to be drawn off, will, in all likelihood, be found sufficient; but presuming that a proportion—say one-half of your stock, is to be winter fed, a different class of accommodation may be preferable. In that case complete shelter should be provided, either in the shape of covered yards, or by cattle boxes, or by stall feeding; and of these I must give my preference in favour of the box system. A convenient size for a feeding box is about 10 feet square. In practice I have found this size amply sufficient, though many persons, and at one time myself among the number, have thought it rather confined in space. They should be sunk 2½ feet below the level of the floor, and divided with dwarf walls, 2½ feet high, and sparred wooden partitions fixed on the top of the walls. A gangway of sufficient width to allow the passage of a cart should run down the middle with boxes on each side. Feeding troughs are better to slide up and down, so as to go up as the manure rises. My own are of strong Staffordshire ware, and I cannot speak too highly of them for cleanliness and adaptability to the purpose for which they are made. I do not attach much value to affording a supply of water to feeding cattle—for with a full supply of roots I have found they are indifferent to water, in fact do not require it, though I have frequently tried them—for in my own case I have a thorough system for the unlimited supply of water to each box, but the arrangement is of no value, and is never used. Hay or straw stacks are supplied to some, but these I do not value. Such fodder is better, and more economically conveyed to feeding cattle chopped up, and mixed with pulped roots and meal. A line of rails should run down the gangway, on which the feeding truck will travel, and the attendant will economise labour by first filling the truck, and then serving out right and left as he proceeds down the gangway. The boxes will be readily emptied of manure by a cart proceeding down the gangway, in at one end and out at the other. A roomy covered shed is necessary for calves or yearling beasts. It should be contrived near, in fact adjoining the cart-horse stable, from which all the waste litter will be thrown, and converted into manure. Young store cattle freely eat the litter from a stable. It is impregnated with the salts of urine, and is relished by them. Where liquid manure is not absorbed by litter, as in the case of feeding boxes, it should be conveyed away by a proper system of drainage into tanks. The high range of buildings composing the straw-barn and granaries should be placed to the north or north-east for considerations of shelter, on which aspect also the cart and implement sheds should face for the purposes of shade. It is a good arrangement to have the principal granary over the cart-shed. Thus by a trap-door in the floor of the granary much economy of labour is effected in loading carts with grain, &c. They are always loaded dry. It is also very convenient for unloading linseed cake. As it is not so much the object of this paper to enumerate all the different requirements of farm buildings, as to urge on those engaged in or contemplating their erection, due regard to economy of labour and efficiency in construction, I need not dwell upon the various adjuncts of buildings, such as turnip houses, loose boxes, always very useful, a roomy house of a nondescript character, which may be used as a receptacle for artificial manure, potatoes, as a slaughter-house, or what not. All these conveniences will suggest themselves to the designer of buildings, and should be placed so as to cause the least waste of time in their daily use. Where steam is used as a motive power, I should prefer a portable engine to a fixed one. These can now be obtained available both for thrashing and conveying power through the buildings for the various grinding mills, root pulpers, pumps, &c., as also for cultivating the land. Concluding these remarks, I will venture generally to summarise the purposes and requirements of farm buildings. They may be regarded in three divisions. First, as affording convenience for thrashing out and preparing for market of the grain crops. Secondly, as a manufactory for animal food; and, thirdly, as a manufactory for manure; therefore, in planning buildings, these objects should never be lost sight of, that they have to be effected with the utmost regard for the economy of labour, that they be efficient in all their parts, that there be no actual waste of time or power involved in their use, and that the purposes of each department be subsidiary to the others. Patchwork buildings, or such as have been made at different times added to or altered are generally the very worst, for hardly anything has been done with regard to the general bearing of one part to another, consequently in such buildings there is waste of time and of fuel. When cattle are fed under cover they feed quickest, and on a less amount of food. The animal temperature is higher, consequently by the laws of physiology less food is required to sustain respiration, while the process of assimilation is quicker, but a pure atmosphere is an essential part of such a system, consequently ventilation must be thoroughly regarded in all stables, cow-houses, cattle sheds, &c., and particularly where feeding animals are housed. Manure made under cover is, I may venture to say, as good again as that made in open yard, especially if the buildings and sheds surrounding the latter are not spouted. Open yards are, however, suitable enough in certain cases, which have before been specified, but, as I have urged, they should have ample shed accomodation. It will be found in the future history of agriculture that, inasmuch as a more commercial and business-like arrangement will exist between landlord and tenant, so farm buildings will have to be so contrived and arranged as that a thorough system of economy and efficiency may be combined. The manufacturer plans his mill with anxious care; and while a recognised system exists for the erection and arrangement of all factories, there are those at work with hand and brain who are ever introducing modifications, improvements, and labour-saving novelties—so in farm buildings there should be no diversity of arrangement, but the various parts should be so fitted and arranged that in their relation one to another there should be no waste, either of time or of tissue. The whole arrangement of farm buildings, as of so many other things, should be summed up in two words,—viz., "Efficiency and Economy."

Mr. Scott, the Vice-Chairman, inquired of Mr. Ford what he considered should be the outlay per acre upon farm buildings.

Mr. Ford, in reply, stated that it was generally understood the farm buildings ought to cost from £7 to £8 per acre, and the house from £4 to £5 per acre.

The Vice-Chairman was of opinion that the accommodation spoken of by Mr. Ford could not be obtained for £7 or £8 per acre when the box system was carried out.

Mr. Ford said that for a 400 acres farm proper farm-buildings would cost £3,200, which was no doubt a large sum.

The Vice-Chairman remarked that the amount was serious, and he thought that £10 per acre was sufficient, including cost of farm buildings and residence.

Mr. Ford said that farm buildings at a large cost were only put up by proprietors, and sometimes the expense was as much as £20 per acre. Improvement in the arrangement of buildings was required with a view to the saving of time and labour.

Mr. Jacob Smith thought that at the present day they could do with fewer farm buildings than were formerly required, inasmuch as they could sooner dispose of their corn, and were not obliged to hold or store it. To keep it a long time on hand was not advantageous to farmers, and frequently involved them in pecuniary loss. In erecting farm buildings he should in the first instance put down a good barn, simply for straw, and so build it that he could place his stacks near to it, and have his steam-engine close by for thrashing purposes. He would have no corn barn. For grazing purposes he thought that fold yards with shedding were the most convenient. Instead of making fold yards capable of holding from 25 to 30 beasts, he would divide them into three or four, and place about ten beasts in each. By that plan nearly double the beasts could be accommodated in the same space. A large and well-ventilated cart-horse stable was also indispensable. The price of horses was now very high, and therefore it was the more important to attend to their health by giving them thorough ventilation, a good barn, a good fold-yard, and a good stable.

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The CHAIRMAN inquired of Mr. Scott if he could give them any information as to adapting old buildings to the modern requirements of farming.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN, in reply, said that the profits of farming were now so small that they would not allow much outlay upon farm buildings, and that as a rule the proprietor ought to confine his outlay to £10 per acre. Beyond that an expenditure was not profitable or warranted, except in extraordinary cases. His opinion was different to that of Mr. Smith as regarded barns, as he would have no barn at all. He would, however, have a stack shed, and a small space exclusively for the dressing of corn. Broad sheds were much more preferable to those which were narrow and lofty, and a turnip-house he thought quite unnecessary, because when a house was used for that purpose he believed there were more decayed turnips than when they were stored in a pie outside. The cart-horse stable ought to be commodious, and it was important that it should be open up to the roof without any hay-loft or chamber above it. He produced a very compact plan of a farmstead under one roof, and equal to a farm of two hundred acres,, two-thirds of it being arable, at the estimated cost of £1,500.

Mr. BENNETT said that he agreed generally with the remarks made by Mr. Ford in his paper, and also with the views of Mr. Smith. He should like to ask Mr. Scott why he objected to a turnip-house, because it was a convenience which farmers required for preventing turnips getting wet and frosted in winter, when they were not so good for the cattle.

The Rev. R. D. OWEN said from what Mr. Smith had stated about a straw-barn it appeared that he attached importance to the straw being placed under cover directly after being thrashed, but from what the Vice-Chairman had observed it seemed to be a matter of indifference whether the straw was placed under cover or not.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN said that he would have a covered shed, but open all round.

The CHAIRMAN again said that he should like to have the views of those present on the adaptation of old farm buildings to the requirements of modern agriculture. There were a lot of farm buildings now in existence which were not of a character suited to the wants of the present day, but they could not afford to pull them down and erect new ones in their place, and therefore what was required was to adapt them, as far as it could be done, to the necessities of the present day. He had been a few days previously in the East Riding, and was struck with the paucity and poverty of the sheds in the fold yards, these sheds being of such a character as he was sure they would not like to build. These sheds belonged to his father, and on looking at the valuation papers he found the buildings described as being well adapted to the farm, a fact showing what great improvements had been effected up to the present day. He agreed with Mr. Smith that it was not wise to have enormous fold yards, but to divide them into convenient sizes, because if they had all the beasts together the weaker animals were sure to be sent to the wall by the stronger, and consequently were prevented from obtaining their proper quantity of food. He thought, too, that they were all agreed about the cart-horse stable, namely, that the old fashion of having the granary or hayloft above was as bad an arrangement as could possibly be. They were all of one opinion as to the desirably of having plenty of room and ventilation. He did not agree with the suggestion of having no turnip-house, as in rainy and dirty weather they would be awkwardly placed without such convenience. The art of farming, more especially modern farming, was in the breeding, to keep their animals going from the time of the birth until they arrived at the point when they were fit for transfer to the butcher. An abundance of warm accommodation was therefore necessary, in order that they might get their calves forward, and keep them constantly progressing, so that at as early a period as possible the butcher could take them. He was opposed to the old system of stacking grain and keeping it for a long time without bringing it into market, fully agreeing with the maxim that "small profits and quick returns" was the best policy. There was one point to which Mr. Ford did not allude, and that was the necessity of having good soft-water tanks, which were very valuable for buildings. The idea of railway sidings running upon farms was no doubt desirable where such a thing was possible, but unfortunately there was not one farm in fifty which had the advantage of being skirted by a line of railway. It was a point whether it would not be a convenience to have outlying farm buildings. By this means they would so arrange matters that each portion of a farm would obtain its proper share of manure. This was desirable for some farms especially, as it lessened farm labour.

Mr. FORD, in replying to some of the observations made in reference to his paper, said that he was glad to find that they were not at issue on many occasions, and that they had dealt so leniently with him. In feeding beasts Mr. Smith had stated that he preferred covered sheds to boxes, and he would ask him why? His experience taught him that there was no system so admirable as feeding beasts upon the box system, because every beast got his proper share of food, and they were not disturbed or annoyed by other animals. Box manure was also a great assistance to land. When the cattle had had plenty of cake and corn, the effect of the manure could be seen to a yard upon the land to which it was applied. He was surprised to hear Mr. Scott say that he did not see the use of turnip-houses where they could store turnips for a fortnight or more in frosty and bad wether. In his opinion turnip-houses were very useful. Small fold yards were undoubtedly good, and he agreed with Mr. Smith in his respect, and as an example of the right thing he referred to the cattle courts in the Lothians, which would just hold eight beasts each. A soft-water tank was a very great acquisition to a farm.

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Montague was building a arge number of Dutch barns for his tenants, and stated that the late Mr. Thompson had one at Kirby.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN said that he was a great advocate for Dutch barns, having put up two himself, and he believed that even if built by the tenant they would more than repay the cost. The fair way, however, was for the landlord to find the posts and the tenant to put on the roof. He did not want to be misunderstood as to a turnip-house. He thought that a farmer ought to be ashamed of himself if his turnips were not all stored before Christmas, but at the same time he maintained that turnips could be better stored in pies out of doors than in a building, and when so collected they could be taken direct to the pulping house.

The CHAIRMAN said that he agreed with Mr. Scott that turnips could be better stored inside than outside, but he still thought it was well to have a place to hold two or three days' stock. In this country too little attention was paid to the harvesting of roots. Good roots were grown, but he was often surprised to see excellent swedes not harvested before frosts set in. As to pulping turnips farmers generally had not come to that.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.—At the Suffolk Quarter Sessions, held at Bury St. Edmunds, Colonel Wilson, chairman of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Committee, called attention to the enormous expense of carrying out the regulations of the Privy Council, and the following resolution was adopted: "This court begs again to call the attention of the Privy Council to the great expense incurred by the county in consequence of the compulsory slaughter of animals affected with pneumonia, amounting to no less than £219 since the issue of the Order of Council on the 2nd August, 1873; whereas the experiments recently made by Professor Simonds tend to prove that this disease does not extend the area of its existence by any of the ordinary means which cause the spread of infectious diseases. Without going so far as to say that pneumonia is not infectious, this court would suggest that in the present state of doubt on the subject slaughter should be discontinued and perfect isolation insisted upon."

PUBLIC MATTERS AND PRIVATE INTERESTS.—Quoting Mr. Hutchings as to Chambers of Agriculture being of no use to farmers, a correspondent of *The Western Times* says: "I have not been so plain as that, because I did not care to have it thought I had got upon a hobby and was pleased at riding it hard. But I predicted this result as soon as I saw the 'Constitution' of the Central Chamber nine years ago. The force of public opinion caused some formal alteration to be made in this 'Constitution' five years ago: but its worst features—*the private interests* that were involved in its authorities—remained practically the same. Any pretence in regard to the real object for which the Central Chamber was formed in 1865, when tenant-farmers were in a state of scare about the cattle plague, is, as Mr. Hutchings says, merely 'a delusion and a snare!'"

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HEXHAM FARMERS' CLUB.

FARM BUILDINGS.

At the first meeting of the session, the President, Captain Nicholson, in the chair, Mr. J. DAWSON, veterinary surgeon, Corbridge, read the following paper on the construction of farm buildings in reference to the health of stock:

The paper I purpose reading before you to-day is, as announced, "The construction of our farm buildings with a due regard to the health of our domestic animals." Little doubt can exist as to the importance of the subject, especially in these times of enhanced prices of all our domestic animals. The farm onsteads, buildings, and sheds are, in this country, with few exceptions, to my mind quite inadequate for the requirements and maintenance of our stock as regards their health, which is much to be regretted, for although they might be much improved with alterations, such, at the best, would only be patch-work, and therefore incomplete, but nevertheless desirable where modern, well-designed buildings cannot be obtained. The question arises, Why should such alterations and more perfect buildings be constructed? Simply because they do not meet the requirements of keeping stock in a healthy state. These wants I will endeavour to set forth before we consider the plan of constructing the buildings. At the Social Science Congress, held in Glasgow this year, Dr. Playfair reminds us that air is, of all things, the most familiar to us, and the one most forced on our observation. He says to breathe is our first act of life, to be unable to respire in the last act, which is followed by death. We all know the fact; the reason I quote it is the plain and graphic way it is mentioned. It is the same in domestic animals as in man, and to have that air in the most pure form is undoubtedly the most important part of our present subject. Years ago our army horses, from improper housing and want of pure air, were destroyed by hundreds every year, owing to the baneful disease called glanders, and suffered much otherwise in the respiratory organs and diseases of the eyes. Professional and eminent veterinary surgeons stated that the mortality amongst the horses of the French cavalry prior to the year 1836 amounted from 180 to 197 per thousand per annum, whereas during the succeeding years, after the stables had been enlarged, and the rations of air consequently increased, the death rate fell to sixty-eight per thousand. and in some instances where the ventilation was further increased, the diminution in the mortality was still greater. Mr. Wilkinson, principal veterinary surgeon to Her Majesty's forces, states that the number of deaths among the English cavalry horses, which was formerly considerable, is now dimished by superior accommodations to twenty per thousand per annum, and of this half arises from accidents and incurable diseases. The same authority states that under the improved system glanders and farcy have almost entirely disappeared. To the testimony of these gentlemen we may add that of M. Moulin, who informs us that during the Italian war 10,000 horses were kept in buildings externally open to the air instead of enclosed stables, and that scarcely any horses were sick, also that there occurred only one case of glanders; and, quoting from the editor of *The North British Advertiser*, "Now, it must be borne in mind, that the absence of vigour observed in animals dwelling in stables insufficiently supplied with fresh air, as well as disease arising from imperfect ventilation, are only in part due to the imperfect provision usually made for the escape of the narcotic carbonic acid and other products of respiration. Probably the chief mischief arises in badly arranged stables from the irritating ammonia yielded by decomposing urine, and the still more noxious, and at present less tangible, products of the putrefaction of fæcal and other organic matters." The above information given by these eminent veterinary surgeons we cannot dispute, as it is founded upon facts, as the statistics of the death rate in the different countries since the improvement took place, which are plainly set forth for our guidance and practice. In my humble experience in different parts of England and abroad, I can fully endorse the facts supplied by those gentlemen whom I have just quoted, and more especially M. Moulin's, for in the midland counties of England the work or draught horses are for the most part of the year kept in an open yard, and are singularly free from respiratory diseases. When they do occur, the animals are more amenable to treatment than others that are confined in that part of England. However, in our northern counties, we require to have our domestic animals housed for a considerable portion of the year, and that, I urge, ought to be done with the greatest regard to health. Owing to the altered and artificial state in which we feel ourselves bound to have them placed, the changes in temperature, which very frequently occur at all seasons of the year, ought to guide us as much as possible with regard to the amount of ventilation requisite. It is scarcely necessary for me to observe that in summer, when the thermometer is ranging from 70 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the ventilation cannot be supplied in excess, if it does not in its ingress from excessive motion cause a draught upon the animal, which drawback can easily be avoided by a proper adjustment of the ventilating process. When the atmosphere surrounding indicates to us heat in excess, we then know that our animals housed require a much larger volume of air, owing to its rarity caused by that heat in excess, and it is well known to everyone that heat much heightened means chemical action much increased. At the same time the chemistry of nature is at all times active at ordinary temperature, and heat being the chief chemical agent increases that action, just in proportion to its increase of temperature and the products of respiration, the urine and fæcal matters being highly charged with nitrogenous substances, or in other words, with materials which have a great affinity to combine with the oxygen of the air, and when that combination is complete the newly-formed product is an offensive gas, which is inhaled or taken into the lungs of the animals confined within that building if a provision is not before made for the egress or outlet of that noxious gas. Noxious it is because it carbonises or poisons the blood more or less according to its density and confinement, and the length of time the animals are subject to such a dangerous influence. I have myself seen many deaths occur in horses from narcotised lungs, or whose blood has been under the action of those gases in extremes and for a long period of time. When it does not produce death it produces debility, varying in degree, and regulated by circumstances too numerous to mention. If such are facts you will, I conceive, very readily coincide with my views on the great importance of ventilation, which has by most of us been too much neglected. We may neglect it, but we cannot ignore the facts which such neglect produces and entails. It is a fact which ordinary or elementary chemistry enables us to comprehend and avoid, for, without fear of contradiction, if we with our vision could perceive the changes that are taking place in the atmosphere surrounding us in confinement or where ventilation is not complete—if we could give colour to the air to illustrate those injurious changes which take place in buildings overcrowded, it would rivet the importance of the subject more firmly upon our minds. In the treatment of many diseases of our domestic animals the surface of the body is and ought to be protected from the chilling effect of air surrounding; that can be done with proper clothing, and, if needs be, with heat supplied artificially, and even then a current of fresh air is necessary. From many years' experience and observation I am led to the conclusion that many of the diseases that periodically prevail in stock with variable severity, heightened or lessened by the vicissitudes of a changeable climate, are, to a very great extent, spontaneously induced, and beyond a doubt aggravated by a deplorable want of proper house accommodation. The condition of horses and cattle in towns ought to have our special consideration, owing to their concentrated condition, and the teeming mass of animal life immediately surrounding, and the myriads of obstructions to a free flow of pure air. There other are necessaries essentially co-existing which ought to be and can be well supplied in properly built stables and cow sheds—viz., an ample amount of transmitted light, a subdued reflected light, a plentiful supply of pure water, without which no animals can be kept in health; it enters largely into the composition of the blood and carries the more solid and potential nutritious substances into that living stream, indeed it forms by far the

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largest portion of the assimilated product of nutrition; therefore to have water of a proper kind fresh and plentifully supplied not only for food purposes but for cleanliness as well. I desire you particularly to bear in mind that no ventilation or disinfection can be successfully carried out in any building or cattle-shed of any kind where a due regard to cleanliness is not observed. Trusting that I have in the remarks before mentioned humbly endeavoured to set forth and point out a great necessity for an improved and better construction of stables, cattle-sheds, &c., I will now try to show how that can be, or at least ought to be brought about. In the first place, stables and other houses for cattle ought to be near to the farmer's dwelling, so that the farmer and his attendants can have short and easy access to attend to the requirements of the different kinds of stock kept upon the place. The most eligible site ought to be chosen for the building—that is, the soundest space obtainable ought to be secured, having always in view the necessity to have an ample space of ground as well, for the deposits which are required outside. That fixed upon and secured, the front of the building should have a southern aspect. Then in the first place sufficiently drain the ground with common tiles pretty deep, to allow room for a sunk foundation. Then suppose the farm-building to be 36 yards in length by 10 yards broad, forming the figure of a parallelogram, with an addition behind, as shown in the pencilled rough ground-plan of a hay and straw store, in front of these store chambers a corridor or feeding-passage should be carried along the whole length of the inside walls. Then on referring to the plan you will observe small doors or openings into the stalls about 2½ feet square, 3 feet up from the floor-level, so that the food can be put into the rack and manger without going into the box or stall at all. The water should be conveyed in an iron pipe under the feeding-passage the whole length of the building, with small branches off coming into the receptacle for the water, which is placed on a level with the rack and manger, with a small tap to turn on or off as required, and with a plug at the most depending part of the water-pan to let off and clean the pan for a fresh supply. You will also observe doors leading from the feeding passage into the stable. In the stable or interior of the building you will observe harness-room, loose boxes and stalls: loose boxes about 10 feet square, and stalls about 9 feet long by 6 wide. At the front you will observe a sufficiency of doors and windows. The ground floor at the base of the entire building to be well cemented, with suitable channels on the surface of the floor leading from the stalls into a main channel behind; all of which to be well guarded with inlaced iron grating. The large or main channel to convey the urine and water which is used to cleanse the stable through the wall, as you can see by the plan, into a suitable receptacle outside the building. It is a very common practice to have sewers or drains and other receptacles inside the stable with a view to convey the liquids below the surface a considerable distance outside, which plan I do not consider to be good. On the same sheet is given as, you will perceive, a rough plan of the elevation of stables, &c., showing louvre boarding and pillars placed equi-distant from each other, supporting a suitable sealed roof, well fixed upon the side-wall stone-work, with openings through the ceilings into the small interspace, then through the roof, guarded by a ducket shaped louvre-boarded exit. The side-wall stone-work to be at least 10 feet from the floor to the pillars supporting the ceiled roof; the stone pillars at proper distances, about 1 foot 6 inches high, the louvre boards filling up the interspaces all round about the eaves of the side-wall stone-work; the louvre-boarding at the eaves to be opened or shut by a jointed iron cranked handle to fasten upon pivots, extending from a longitudinal bar, extending from pillar to pillar on all sides of the building. These boards I consider to be the very best mode of ventilating farm stables and other out-buildings; they act much on the principle of Venetian blinds, and can be, by easy manipulation, well opened or partly opened, or if necessary, closed *in toto*, sufficiently to meet the requirements of stormy tempests, which occasionally blow from all the four quarters. The gases formed in stables rise from the ground-floor to the highest part of the interior, and through the boards the foul air has ample room to flow into the atmosphere outside, admitting at the same time equivalents of fresh air, which circulate throughout the whole of the interior, again to be rejected and replenished *ad libitum;* then again the boards forming the ducats on the roof aid and operate on the same principle in summer time. End doors and openings from the feeding passage can be opened if requisite, but it would be rarely necessary to do so with well arranged boards. Some of the windows could if wanted be opened occasionally, which would readily supply a sufficiency of air pure as nature sends it forth from without. The height of side walls at present existing in very many stables is very much too low; no proper ventilation can in them be carried out. Severe draughts are numerous enough in most of them; others have scarcely any excepting in parts which require repair. Air in excessive motion coming in direct contact with the stock is not desirable but injurious, therefore we require to have high side-walls and ample louvre-boarding in order to subdue the currents previous to coming in contact with the stock below. Currents, of course, we require, but not to have our stock tied to the stake and submit to the blast of a north-east wind for an indefinite period. Air admitted in a high building at the eaves blends mildly with air below, and therefore comes in contact with animals on the ground-floor in an agreeable way; consequently I submit to you that until our farm buildings are heightened, until our hay and straw lofts have become merely recollections of the past, and convenient modern structures made in the place of them, we can have no complete ventilation, but must make shift in the primitive style, although limited improvements might be accomplished. Droppings from the floors might, with great benefit, be more frequently removed to a suitable deposit; a spare scattering of disinfecting powder would grace the floors. McDougall's, for instance, is well-known to be most agreeable, useful, and effective in every way; it is moreover to be obtained at a very small cost. During the time of plagues or epizootics of any kind disinfectants are indispensable; they go hand-in-hand with the great scavengers of nature; they seize hold of, arrest, and destroy the germs of disease; they modify and render neutral floating materials which do otherwise injure or destroy animal life, caused by what we term infection. They also effect the same most desirable object with substances which we can more easily recognise—viz., the animal poisons in a visible and more solid form, which come in direct contact with the body, which is termed contagion. Now if we can, as set forth, seize, destroy, and cause to be neutral the most subtle and destructive animal poisons, by having our farm onsteads brought under a great sanitary reform, which I maintain can be done in these days, and especially in the northern counties of England where so many landlords possess large stores of wealth, and are desirous materially to assist laudable agricultural pursuits, I think you will on that ground think as I do—viz., that it will be a great step in a good direction, and a boon devoutly to be wished, when we have seen accomplished a great revolution and stride in advance in the construction of our dwellings for the lower animals. In the foregoing remarks I have endeavoured to point out in a brief manner apparent deficiencies in farm buildings, have given a rough plan in which is a principle shown which I consider to be an improvement, and can be modified and altered according to existing requirements. Such are my views on the subject, and I most respectfully beg to be favoured with yours, as we can achieve more in a discussion on the subject than we can in the mere reading of a paper, thanking you all most cordially for the very patient hearing you have been pleased to give me.

Mr. G. C. Grey had very little to say except to corroborate by experience what had been stated in the paper. He knew perfectly well, whether amongst the lower animals or human beings, they could not have too much fresh air, and, as Mr. Dawson had properly said, they wanted that fresh air similar to what they got it outside, and that without bringing the animal into violent contact with a current of air. Many people let no air into their houses, because they were afraid of draughts; sometimes they opened their windows a few inches only, just a little to let the impure air out. His house, as they knew, stood on the edge of a steep bank, where it was generally blowing a gale, yet he opened his windows and doors wide, but he did not call that a draught, and he did not get any cold from it. He wrote with his windows open, and he had to have a lot of weights to keep his papers down. If they sat with their window only two or three inches open, the result would be they would get cold or a stiff neck. Animals also were apt to take cold when they were pampered with having too little ventilation. They should so arrange their ventilation, as had been pointed out, as to have it well up

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above, to have plenty of it in all directions, so as to have an abundance of fresh air, just the same as outside to the animals, and they would not get cold, as the animal's skin or coat of hair, particularly among cattle, would assimilate itself to the air, and so adapt itself to the season of the year. To leave them outside they did not fatten so well, as much food was lost in providing heating material for the animal itself. In houses often cattle sweat a great deal, and they thus lost substance, and did not fatten so fast, but if they kept the houses thoroughly ventilated the animal's coat would get adapted to the season of the year, and animals throve better when not exposed to drenching showers of rain and to cold, biting frosts, particularly in the early hours of the morning. That was the advantage of housing, but he saw a great disadvantage in housing in keeping animals of any kind too warm. He thought he need not enter into the scientific part of the subject; that had already been sufficiently gone into by Mr. Dawson. For either animals or grown-up people the greater amount of fresh air they got into their houses the better. If many of them would sleep with their doors and windows open they would be healthier and stronger, and they would enjoy better health. He had gone into cottages and heard the people complain about the windows not fitting close, and about a draught coming in at the door, and he had seen the crevices of the window pasted up and sand-bags laid at the door, so as to exclude all air, as the old woman told him "it was done for fear of the bairns catching cold." He told her to put her children to bed, and then open the doors and windows, and try that during the next winter, and they would never catch cold. Unfortunately he was supposed to be prejudiced, and these people imagined because he lived in a more comfortable house he preached what he did not practise. He slept all night with the windows of his room open, and the windows of most of the sleeping rooms over which he had any control were open during the night.

The CHAIRMAN said that the very least they could do was to pass a vote of thanks to Mr. Dawson for his very excellent paper. It was excellent in two senses—it was very lucidly and very plainly expressed, at it was interesting in its matter. He did not think that any subject discussed by this Club was really of more benefit than this one, because whatever the nature of a farm a man had under his care he must necessarily have buildings. He must have buildings, and if badly constructed he will necessarily suffer. As it had been clearly shown in the paper, the first object in view was to put up buildings capable of giving protection against the effects of climate—to exclude cold and rain. That was the first object in view, and were it not for that, as Mr. Grey had pointed out, animals might be better left outside altogether. It was a very simple matter to attain the end so far as protection was concerned against cold and wet, but it was not easy to apply this so as to secure those conditions which were necessary to the maintenance of health. It was only by carrying out such suggestions as those made by Mr. Dawson which would enable a practical man to have good useful building on his farm. It would take up too much time to enter into the matter of the operation of those foods which are intended to be burnt in the process of respiration. In fact, what went on in the body of the animal was strictly analogous to what they saw happening in the fire which was before them. The important thing here to be remembered was that the fattening which they were so anxious to accomplish in animals intended for sale was neither more nor less than the storeing of fuel in the system for future use. The buildings, therefore, which had more immediate reference to animals undergoing this process of fattening, must be warm and comfortable. There must at the same time be a proper admission of air, not by making a hole through which it would blow upon the animal, but in such a way that it would fall nicely and gently upon it. This could be done by putting in perforated zinc, or some other appliance by which the current of air would be divided as it entered. Having got the fresh air in they must take care to get that out which was really and truly deteriorated. In the process of breathing oxygen was abstracted from the air; but in doing that the animal sent off something similar to the smoke which was going from the fire. If the air so used, as Mr. Dawson remarked, were coloured in a like way it would be much better as they would see and know its condition. The carbonic acid gas that was given off was deleterious to the animal, and they must have a place for its escape. They must admit the air at the lower part—the air being heavier when cold, and allow the vitiated air to escape at the upper openings. That was unquestionably the correct principle. In conclusion, the chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Dawson for his excellent paper, to which he was sure they had listened with great pleasure.

Mr. GREY was much inclined to agree with Mr. Dawson that in this age when there was such a great rage for sanitary drainage they had carried the system of fine drainage too far. He considered that an open channel was much safer than a close drain. An open channel in a stable could be swept out, and with the use of a little disinfectant kept clean and sweet. If the sewerage drains were underground and were not properly trapped—and trapping was a difficult thing—they might calculate on an accumulation of gases in that drain of a most injurious character, and which by some action of the wind might be driven up into the stable or byre or wherever it might be. He remembered seeing a stable in the Midland Counties, with a ground like a cattle box, and the old gentleman to whom it belonged took him into it, and remarked to him that it was well ventilated and a sweet stable. It was the forenoon and the horses were out working; it was, indeed, sweet, and he began feeling under his feet. He said "Where's the pavement?" The old gentleman called to one of his men to bring a fork, and he dug a hole, perhaps 18 or 20 inches deep, when it steamed up and filled the place with steam. He remarked that it was cleaned out once in four or five weeks, that disinfectants were used, and when the horse came in it was sweet and clean. A little fresh straw was used each time, and he could not wish to have a stable kept cleaner or sweeter. The owner told him that he was never troubled with his horses. In the Midland Counties they had great rough-heeled horses, and yet he told him he had never anything bad or wrong with their heels, their eyes, or their lungs—that they were perfectly healthy. The ammonia was confined; they did not smell it until it was stirred up. He took a farm, and he had a stable on it at the corner of the buildings; the door was from the interior, and it had two windows. He was told that one or two horses had gone blind that had been kept in it, and that it would be necessary to build a new stable or he would never be able to keep his horses healthy. He went into the stable next morning after it had been swept and cleaned out, and it made his eyes water. There was no ventilation, and he had at once three great holes made in the walls until the mason could come and make them properly. Although the horses regularly went blind in this stable, yet after he broke these holes in it none of the horses which he put in it ever ailed anything.

The CHAIRMAN thought there was a necessity for having more light in stables. What Mr. Grey had referred to was easily understood. Ammonia was an alkali, and might be fixed by means of any acid. The air of many stables was literally loaded with ammonia, but a little acid of some kind put into a pail of water and thrown on the floor would fix it. These acids they must bear in mind were very destructive, but a few drops put into a pail of water could be used with perfect safety.

The vote of thanks was carried unanimously, and acknowledged by Mr. Dawson.

DEATH OF MR. N. G. BARTHROPP.—The death is announced of this well-known agriculturist on November 11th, at Great Yarmouth, aged 60. Mr. Barthropp had retired for some years from his farm at Cretingham Rookery, in Suffolk, where he was especially famous for his breed of Suffolk horses, including such Royal prize-winners as Newcastle Captain, Cretingham Hero, and Man of Kent. Of late years he was more seen about as a judge, and at Bedford, as it struck us, he looked very weary towards the end of a long, hard day's work amongst the cart-horses. Mr. Barthropp had for many years been a member of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society, as at one time on the Committee of the London Farmers' Club, and of course always a leading man on the direction of the Suffolk Agricultural Association. A kind-hearted, genial gentleman, there are none who really knew him but will sincerely mourn the loss of "Nat Barthropp"—as they called him about home.

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THE SCOTTISH AND ENGLISH CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE.

On Tuesday, November 3rd, there was a meeting of the English Chamber of Agriculture in London, and on Tuesday, November 10th, there was a meeting of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture in Edinburgh; as it may be not altogether unprofitable to compare the action and position of these two societies. A landlord is about to retire from presidency of the English Chamber, to be succeeded in turn by a nobleman: a practical farmer has just delivered his retiring address from the chair of the Scottish Chamber, which is now filled by another recognised agriculturist. At the last general meeting of the English Chamber an auditor reported that an examination of the accounts showed that the Chamber could pay something over ten shillings in the pound: at the last general meeting of the Scottish Chamber the treasurer's statement showed that the Chamber had a surplus of available property. The office of the English Chamber is a letter-box stowed away in a corner of an hotel, and its meetings are held in a room hired by the day: the Scottish Chamber *has* a Chamber, and its meetings are held in its own Hall. The English Chamber has commonly discursive discussions, ending in irresolute resolutions: the Scottish Chamber appears to conduct its business with method, as its resolutions pretty generally speak to the point.

And here, as we take it, is the main difference between the principles and progress of the two societies: the one is an independent body, and the other is not. In every way the better one acts for itself, as the other courts an unwholesome patronage. But we draw this comparison with a purpose. The leading agricultural question in England just at present is Tenant-Right, and at an early meeting of the Council the English Chamber promises to "consider the reports and summary schedules on agricultural customs presented by the Committee on Unexhausted Improvements, and the proposals of that Committee towards legislation." The Tenant-Right cry is of later growth in Scotland, but nevertheless we shall venture to offer as something of an example to the English Chamber what was said and done the other day on this subject in Edinburgh. The chairman of the Scottish Chamber went directly for legislation: "As to compensation for tenants' improvements, the law as it now stands gives him no right to compensation. The improvements created by a tenant's skill, capital, and industry are in substance and in practice, though not in law, the property of the tenant who makes them," and so forth. And the Scottish Chamber, on the motion of Mr. George Hope, "approves of the principles expressed by the chairman in relation to compensation for unexhausted improvements." The whole debate, in fact, as sustained by Mr. Hope and others, is full of good bold argument clearly put; while the local committees recommend that the Chamber should have the laws altered so as to give "complete security to capital invested by tenant-farmers"—That "there is a growing dissatisfaction amongst farmers as to the operation of the land-tenancy laws, more especially to the want of provision being made whereby compensation should be given for all permanent improvements and unexhausted manures"—That "this meeting (Kincardineshire) urge the Chamber, while steadily using all efforts to obtain the repeal of the law of hypothec and such modifications of the Game-laws as may be obtainable, to concentrate its chief efforts upon obtaining from Parliament a measure to legalise Tenant-Right." We will say nothing here as to the abolition of English Hypothec, from which of course we suffer in a certain degree, or as to any necessity for modifying the Game-laws on this side of the Border; but rather confine ourselves to the question before us. Will the Central Chamber of Agriculture concentrate its chief efforts upon obtaining from Parliament a measure to legalise Tenant-Right? Will it at the February meeting encourage its members to speak out as they did in Edinburgh? and will it bring forward resolutions such as those which we have quoted? If it can, and if the ship is to swim, the sooner the summary schedules and customs' reports are thrown overboard the better. They are little better than lumber.

Even in Scotland where the subject is not so familiar as in England, these fiddling summaries and district reports are dispensed with, and the Chambers go directly for the principle. A difficulty, however, with our northern brethren is that they are apt to speak only of Tenant-Right in connection with a lease, whereas with us the application is made more to shorter terms, as in Lincolnshire, the example district, there are no leases where the principle prevails. A case in Scotland has served to give more especial point to this view: a tenant towards the close of a long lease was made to believe that he would go on again, and accordingly continued to farm highly up to the very close of his term; when he and his landlord could not agree as to the amount of rent to be paid for the future, and the occupier had to leave the farm and his unexhausted improvements without any consideration for them. Now it is very manifest here that until Tenant-Right becomes law no man must rest content with any "make-believe" as to his remaining in possession. Where the land has been well farmed the tenant at the end of twenty years or so will naturally expect a rise in his rent, as it must be his duty to himself and his family to ascertain precisely what this will be before he determines on his course of action for the last few years. A man in such a position has some opportunity of getting his own again, whereas the yearly holder has little or none. In fact, in the case referred to the tenant was prepared to give more, but not so much as was eventually demanded, and he found, when too late, that he relied too much on that "mutually good understanding," which implies so much and means so little. From the days since *The Times'* Commissioners travelled the country a very common answer to any claim for a generally recognised Tenant-Right was the citation of the Scotch lease, while we have always maintained that principle was required alike for a lease and a yearly agreement. Still, under the longer term the tenant should be able in a measure to take care of himself, as his "notice" follows on no mere whim or misunderstanding, but he knows for years previously what is coming, and against this it is his business to provide. And of this some of the factors in Scotland are making the most, as a meeting held at Inverness during last week will serve to show.

THE CENTRAL CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.

A Council meeting was held on Tuesday, November 3, at the Salisbury Hotel; the chairman for the year, Mr. G. F. Muntz, presiding.

The preliminary business included the election of Mr. J. K. Fowler and Mr. J. S. Gardiner, to supply the vacancies in the Council arising from the death of Mr. Webb and the resignation of Mr. Hodsoll.

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Mr. A. Pell, M.P., presented the Report of the Local Taxation Committee, which was taken as read, being as follows:

Since the Committee presented their last Annual Report, the General Election, to which they then alluded as imminent, has taken place, and to the question of Local Taxation prominence was universally accorded by candidates and constituencies throughout the kingdom. Mr. Gladstone himself, in his address announcing the dissolution of Parliament, declared the relief of the ratepayer from exceptional burdens to be the foremost item of his future financial policy, admitting that the time had come at length when "A further portion of the charges hitherto borne by real and immovable property should, with judicious accompanying arrangements be placed upon property generally." With the new Parliament came a new Ministry. The Committee then thought it right to organise, without delay, a ceputation from the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture, in order to bring the grievance which they had so long complained of under the notice of the Prime Minister. This deputation was received by Mr. Disraeli on the 23rd of March last. It strongly urged that the pressing questions of Local Taxation and Local Government should receive the earliest attention of the new Cabinet, and especially that effect should, as soon as possible, be given to the resolution of the late Parliament as to the relief of ratepayers from peculiarly Imperial charges. The reply given by the Premier was unmistakable. He unhesitatingly expressed his concurrence in the views advocated by the Committee, and emphatically declared that "a system of raising taxation for general purposes from one particular kind of property involves as great a violation of justice as can well be conceived." He recalled to mind his own previous efforts to effect a reform of the present system, and reminding those present of the active support which their cause had already received from nearly every member of the new Government, he assured them that, short as was the time allowed for maturing comprehensive measures, their grievance would at once be anxiously considered in reviewing the financial position of the country. The Chancellor of the Exchequer subsequently redeemed the promises thus made, by according to Local Taxation Reform the chief place in his financial proposals, declaring it to be in the opinion of her Majesty's Government "upon the whole, the subject of the highest national interest at the present time." He proceeded formally to acknowledge the truth of three distinct grievances complained of by the ratepayers and persistently urged by the Committee. These were—the employment of local rates in discharging Imperial duties, the exemption of many classes of property from burdens borne for the benefit of all kinds of property, and the faulty systems of local administration now existing. Admitting the impracticability of offering on that occasion a comprehensive scheme of redress, Sir Stafford Northcote gave an assurance for the immediate future of a wide and general treatment of a question which, more than any other, now demanded a thorough solution. He, meantime, announced that some relief would at once be granted in the direction contemplated by the resolution of Sir Massey Lopes, and proposed to apply a portion of the surplus in alleviation of the charges on ratepayers for lunatics and police. The concessions made, although not affording complete redress, will yet be received with satisfaction as a step in the right direction, important alike as regards the principle involved and the progress in Local Taxation Reform. The annual amount surrendered on this occasion by the Imperial Revenue does not, it will be remembered, reach the total of over £2,000,000, which the late Parliament, in assenting to Sir Massey Lopes' resolution, appeared fully prepared even then to sanction. While the increased taxation which the intervening period has brought on ratepayers must now, of course, be held to have still further enhanced their claims for relief. The Committee are, however, willing to await the promised development of the principles adopted by the Government in the belief that next session will afford an opportunity for the necessary reconstructive legislation. But they are naturally gratified to find that the steps already taken are universally approved of. The capitation grant of four shillings per week towards the maintenance of pauper lunatics, and the doubled subvention towards the cost of the police, are both remedial measures of which every ratepayer will feel the benefit; while all possibility of extravagance in administration is avoided by the form in which relief is granted, and by the stringent control of the central authority. The impartiality with which, as the Committee have invariably asserted, town and country will alike benefit by relief thus given has been conspicuously demonstrated on this occasion; and the knowledge that each class of ratepayer will be relieved precisely in proportion to the relative pressure of his national burdens cannot but help forward the cause of reform. During the past session the fruit of the steady resistance offered by the committee to rate-imposing measures was apparent in the limited introduction of bills proposing to increase local burdens. Five measures only affecting ratepayers demanded the opposition of the committee, viz.: (1) The Elementary Education (Compulsory Attendance) Bill (*defeated*). (2) The Prison Ministers Bill (*dropped*). (3) The Municipal Boroughs Auditors and Assessors Bill (*dropped*). (4) The Municipal Corporation Disposition of Penalties (*withdrawn*). (5) The Registration of Births and Deaths (*objection removed*). The Elementary Education (Compulsory Attendance) Bill involved a great extension of the charges imposed upon ratepayers by the Education Act of 1870, in proposing to make everywhere compulsory the formation of School Boards. New liabilities on account of national education have always been resisted by the committee, who wish to draw attention to the severity of the pressure already entailed by School Boards, especially in rural districts, as shown by recent official returns. Resistance was therefore offered to the present measure, and the committee are glad to be able to report its emphatic rejection by a majority of 320 to 156, or more than two to one. The Prison Ministers Bill reproduced the proposal to enable the Home Secretary to appoint in certain cases, even in opposition to the opinion of the local prison authority, a rate-paid prison official. Notice of opposition was at once given to this bill, its progress was arrested and ultimately dropped without obtaining a second reading. The Municipal Boroughs (Auditors and Assessors) Bill, relating to the election of Borough Auditors, was opposed by the committee as calculated to lessen the interest properly attaching to the duties of their office. The second reading of this bill afforded an opportunity for raising the question of the insufficiency of the system of audit now existing. On the motion of the chairman a Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to investigate the anomalies and inconveniences pointed out in the debate. The evidence given before the Select Committee disclosed serious defects in the present system, and will be the means of attracting attention to the want of a really effective audit. The bill itself was dropped before the close of the session. The Municipal Corporation (Disposition of Penalties) Bill proposed to enable Boroughs having no quarter sessions, but possessing magistrates and police, to apply to their own uses penalties there levied. The practical effect of this change being prejudicial to county ratepayers, who would thus have to keep Borough prisoners without the aid of Borough fines, it was objected to by the Committee. In order to meet any existing difficulty and at the same time to protect county ratepayers from this hardship, amendments were proposed making boroughs diverting their fines to their own purposes liable to contribute otherwise to the maintenance of their prisoners in county gaols. This proposal not being, however, accepted by the promoters of the bill, the measure was itself withdrawn. The Registration of Births and Deaths Bill, introduced by the government, aimed at the improvement of the present system by increasing the stringency of the existing law. The measure contained, however, a proposal to increase to a small extent the payments now made to registrars out of the local rates. On this point it necessarily encountered the opposition of the Committee. In consequence of the objection thus raised, the President of the Local Government Board undertook to avoid the threatened increase in the rate-borne costs of registration by providing from the Exchequer the increased payments required. The resistance offered by the Committee was therefore relinquished, although the proposal afforded their Chairman an opportunity of calling the attention of Parliament to the anomaly involved in continuing as a charge on local rates any portion whatever of an outlay essentially national, and regulated in amount by central authority. Besides measures necessitating opposition, the attention of the Committee was directed during the past session to three other bills, viz.: (1) The Sanitary Laws Amendment Bill (*passed*). (2) The Juries Bill (*withdrawn*). (3) The Friendly Societies Bill (*withdrawn*). The Sanitary Laws Amendment Bill dealt chiefly with amendments in points of detail of the Public Health Act of 1872, with reference to the constitution, election, borrowing powers, duties, and rights of Local Sanitary Authorities in particular cases. The Committee did not oppose this measure, since it entailed no new charges on ratepayers, whilst on the contrary it contained one provision viewed by them with considerable satisfaction, as carrying out to some extent an improvement of administrative detail which they have long advocated. The irregularity of the dates at which local authorities close their financial years has been formerly animadverted on by the Committee. This is by the present bill stopped in the case of local boards, and a further step has thus been taken towards facilitating that general and complete statement of local receipts and expenditure for a single coincident period of twelve months which the Committee have endeavoured to obtain. The Juries Bill of this session, unlike that of last, proposed to furnish from the Imperial Exchequer remuneration to overseers for their trouble in preparing the jury lists. Objection, however, arose on the part of the Treasury to the form of the provision thus made in the bill, and no amendments having been agreed to which would have removed this obstacle without burdening the local rates, the measure was ultimately, in consequence of the pressure of business, withdrawn. The Friend

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Societies Bill, founded on the report recently issued by the commission, although withdrawn soon after its introduction by the Government, will probably re-appear next session. The discussion of the proposals it contained seems, however, to the Committee eminently desirable, as local taxpayers are intimately concerned in the stability and character of these societies. Two other Bills were passed this session, which called for the warmest approval of the Committee. These were: (1) The Police Force Expenses Bill (*passed*). (2) The Rating Bill (*passed*). The Police Force Expenses Bill was the necessary sequel of the financial proposals of the Government with reference to the police subvention. It simply suspended until September next the statutory limitation which up to this time has restricted the Government grant to one-fourth of the expense of pay and clothing. The Treasury were thus enabled to double during the present year the subvention to which local authorities were entitled. No proportion of the cost is by this bill finally substituted for the quarter hitherto paid, and this fact may be construed as indicating the intention of the Government to deal more generally and definitely with the question of police in the ensuing session. Ratepayers may thus view a larger contribution on the part of the Government, if not the entire transference of the cost of the force to the Imperial Exchequer as within reach. The latter course appears to the Committee by far the most satisfactory solution of the points involved, as well on grounds of justice to the ratepayers, as with a view to greater efficiency and economy in police administration. The Rating Bill of the present Government, resembled in its object that brought in by Mr. Stansfeld in the previous session. By its passing into law that extension of the rating area to mines, woods, and game which has been one of the minor points aimed at by Chambers of Agriculture from their earliest foundation, has been at length achieved. The Committee were glad to be able to afford the present measure a support which they could not so fully give to Mr. Stansfeld's bill. Although the aims of both measures were similar, it will be remembered that opposition was necessarily provoked last year by the position then accorded to the proposed extension of the rateable area. While this was offered before, and in place of general relief, the Bill gave a perpetual exemption from rates to moveable property, for which no compensation whatever had been offered to ratepayers. From these objections the Bill introduced by Mr. Sclater Booth and Mr. C. S. Read was entirely free. It was preceded by an unequivocal acknowledgment by her Majesty's ministers of the chief grievance of which ratepayers complained. It was accompanied by some definite relief to ratepayers in respect of charges of peculiarly national import. It contained those directions as to the mode of assessing the new subjects of rating wanting in the former measure; and it made no attempt to obliterate from the Statute-book all record of ancient common obligations, or prejudge the general question of the relative liability of different descriptions of property. The case of the localities which have suffered by the exemption from rating of properties occupied by the Government was not dealt with in the bill, relief having been given more simply by a direct vote in Parliament to meet local liabilities in respect of Crown property. On the whole, therefore, the committee are of opinion that the rating act of this session will be cordially welcomed by ratepayers, as removing anomalies and conferring benefits, which, although necessarily of somewhat local and limited application, are yet founded on the principle so long insisted upon that no description of property should be permitted to escape common obligations. Since the session closed the final report of the Judicature Commission has directed special attention to the proposal to appoint public prosecutors. The salaries of such officials, it is presumed by the Committee, could be in no case charged on the local rates, and the propriety of the proposition is therefore open to discussion on its own merits. The relation of the subject to that of the costs of criminal prosecutions, and the proposal of the late Government to connect the direct payment of these costs by the Treasury with a system of public prosecutors, has necessarily drawn the attention of the Committee to the matter. Whatever course be taken by her Majesty's ministers on this point, whether a more or less complete system of official prosecutors be instituted, the committee earnestly trust that the occasion will be seized for putting an end to the abuses to which they have so frequently called attention. If, indeed, the entire cost of the administration of justice be not wholly transferred, as it ought to be, to general taxation, the Committee cannot doubt that steps will at all events be taken at once by the Home Secretary effectually to stop the irregular re-imposition on the rates of charges long ago declared to be imperial, and formally assumed by the State. In their last annual report the committee referred to certain returns of local receipts and expenditure ordered on the motion of their present chairman, of which they were then expecting the publication. That relating to the nature of the audit in each class of local authority contains much useful information, and has been embodied in the last report of the Local Government Board. The analysis of receipts and expenditure will also prove valuable in showing in a form not otherwise available the sources of income, and objects of expenditure of all rate-disbursing authorities with which alone it deals. Unfortunately it is far from perfect in its details. The heading prefixed by the Local Government Board differs from the terms of the order. The receipts and expenditures of School Boards have been omitted, and the imperfect form of the accounts of some local authorities have prevented it being as instructive as could be desired. The figures given in the return are for the year ending Lady-day, 1872, in which a sum of £18,034,903 was levied by rates. The Committee trust that the return for 1873 may be more complete than the one they have referred to, but although ordered on the same occasion it has not yet been issued. The figures, are, however, sufficient to show that the local rates have increased 80 per cent. in the last twenty years, and are now £2,000,000 higher than the amount at which Mr. Goschen estimated them in 1868. The annual poor-rate return for the year 1873 exhibits a decrease in the amount of relief given to the poor, attributable to the unprecedented prosperity of the country and to stricter administration. Still, however, the poor-rate levied has in spite of this reduction increased. In the past decade, indeed, while the cost of pauperism is but 18 per cent. higher, the demand on the poor-rate of county, police, and borough authorities has increased by 46 per cent., the cost of lunatics by 56 per cent., and the miscellaneous and unclassified expenditure which recent legislation has imposed on the poor-rate by nearly 100 per cent. The county and borough rate returns for 1873 are now available in advance of the general accounts of that year, and show an increase of £140,000 in the cost of police and lunatics. In spite of a smaller contribution from imperial sources the expense of administering justice is also greater than in 1872. Through an error in the county-rate abstract as published by the Local Government Board an apparent decline is incorrectly shown. The Committee regret to find official statistics still defective in such cases as this, though the blunders to which they called attention in these Returns while under the Home Office have been removed, and they have been much improved by the Department now superintending their issue. Some of the statistics also furnished by the Education Department present very defective results from inaccuracies in their form or their preparation. Enough remains, however, to show the severity of the charges for education newly imposed on ratepayers. Although the chief work of the School Boards has been in large towns, the country districts have suffered most heavily by the rates thus required, 9d. in the pound or more having been found necessary in twenty different rural parishes, while in forty-five other country parishes from 6d. to 9d. has been levied, and a rate of 3d. has been reached or exceeded in about half of the whole number of parishes, urban and rural, in which Boards exist. The Adulteration of Food Act appears likely to increase the liabilities of ratepayers for an object of common interest to the entire community. The appointment of public analysts has already entailed considerably enhanced expenditure in different districts, and the Committee would suggest that the operation of the Act should be very carefully watched. The consideration of reform in Local Government will continue to demand the care and investigation of the Local Taxation Committee. The irregularity of existing divisions, the confusion of jurisdiction, and the multiplication of authorities, are all evils for which a remedy is urgently demanded. A proper classification of local and imperial duties should, in their opinion, be followed by a careful inquiry as to the areas, constitution, and duties of the local governing bodies, so as to ensure not only efficient representation to the local taxpayer, but wise and economic administration. It will be the Committee's duty especially to lose no opportunity of pressing on the Government the need for the further legislation which has been promised. The entire consideration of the method in which the costs of administering justice shall in future be borne has, it must be remembered, only been temporarily postponed, Parliament having voted this expense to be distinctly national. The Committee will especially, therefore, bear in mind the necessity of securing further just and admittedly due concessions under this head in the direction already adopted by her Majesty's Government; and while the promises of the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the possibility of ultimately handing over to local authorities some branch of the general revenue will have to be steadfastly kept in view, every means of increasing the resources of local authorities and diminishing their sole reliance on the rates must be attentively regarded. This course is particularly to be desired in view of the increasing attention now being directed to Educational and Sanitary matters, all envolving heavy local expenditure, while the necessity for prompt and general road legislation points in the same direction. The gradual abolition of Turnpike Tolls continues to prejudice ratepayer's position. It is needful, therefore, to resist additional rites on this account, and to secure (if in some form or another tolls cannot be maintained) that by the appropriation of some local source of revenue the users of the highways should equitably contribute to their maintenance.

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Mr. PELL moved that the Report be received.

Sir GEORGE JENKINSON, M.P., for one, could not accept the report without discussion.

Mr. CORRANCE did not regard the remission already obtained altogether satisfactory, as so small a portion of it had been applied in relief of rural ratepayers.

It was stated that only the reception and circulation of the report would be asked, and a motion to this effect was agreed to.

Captain CRAIGIE presented the Report of the Committee on A Government Department of Agriculture, which was as follows:

The Committee appointed by the Council on the 14th April, 1874, to consider the best means of giving effect to the views of the Council with reference to a Government Department for Agriculture, and who were instructed to confer with the Association of Chambers of Commerce with reference to their proposal for a Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, have agreed to the following Report: 1. Your Committee are of opinion that the duties of a separate and consolidated Agricultural Department of the Government should embrace all matters specially affecting agriculture, now dealt with by various Government offices, and that they should specially include: A. All supervision connected with the importation, transit, traffic, and diseases of live stock. B. All supervision necessary for arterial land drainage and in connection with Commissions of Sewers and Embankments. C. The duties now discharged by the Copyhold Title and Enclosure Commission. D. The collection, tabulation, and publication of agricultural statistics and corn returns. 2. Your Committee consider that a separate department charged with these duties should be presided over by a Parliamentary Secretary. 3. Your Committee having proceeded to confer with the Association of Chambers of Commerce on their proposals, arranged a meeting on the 4th June, 1874, when Mr. Sampson Lloyd, M.P., chairman of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, Mr. H. W. Ripley, M.P., Mr. John Whitwell, M.P., Mr. Moore, of Plymouth, and Mr. Hawkes, of Birmingham, on the part of the Chambers of Commerce, met and discussed the points at issue with Mr. G. F. Muntz, chairman of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. George Storer, M.P., Mr. H. P. Price, Captain Craigie, and Mr. J. Algernon Clarke, on the part of your Committee. Your Committee, as the result of the conference, are of opinion that the combined interests of agriculture and commerce would be materially advanced by the creation of a new Ministry embracing two separate and distinct departments, each presided over by a Parliamentary Secretary, and each possessing separate and permanent official staffs—the one department dealing exclusively with agricultural and the other with commercial matters. In such a case the duties now belonging to the Board of Trade might conveniently devolve on a new commercial department. Your Committee further recommend to the Council that they should request a member of Parliament representing agricultural interests to bring before Parliament early next session a resolution affirming the expediency of creating such a Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce; and they suggest any member of Parliament undertaking this duty should be requested to concert with the Chairman of the Association of Chambers of Commerce as to the form of resolution to be proposed and the best time for its introduction.

Mr. STORER, M.P., said the Business Committee having regard to the fact that the question was a comparatively new one, had simply suggested that the Report should be received on that occasion, in order that it might be submitted to the local Chambers of Agriculture with a view to its being discussed at a future meeting. They felt that agriculture had not received for many years past, and did not now receive, that degree of attention from the State which from its importance it deserved. The commercial community seemed to hold a similar opinion with regard to their own affairs, and the result was that there had been united action in reference to that question. He had now to ask them to receive the Report with a view to future discussion; and this was agreed to.

The next subject on the agenda being "Highway Legislation,"

The CHAIRMAN entered into a statement in reference to the course which had been pursued with the view of ascertaining the opinion of the Associated Chambers on the most important questions included in that subject. From a circular before the meeting, dated September 29, it appeared that the following questions were addressed to those bodies: 1. Is an entire re-organisation of our road system in England, including the management and maintenance of turnpikes and highways, desirable? 2. Is a reclassification of all roads needed? 3. How many different classes of roads should be established under a new system? 4. How should the funds be raised, and from what sources, for the maintenance of each class of road? 5. What should be the constitution of the governing body of the whole or of any one class of roads? After giving a statistical statement in reference to the answers received to these questions, the Chairman said the Business Committee had not expected that there would be anything like such a majority as there was in favour of district boards. The resolutions now to be submitted on that subject were, he intimated, based on the balance of opinion on the different points found in the replies; and he added that although the Business Committee had embodied the views expressed in the resolutions now to be considered, yet they felt themselves individually at liberty to take any course that they might think proper on that occasion. In conclusion, he stated that, having heard that there had been legislation recently in the Isle of Man in reference to highways, he wrote in his official capacity to the Chairman of the Highway Board there for information on that subject, and he read the reply, in which it was stated that the duties paid for wine and spirit licences were appropriated to the maintenance of the highways.

After some discussion as to the order in which the resolutions should be taken, Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., having expressed the opinion that No. 6 should be taken first, as it raised the important question whether or not highway districts should be made compulsory, and it having been arranged, as was understood, that No. 6 should be taken second,

Mr. G. WHITAKER-WILSON moved the first resolution of the series on the Agenda, viz.: "That in the opinion of this Council a re-organisation of the road system of England is urgently required." It was, he observed, very desirable that the local Chambers should send as definite answers as possible to all questions addressed to them by the Council of the Central Chamber; but many of the answers received in the present instance were so vague that it was very difficult to determine what was meant. Nothing had surprised him more than the preponderance of opinion in favour of making the adoption of highway districts compulsory (Hear). He was not at all prepared for that, nor was he prepared to support such a view; and he thought the Chairman was quite right in claiming for the members of the Business Committee the right to adopt personally whatever course they pleased at that meeting.

Mr. ANTHONY seconded the resolution.

Mr. CORRANCE said he felt bound to ask himself what would be the ulterior consequences of adopting the resolutions now submitted. That question was not a party one. There had always been a number of persons in the Legislature who were in favour of the extension of highway districts. The question was first taken up in Parliament by Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen as a member of the late Government, and it was handed over by him to the present Government. He (Mr. Corrance) would say nothing about the intentions of the present Government, because he did not at all know what they were (laughter); but the object of the late Government was to establish a compulsory system of highway districts. So long as the burden of maintaining roads was cast on parishes the voice of complaint was sure to be heard, but he supposed it was thought that when the area of the burden became extended the combustion would not be so great (laughter). If they committed themselves to the propositions before them, where would the matter end? The Government would then ignore complaints from different localities, and deal with the question in what was, he believed, called "a comprehensive manner" (laughter). He wanted to know what course the Government would pursue if the resolutions on the Agenda were passed. He saw some members of the Government present, including one who had raised himself to his present position by the proofs which he had given of capacity, and who was well able to answer any questions which might be put to him. He would now move as an amendment: "That before we commit ourselves to any direct condemnation of the present system, it is expedient that we should know what are the views of her Majesty's Government on this question."

Mr. HICKS seconded the amendment, observing that the Cambridgeshire Chamber, which he represented, had passed unanimously a resolution to the effect that the best principle for maintaining the roads of this country was the old common-law principle of parochial responsibility.

Mr. READ, M.P., said, having been so pointedly referred to by his friend Mr. Corrance, he begged to say that he did not attend that meeting as the Secretary of the Local Government Board, or even as a member of Parliament (Hear, hear).

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He was Chairman of the Norfolk Chamber of Agriculture, and he was present on that occasion simply and solely as a member of that Council. He should not betray any Government secrets, for the best of all reasons—namely, that he did not know any (laughter). He was a very harmless individual as regarded Cabinet secrets, but he would do what he could in his private capacity to resist the establishment of a compulsory system of highway districts (Hear, hear).

On a show of hands the amendment was negatived, and the original resolution was then adopted.

The meeting being then about to consider the sixth resolution, declaring, "that the system of highway districts should be made compulsory," &c.

Mr. D. LONG contended that all the resolutions ought to be taken in the order in which they were placed by the Business Committee.

Mr. T. WILLSON having moved, and Mr. T. J. ADKINS seconded, the foregoing resolution,

Lord HAMPTON said he thought that, as a rule, the arrangements made by the Business Committee should be strictly adhered to, great inconvenience being involved in a contrary course.

Sir G. JENKINSON, M.P., then formally moved that resolution No. 2 be taken next.

Mr. D. LONG seconded the amendment.

On a show of hands there were 22 for the amendment and the same number against it. The Chairman having given his casting vote in favour of the amendment, declared it to be carried.

Mr. GARDINER then moved, "That in the opinion of this Council all roads should be distinguished as 'First-class' and 'Second-class' roads respectively." He maintained that, under the existing system it was almost impossible to carry on highway legislation beneficially. There were two classes of roads in the rural districts; one consisting of old highway roads, and other roads on which traffic was concentrated, and the other of roads which existed for the convenience of people living in the parish; and they should, in his opinion, be classified in the manner that he now proposed. Such a classification would tend to enable them to obtain imperial assistance for the maintenance of the first class of roads. No one could suppose that the Legislature would ever consent to aid in the maintenance of the second class of roads, but for the first, which might legitimately be demanded.

Sir G. JENKINSON, M.P., in seconding the resolution, said he thought the division of roads into two classes very important, and in his opinion the disturnpiked roads ought to be included in the first class.

Mr. BIDDELL believed that the proposed classification would tend to perpetuate existing evils. He was strongly of opinion that all roads ought to be under one management, and that the cost should be a district instead of a parochial matter. He was quite aware that the present highway enactments required material alterations (Hear, hear), and his observations depended partly upon a modification of them.

The CHAIRMAN said he wished to put it to the meeting at that stage of the proceedings whether they thought that the having two classes of roads would necessarily involve the having two governments (Loud cries of "No, no").

Mr. WILBRAHAM EGERTON, M.P., remarked that there were 850 local boards in the country—boards most of which had entered into various contracts, and it was impossible to deal with that question properly without considering their position.

Lord HAMPTON thought they had better confine their attention to the question actually before them (Hear, hear).

Mr. A. PELL, M.P., said it would almost appear as if a good road was to be a road along which a carriage might travel, and a bad road one which was only fit for a dung-cart (laughter).

Mr. T. DUCKHAM proposed an amendment to the effect that there should be only one class of roads, basing his proposal chiefly on the ground that having separate classes of roads would involve the necessity of having separate accounts. For want of uniformity of management he had himself, he remarked, as chairman of a highway board, every month to go through 72 sets of accounts instead of one.

Mr. D. LONG seconded the amendment.

Mr. G. WHITAKER-WILSON argued that there must be two classes of roads. It was necessary to have wider roads in the neighbourhood of a market town than elsewhere.

Mr. YELLAND supported the resolution.

Mr. ARKELL observed that the public had as much right to travel over the parish roads as over others. He was in favour of having only one class.

Mr. MASPEN remarked that one of the chief sources of expense was supervision, and if there were two classes of roads the expense of supervision must be doubled.

Mr. LIPSCOMBE said it seemed to have been overlooked that turnpike trusts were expiring all over the country—a fact which had a material bearing on the question under discussion. The greater part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, with which he was connected, was now under the Local Government Board, and they were not particularly anxious to take in hand expiring trusts.

The CHAIRMAN observed that they were not then on the question of turnpike trusts (Hear, hear).

Mr. LIPSCOMBE proceeded to say that he was strongly in favour of their maintaining their authority over parish roads, while he thought the cost of the main arterial roads ought not to fall entirely on the ratepayers. It was against all experience that bye-roads should be kept in as good condition as main or turnpike roads ("No, no").

Professor BUND said there always had been two classes of roads in this country ("No, no"), and if they did not maintain such a division they would lose their claim upon the Government for assistance.

Mr. ANTHONY observed that if there were two classes of roads there must be two establishments to manage them. ("No, no").

Mr. ADKINS supported the amendment.

Lord HAMPTON said according to his view of the matter good bye-roads were quite as essential to the public convenience as good highways. Then came the question—and it appeared to him that their function as a council was to deal with that question—in what way the object could be secured on the most economical principles. It struck him that if they had only one class of roads they would have greater unity and greater simplicity of management than could be secured in any other way. On the other hand, he thought that the having two classes of roads would almost of necessity involve the having two systems of management ("No, no"). At all events he was in favour of having only one class of roads, and in his opinion that would prove the best for all concerned.

Mr. READ, M.P. said, it appeared that all who were strongly in favour of having only one class of roads had made up their minds in favour of highway districts ("No"). If they had compulsory highway districts, and a general assessment as well, they might have but one class of roads. Without a general assessment nothing could be more iniquitous than to perpetuate the present system of throwing the maintenance of the arterial thoroughfares of the kingdom upon the parishes.

Mr. SCOTSON thought there should be only one class of roads, with county management and a county rate to keep all the public roads in proper order.

Mr. STORER, M.P., said he was in favour of having a system of highway districts combined with a small contribution from the Imperial Exchequer.

Mr. PAGET, M.P., thought that on the whole the balance of argument was in favour of having first and second-class roads, but he thought it should be clearly understood that that division could not involve a separate system of management.

Sir G. JENKINSON, M.P., said his idea was that there should be one class of roads partly maintained by the Government and another class maintained by means of district rates. He had no desire to see two systems of management.

Mr. H. NEILD said as regarded the question from what sources the roads were to be supported, he believed that any expectation of assistance from the Consolidated Fund was a forlorn hope (laughter).

Mr. JABEZ TURNER said the question now seemed to be whether the adoption of the amendment would involve the giving up all idea of obtaining Government aid. It was not to be supposed that any government would grant a subvention for the common parochial highways of the country. In his opinion they must either abandon the hope of getting assistance from the Government, or they must adhere to the present natural subdivision of roads.

Mr. A. PELL, M.P., said both the Chambers to which he belonged in the Midland Counties had decided in favour of hav-

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ing but one class of roads, and on that point he agreed with them most thoroughly. All that had been said about having two classes of roads and only one management was illusory. Whether it was the Government or the magistrates who entrusted local bodies with money they would accompany it with control. What lay behind the whole of that question was the desire of the Chamber to get a subsidy from the Government, and it seemed to be felt that they could get a subsidy for one class of roads and not for another. Under the system contended for the roads would be divided into two classes, one the macadamised roads, the other the macadamnable roads (laughter).

Mr. TURNER (Kent) said they had just been told that the expectation of getting assistance from the Government for roads was a forlorn hope. Well, let them have even a forlorn hope rather than no hope at all. If they had only one class of roads they would not have the least chance of obtaining Government aid; all their efforts would end in disappointment.

A show of hands was then taken, and the result was that the amendment was rejected and the resolution adopted; the numbers being for the amendment 23, for the resolution 26.

Mr. FORD then proposed the third resolution, viz.: "That 'First-class' roads should comprise the present and former turnpikes, except those which, by diversion of traffic, have become disused as main roads, and include such highways as shall be determined to have become main thoroughfares; and that 'Second-class' roads should consist of all other highways."

This resolution having been seconded by Professor Bund,

Sir G. JENKINSON, M.P., moved, as an amendment, "That 'First-class' roads should comprise all turnpike roads of which the trusts either have been or may hereafter be abolished, and that 'Second-class' roads should consist of all other highways."

Mr. D. LONG seconded the amendment.

Mr. PAGET, M.P., thought it would be much better to leave the resolution as it was proposed.

Mr. BIDDELL expressed his regret that many gentlemen present appeared to be so much influenced by the idea of their getting their hands into the Government purse. The real question before the Council was what would be the best mode of maintaining highways in good condition.

Mr. WILBRAHAM EGERTON, M.P., said, as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on the turnpike roads, he had arrived at the conviction that unity of management was impossible under the present system, and would be so even if this adoption of highway districts were made compulsory. There were 1,172 miles of turnpike trusts now in the hands of local boards, and those local boards were so mixed up with the highway boards that the main roads of the country could not be properly managed. He thought that first-class roads should be under county management or supervision, and second-class roads under local management.

Mr. CORRANCE considered a resolution like that proposed utterly useless. The whole difference of opinion among them seemed to turn on the question whether they were going to receive any assistance from the Government, and he had entirely failed to elicit a scrap of information on that subject (laughter).

After a few remarks from Capt. CRAIGIE, the amendment was put and negatived.

Capt. Craigie then proposed, as an amendment, to insert after the word "determined" "by the contributing authority."

The amendment was seconded by Mr. Pell and objected to by several gentlemen on the ground that it anticipated questions involved in succeeding resolutions. It was ultimately rejected, after which the resolution was carried by 22 votes, giving a majority of 14.

Mr. LIPSCOMBE moved the next resolution—viz., "That the funds for the maintenance of roads in the first-class should be provided from county or district rates, aided by contributions from imperial taxation, and that such contributions should be derived from a tax on different classes of vehicles, graduated in proportion to their wear of the roads."

Mr. STRATTON seconded the resolution, and maintained that nothing could be more just than that carriages which were used on the roads should help to maintain them.

Mr. STORR, M.P., hoped the Council would consider well before adopting the second part of that resolution (Hear, hear). He would be happy to vote for the former part, but if the latter part were adopted agriculturists might, through their carts and waggons and their ploughing and thrashing-machines be exposed to the most grievous burdens. He moved that the latter part of the resolution be omitted.

Mr. GARDINER seconded the amendment.

Lord HAMPTON thought the resolution as it stood was open to most serious objection. It was perfectly competent to them to ask the Government for assistance with regard to the roads, but by laying down what the Government ought to do with respect to a particular kind of taxation, they were travelling entirely out of their province, and putting themselves in the position of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Hear, hear). He hoped that for the sake of the credit of their proceedings the latter part of the resolution would be omitted.

It was then agreed that the resolution should stop at the words "imperial taxation," the latter part, relating to the tax on vehicles, being omitted.

Sir G. JENKINSON, M.P., said, the horse duty having been thrown away, he wanted to prevent the carriage-duty from being also thrown away; and he had reason to believe that if the agricultural community asked with one voice that the carriage-duty might be granted in aid of the cost of turnpike roads, it would be done. He concluded by moving as an addition to the second part of the resolution as abridged, "And that such contributions should be derived from the licenses now levied on carriages."

Mr. BIDDELL having seconded the amendment, it was put and negatived, and after some further discussion the resolution was carried by a large majority.

Mr. STORER, M.P., then moved and Mr. TRASK seconded the following resolution: "That roads in the second-class should be maintained out of parish or district rates."

Mr. READ, M.P., said he felt considerable difficulty as to how he should vote on that question. If they were to have highway districts let them be good ones, and they could not have good ones without a union rate. They must take away the management from the parish and place it in the hands of a board, and the rate should be spread over the whole district.

After some further discussion the resolution was adopted.

Mr. WILBRAHAM EGERTON, M.P., omitting the concluding part of the sixth and last resolution, proposed the following: "That the system of highway districts should be made compulsory, but with material amendments in the existing Acts." [The words passed over were "and that both classes of roads should be under the management of highway boards, the first-class roads being subject to county inspection."] He observed that in Cheshire they had had experience of the compulsory system for the last ten years, and had found it to work remarkably well.

Mr. H. NEILD, in seconding the resolution, spoke of great hardships to ratepayers in his own district in consequence of the adoption of highway districts not having been made compulsory.

Mr. RUSSON moved as an amendment, "That the system of highway districts having increased the expenses of management without causing corresponding improvement in the roads, it is not desirable to make the Highway Acts of 1867 and 1874 compulsory throughout the country." In Worcestershire, he said, to which he belonged, the system now advocated had created great dissatisfaction, and similar advantages to those which it conferred had been obtained in other districts at much less expense.

The Rev. E. C. PERRY seconded the amendment, and said the experience of the system in Staffordshire was similar to that just mentioned by Mr. Russon in speaking of Worcestershire.

Sir G. JENKINSON, M.P., observed that the result of returns for the districts where the system had been adopted was this—that in 215 cases the report was satisfying and in 107 cases doubtful, and only a very small number were adverse; while all acknowledged the improved condition of the roads.

Mr. READ, M.P., thought the question was whether one surveyor could properly look after 200 miles of road. If the waywardens could do the work of the surveyor the highway district system might answer exceedingly well (cheers).

Lord HAMPTON said that at the Worcester quarter sessions he had always advocated the adoption of the district system, because he believed that the principles of the Act were sound He admitted that in some particulars the Act required amendment, and they now had sufficient local know-

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ledge to assist Parliament in dealing with the question of amendment.

Mr. CORRANCE said the conclusion which he drew from all that he had heard at that meeting was that it was generally considered that they must give up the idea of Government assistance, and form districts so as to impose onerous obligations on the ratepayers.

The CHAIRMAN observed that the number of votes of local Chambers in favour of highway boards being made compulsory was 18 out of 30.

Mr. GARDINER said that in Suffolk and Essex the general opinion was one of great dissatisfaction with the district system, on account of the increased expenditure.

Mr. STORER, M.P., said he believed that highway districts had given general satisfaction, and that where the case was otherwise the cause was the election by the ratepayers of inefficient waywardens or the appointment of an inefficient surveyor.

Mr. WHITAKER-WILSON was contending, in opposition to Lord Hampton, that the district system had not worked well in Worcestershire, when

Mr. CORRANCE moved the adjournment of the debate, and Mr. GARDINER seconded the motion.

Mr. STORER, M.P., remarked with animation that if such tactics were to be carried out, gentlemen who, like himself, had come a distance of two hundred miles to attend that meeting would not be likely to come there again.

The CHAIRMAN said he must remind the meeting that the question had been before the Council for many months, and that as yet it had done nothing. He then put the question that the debate be adjourned, and it was negatived by a large majority. He then put the amendment. Only eleven hands were held up in favour of it, and it was declared to be lost.

Mr. READ, M.P., said he should demand a scrutiny.

Lord HAMPTON said he hoped the question would be settled with perfectly good feeling. The minority should yield to the majority. In no other way could the proceedings of such a body as that be carried on satisfactorily, and he was sure Mr. Read would be the last person to deny that.

Mr. READ then withdrew his demand for a scrutiny.

Sir G. JENKINSON, M.P., moved as an amendment the addition to the resolution of the following words, which conpuiu; as it stood in the Agenda: "And that both classes of roads should be under the management of highway boards."

This amendment having been seconded by Mr. CARPENTER, was submitted to the meeting and negatived, the numbers being 13 for and 14 against it.

The original resolution was afterwards adopted by a large majority—23 to 6; and this being the last resolution relating to highways the subject dropped.

It was then agreed that the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture should form the chief subject of discussion at the December meeting, and that at the February meeting the Council should "consider the reports and summary schedules on agricultural customs presented by the Committee on Unexhausted Improvements, and also proposals of that committee towards legislation."

On the motion of Mr. READ, M.P., it was agreed that the amendments required to be made in the Highway Acts should be discussed at the annual meeting.

The proceedings then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—I have reason to believe that when Lord Hampton expressed surprise at my request that the division upon Compulsory Highway Boards should be tested by a scrutiny, his Lordship was not aware of the power of the District Chambers to record their votes by proxy. If the voting power of the minority had been thus tested, our small band of eleven would have been found to be far more important than it appeared to be. If I mistake not, the delegates from Worcester, Warwick, Stafford, Lincoln, East Suffolk, and Norfolk voted in the minority, and they alone were entitled to thirty-nine votes. This will show that I had good reason for making the request, which—at the late period of a long meeting, and in deference to the request of Lord Hampton—I did not press upon the Chamber.

Yours,

Farmers' Club, Nov. 4. CLARE SEWELL READ.

THE SCOTTISH CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.

At the annual general meeting, held in the Hall of the Chamber, Edinburgh, Mr. A. MACNEEL-CAIRD the retiring president, in the chair, the following counties', reports were given in:

ABERDEENSHIRE.—The meeting of the Aberdeen members was held in the Corn Exchange, Aberdeen, on Friday. Mr. M'Combie presided, and was re-elected chairman and county representative. Mr. Barclay, M.P., Copland; Mill, of Ardlethen; M'Donald factor, Cluny; and Adamson, Balquharn, were appointed the County Committee for next year.

FORFARSHIRE.—A meeting of the members resident in Forfarshire was held in Brechin on Tuesday of last week—Mr. Robert L. Mustard, chairman, presiding. The meeting appointed the following members of the Counties Committee for the ensuing year: Mr. Alexander Anderson, Berryhill; Mr. James Young, Fardhouse; Mr. William Goodlet, Bolshan; Mr. William Smith, West Drums; Mr. J. M. Nicoll, Littleton; Mr. Wm. Arnot, Mains of Glamis; Mr. Wm. Smith being representative member. The meeting were of opinion that the bill introduced by Lord Huntly, so far as contistent with the resolution of the Chamber, be approved of, but inasmuch as it fall short in many essential points, recommend the Chamber to enter into communication with his Lordship on the subject, and remit to a committee for that purpose. The meeting recommend the Chamber to disapprove of the draught bill of Sir Robert Anstruther on hypothec, and petition Parliament in favour of Mr. Vans Agnew's bill for total repeal.

ROXBURGHSHIRE.—This body held a meeting in the committee room of the Corn Exchange, Kelso, on Friday. The members present were—Mr. Clay, Kerchesters; Mr. Ballingall, Clairilaw; Mr. Munro, Fairnington; Mr. Riddell, Hundalee; Mr. Main, Kelso; Mr. Roberton, Ladyrig, &c. Mr. Riddell submitted the following motion: "That the above committee are of opinion that the land-tenancy laws ought to receive the urgent attention of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture, and that the Chamber should endeavour to have these laws altered so as to give complete accuracy to capital invested by tenant-farmers. The committee are also of opinion that success much depends on advocating compensation to the owners of land, whose tenants may have deteriorated their farms, thereby lessening their letting or market value." After a few comments on the resolution, it was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Riddell and Mr. Scott, Spylaw, were deputed to bring this resolution before the counties committee meeting.

AYRSHIRE.—This meeting was held on the 3rd instant at Ayr. Mr. Young, Kilkenzie, presided, and was re-elected representative member. The following resolution was adopted: "As there is a growing dissatisfaction amongst farmers as regards the operation of the land-tenancy laws, more especially to the want of provision being made whereby compensation should be given for all permanent improvements and unexhausted manures, we are of opinion that the Chambers should take whatever steps they consider best to accomplish that object."

KINCARDINESHIRE.—A meeting of the members of the Chamber of Agriculture resident in the county of Kincardine was held on Monday in the Corn Exchange, Laurencekirk—Mr. George Largie, Haulkerton Mains, in the chair. Mr. W. Alexander, Bart., of Haulkerton, was elected representative member; and Messrs. David Mitchell, Burnton; Alex. Taylor, Cushnie; and William Burness, Bedford; members of committee. It was thereafter proposed and unanimously resolved: "That this meeting urge the Chamber (while steadily using all efforts to obtain repeal of the Law of Hypothec, and such modification of the Game-laws as may be attainable) to concentrate its chief efforts upon obtaining from Parliament a measure to legalise Tenant-Right to a similar extent as was granted by a former Government to the tenant-farmers in Ireland".

The Secretary (Mr. Curror) read the Treasurer's statement for last year, which showed that the funds in bank amounted to £521 19s., that the Chamber had property of the value of £139 18s., and that there were £740 of arrears of subscriptions.

On the recommendation of the Counties Committee the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers of the Chamber for the ensuing year: President—Mr. David Cunninghame, Chapelton, Ardrossan. Vice-Presidents — Messrs. Joseph

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Harper, Snowdon, and Riddell, of Hundalee. New Directors—Messrs. A. Macneel-Caird, R. M. Cunningham, Shields, Ayr; Bethune, of Blebo; R. Scot Skirving, Drem; and James Johnstone, Moffatt. Messrs. Henry Adamson, Alford, and John M'Culloch, Glenhead, Stranraer, were elected new members.

Mr. MACNEEL-CAIRD delivered his retiring presidential address. He said: The political events of the past year have prevented any progress being made towards the legislative settlement of agricultural questions. The time at which the new Government came into office is a sufficient excuse for their not having dealt with these questions in the late session of Parliament. But that cause of delay is now at an end. There are men in the Government capable of dealing, and I believe willing to deal, with these questions, in a wise spirit. But it seems to be supposed that they have colleagues pulling the other way. And it may be that we shall thus have the spectacle of a Government paralysed by internal differences on questions of vital importance to the country. But I trust that it will not be so. And it is our part to show that the claims we support are reasonable, in order to strengthen the hands of those who are friendly to a reasonable solution of them. I propose on this occasion to refer specially to a subject which is of interest in England as well as in Scotland. As to compensation for tenants' improvements, the ordinary rules of our law on such subjects are not unfounded in reason. If an artist paints a valuable picture on another man's canvas, the principal subject—the picture—belongs to the artist, but he must pay for the canvas. If a man, in good faith, builds a house on land which turns out not to be his, the house goes to the owner of the principal subject—the land—but as a general rule, he must pay for the benefit he has got by the building. The greatest of Scottish lawyers taught, nearly 200 years ago, that if a man, even in bad faith, built on another's land, the owner was bound to repay him, to the extent to which he took profit by the work. He adopted this dictum of a great Roman jurist, "Natural justice suffereth not that we enrich ourselves with the spoil of others." And although in more modern mtimes a wrongdoer's relief has not been sustained to that extent, the very judges who refused him that relief suggested that even a wrongdoer might have right to remove the buildings. But what we have to complain of is that if the man who builds or executes improvements has the misfortune to be a tenant-farmer, he is made an exception to all these rules. His good faith counts for nothing. The law, as it stands now, gives him no right to compensation. It refuses to him even the right to take away his materials, though it might perhaps give that right, as I have said, to a wrongdoer, whose possession was usurped or unlawful, and would certainly give equitable compensation to any person, not a tenant, who, with good faith, had made the same improvement on another's land. That relief would, of course, be limited to the extent to which the owner profited, the very limit which we propose to attach to a tenant's claim. The improvements created by a tenant's skill, capital, and industry are in substance and in justice, though not in law, the property of the tenant who makes them. No doubt they are attached to or combined (and in the case of drains and manures inextricably combined) with land which belongs to another. But the just solution of that state of things is not that the one right should swallow up the other without compensation, but that the owner of the land who takes such improvements should pay for them, according to the benefit which he appropriates; and that the tenant-farmer should thus cease to be oppressed by an exceptional law. That law robs the tenant of his property when he is evicted without compensation. And this species of injustice is, probably, productive of much greater injury to the community than even a robbery by violence, because it operates on a much wider scale; and by the fear of subjecting tenants' property to confiscation, spreads distrust everywhere, and deters great numbers of tenants from making the expenditure which is necessary for due cultivation and for the unrestricted growth of food. It also warns off much free capital which would naturally seek profitable investment in agriculture, if the law did not make it artificially insecure. Thus the injustice operates with great severity on the occupier, while the loss to the country from restricted production is incalculable. But if, by making the municipal law just, and allowing natural laws to act, capital were made safe to come freely to the enrichment of the soil, and the development of agriculture, a country peopled and wealthy as this is—so many mouths to be supplied, and such abundant means to supply them, if you took away hindrances—this country, I say, would rapidly exhibit such a change, and such an expansion of growth, as is almost inconceivable to those who have not attended to the results which may be attained by the application of capital to land, with freedom and judgment. And who would lose by it? No doubt, under the present system, a landlord may now and then snatch an advantage by unexpectedly appropriating an occupier's improvements without compensating him. But that, though it rankles deep when it occurs, is necessarily exceptional. Most men beware of subjecting themselves to it. Every flagrant instance of it makes them more wary. Still cultivation would be worse, and tenants' improvements more rare than they are, if landowners generally were to use to the full the advantage which the law gives them. The main action of the law is really as a deterrent. Landowners as a body are thus, in truth, great sufferers by this and by every thing that hinders the enrichment of the soil that belongs to them. Their rents are just a share of the profit derived from the land. The greater the production and profits, the greater in the long run will inevitably be the share going to the landlord. None gains more surely than the landowner by the general prosperity of the country. From 1857 to 1870 the land rental of Scotland rose steadily 29 per cent.—£5,932,000 in 1857, £7,194,000 in 1870. If I had the figures down to the present time I feel convinced one-third at least has been added on the average in that short time to the annual rent of land over Scotland as a result of the general prosperity. And what could more increase the prosperity of the country, and by consequence the prosperity of the landowner, than a vast increase to the productiveness of the soil in whose profits he must inevitably share? The more also you take away disadvantages which oppress the occupier, and the more you enable him to profit freely by the use of his means and industry, the more will he find it necessary, and the more will he be willing, to enlarge the landlord's proportion of profit, when, even so enlarged, it leaves a better profit to himself. If I might venture to put into words what I believe to be the prevailing opinion of the best tenant-farmers in Scotland, it is not the rent that troubles them; give them just security, do away with the artificial hindrances which hamper their industry, and I don't think they will quarrel with the rent, or complain that it advances with the progress of emancipated agriculture, and the general prosperity of the country which that progress will promote. But I must deprecate the use in regard to this question of the vague phrase "Tenant-Right." It is a phrase of very uncertain meaning, even in Ireland, where it originated. In Ulster it means a tenant's right by custom to sell the goodwill of his farm though he has no lease; and not only may have made no improvement on the farm, but may have brought it to the most miserable and exhausted condition. I need not say here that that in no degree resembles our present claim. The incautious use of such a loose phrase has occasionally enabled a bold antagonist to escape without much discredit under cover of a general declaration against "Tenant-Right," who might perhaps have been ashamed to avow in plain words, or even to himself, the desire to confiscate the improvements made by his tenants without giving any allowance for them. The complaint is not that another tenant gets the farm over the head of an old tenant, not that the old tenant might not have had it by paying more rent than he chose to give, but that the landlord pockets a rent increased by reason of the old tenant's improvements, and evicts him without giving him a penny for the improvements, even where they cannot be denied. When a controversy of that kind arises, it may be fitly tested by this simple question: Was the evicted tenant fairly paid for his unexhausted improvements, or is the landlord (by availing himself of the unjust state of the law) enjoying a rent enhanced by these improvements, without having paid for them? If you apply that test it will disperse much of the haze which arises in such cases from contradictions and controversy. The claim which this Chamber makes is that the law on this subject should be made consistent with natural equity, so that the tenant shall have right on removal to payment for his improvements and unexhausted manures, ascertained when necessary by qualified valuers or arbitrators. Skilled men of practical experience would examine the evidence of expenditure (as one, but by no means the only check), they would also see the actual condition of the farm, inspect the works, and ascertain their efficiency, their fitness for the

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holding, their actual results and durability, and would be quite able in practice to arrive at just conclusions. And I may say, using a few words on the subject which have already been in circulation among ourselves, that in practice these compensations will in general not be paid by the landlord, but will be ascertained and settled between the outgoing and the incoming tenant. The landlord can always, and will usually, make stipulations to that effect in letting his farm to a new tenant, unless he sees that he can get a better rent by paying the compensation himself. The measure of compensation ought never to exceed the letting value added to the farm by the tenant's improvements as at the date of his removal, taking into account all deteriorations which can be brought against him. The unstinted expenditure in manures, which a just system of compensation will encourage the tenant to make, and to continue till the close of his occupation, will be a new security to the landlord (of which he cannot be deprived) for payment of the rent, and fulfilment of the tenant's obligations. It is of high public policy that a state of the law should be amended, which, by causing insecurity, hinders the full use of capital to increase the productiveness of the soil. To amend that state of the law in a wise spirit, with due consideration of all the interests involved, will result in a vast enlargement of growth, especially of food, and, by consequence, will add immensely to the annual income and wealth of the country, to the fund for the employment of labour, to the prosperity of manufactures and commerce, to the comfort and contentment of the people, and thus to the security of property, and the general welfare of the nation. There is a great work here which has to be done—it may be now, it may be after a time, not a long time. The claims of justice and policy united cannot be disregarded long. But be it soon or be it later, the statesman who having the power shall also have the will and courage to release agriculture from the trammels of unwise laws shall inscribe as their memorial in the hearts and history of the people, that they added to the productive resources of their country, and to the comforts of the people, not merely by millions, certainly by twenties of millions; and if they leave no flaw in the security thus given to the cultivator, it may be eventually by hundreds of millions a-year. They can now in a time of calm trim the vessel with deliberation and safety. Who so rash as counsel that they should wait for the hurricane, at the risk of bringing the overstrained masts by the board, when they loose command of the ship? As to the law of arbitration, this chamber having recorded its opinion that when the parties cannot agree arbitration is the fittest mode of settling the just amount of compensation, this leads me to say a few words on an allied subject which, so far as I am aware, has not yet been publicly discussed. The law of arbitration in Scotland is in some respects in a most unsatisfactory state. One point I may illustrate by a case which arises almost every day. A landlord and tenant entering into a lease, say for nineteen years, agree in the lease that all differences which may arise between them shall be settled by arbitration, but that agreement is of no legal effect unless they have actually *named* the arbitrator. And in a contract of such endurance, how can they beforehand name an arbitrator with any confidence that when his services are required he shall be alive, or within reach, or qualified; or willing to act? This rule is, moreover, so absolute that even if the parties, to escape from the difficulty, agree in designating an arbitrator as the holder for the time of a public office, such as the Sheriff of the county, the Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, or the Lord Advocate, the law will set the arbitration aside. Nay, though the parties have effectually named their man, so as to create a binding and perfect arbitration, if he should die, or permanently leave the country, or become disqualified, or decline to accept, the law will do nothing in furtherance of their agreement to arbitrate. In the face of that agreement either can drag the other into Court, and insist on having their differences settled by litigation. Well, but let us suppose the parties have got a step further—they have not only agreed to settle their differences by arbitration, and effectually named their men—two men mutually chosen, with power to choose an umpire or oversman, and these men have accepted and entered on their duties, but have unfortunately disagreed on the questions in dispute, and can't agree on an umpire (a very common case), the whole thing tumbles down like a castle of cards, and once more the parties must fight out their disputes in the Courts of Law. In short, there are as many pitfalls in the Scottish Law of Arbitration as if they had been contrived to create work for courts and lawyers. And these pitfalls stand in the way not only of landlords and tenants, but of every person in Scotland who seeks to avoid litigation by leaving differences to the decision of neutral men. One remedy is not far to seek. Where parties have agreed to have questions settled by arbitration, that agreement should be enforceable, and the Courts should be empowered to name the arbitrators or umpire where the parties fail to do so. That remedy already exists in England. There are also great facilities given by special statutes for settling railway compensations and similar claims by a simple method of arbitration; and these, with some revisal, might advantageously be made of more general application. I have thought it right to refer to this subject in connection with the leading object of this address, because it is obvious that no system of agricultural compensation could be satisfactorily worked without a simpler and better system of arbitration than we at present possess in Scotland. This is far from being a farmers' question alone. Mercantile men, and indeed all classes of the community, are affected by it, and I cannot doubt that if you see fit to take any steps for the amendment of that Law of Arbitration you will find very general support in it.

Mr. D. Cunninghame (Chapelton), the new president, then took the chair, and intimated that the first subject fixed for discussion was the land tenancy laws in relation to the question of compensation for unexhausted manures and permanent improvements.

Mr. George Hope (Bordlands) said it was many years since he came to the conclusion that compensation to tenants for unexhausted manures was only a matter of simple justice when they were compelled to leave their holdings. He had no doubt that land might acquire increased value without tenants having done much for them from the making of roads, &c. But that was not what was referred to by tenants. It was when tenants limed their land, and filled it full of manures, the effects of which remained in the ground, that they should receive compensation. This was a thing in which not only farmers, but the whole country were interested. If they held their hand in applying manures to the land for three or four years, it would take double that time before they could get the farm into the full cropping state again. They would get neither the same quantity nor quality of grain for several years to come. They had got a custom in Lincolnshire which he would like to see made legal all over the country—the payment for unexhausted artificial manures, manures from extraneous feeding stuffs, and permanent improvements, such as drains. Some ten or fifteen years ago he had the pleasure of driving with the Hon. Nisbet Hamilton for a very long distance through the county of Lincolnshire, and he did not think that in from fifteen to twenty miles he saw a single acre under the average. All the land was in really good cultivation, and there was not a single farm indicating that the lease was coming to a close, as was not unfrequently, and perhaps not unjustly, seen in this country. He had held these opinions for many years; he had arrived at them when he was a tenant-farmer, and now that he was a landlord, he must say that it was of the greatest importance that the law should be changed.

Mr. Riddell (Hundalee, Jedburgh) said that the land tenancy laws should be considered as at least affecting the interests of two parties—viz., the owners and the occupiers of land, and any change contemplated ought to be with a view of benefiting the parties referred to, and through them conferring a boon on the nation at large. Although many landed proprietors reaped great advantage from the money invested by their tenants' skill, industry, and general good management, yet, on the other hand, it could not be denied that proprietors were often unfortunate in making choice of tenants, men who allowed houses, fences, roads, drains, and the land itself to fall into decay, vastly diminishing its letting value. He did not hesitate to say that any change they might contemplate in the land tenancy laws ought to provide by law for compensation to proprietors whose land might be deteriorated in consequence of bad management during a tenant's occupancy. Then, and not till then, could they as tenant-farmers with consistency go in for compensation for unexhausted improvements, permanent or otherwise. As the law stood at present, there was little inducement to farm well, as it was only those farms that were highly cultivated which induced and warranted a rise of rent, indeed, some of our largest and money-making farmers allowed their farms to run out several years before the expiry of the lease, and then went to the factor or landlord, telling him the farm won't grow certain descriptions of crops without

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time, and unless they got a renewal of the lease the loss must be considerable. Compensation at the end of a lease for all unexhausted manures, &c., would go far to prevent all this; and if compensation were given to the proprietors from tenants who had deteriorated the land during the currency of their leases, it would render it unnecessary for proprietors to trade on the enterprise, skill, industry, and capital of those farmers who had increased the letting or market value of their farms—a practice prevailing to a considerable extent at the present time. Indeed, such alteration of the land laws as referred to would naturally lead to a better understanding between landlord and tenant, and also to identity of interest, a want of which in too many cases was much to be deplored.

Mr. JOHN M'CULLOCH (Glenhead, Stranraer) said that the great difficulty in securing reform of the present law with regard to unexhausted improvements was the outcry that the landlords would suffer. He thought it could easily be made plain that the landlords would benefit more than anybody else, the community next, and the tenant-farmers least of all, for even at the furthest they only wished a part of the money back which they had laid out. It had been said that there would be difficulty in carrying out any system of compensation, but he maintained that a schedule attached to the lease might meet the case, and if not, then legislation would become necessary. They should also approach the subject in a temperate spirit, and give compensation to landlords for deterioration, while they in turn gave compensation for unexhausted manures and improvements.

Mr. WM. SMITH (West Drums, Brechin) said that this question belonged to a group which had been so thoroughly ventilated, not only in the Chamber, but throughout the country, that not much new light could be thrown upon it. They were, however, indebted to their late president for much information and aid in the explication of the subject. All they asked was that farmers should be able to reap the unexhausted product of their own capital and industry if they were required to leave their farms. Lord Huntly and other noblemen and gentlemen, who were willing to aid them in this movement, deserved every support and encouragement from them.

Mr. GEORGE HOPE said he was perfectly satisfied that Mr. Macneel-Caird had not overstated the immense increase of land produce which would result from the granting of compensation to tenants for unexhausted manures and improvements.

On the motion of Mr. HOPE, the following resolution was adopted: "That this meeting cordially approves of the broad general principles expressed in Mr. Macneel-Caird's address in relation to compensation for unexhausted improvements by tenants on leaving their occupations, and its belief in the general benefit which would arise therefrom, as already expressed in previous resolutions of this Chamber."

The next subject for discussion was a remit from the Perth meeting as to the Marquis of Huntly's Land Tenancy Bill.

Mr. T. M. NICOLL (Littleton, Kirriemuir) said it was within the knowledge of many of the members of the Chamber that Lord Huntly was at present engaged in recasting his bill, and he thought the discussion should be postponed till the meeting of the Chamber in April, when the complete bill would be before them.

The discussion was accordingly adjourned till April.

Mr. MACNEEL-CAIRD proposed that the Chamber should record its thanks to Mr. Vans Agnew, M.P., for his action in introducing his Hypothec Abolition Bill. There was a proviso in that bill which he (Mr. Macneel-Caird) thought, however, disfigured it, viz., the clause which provided that its operation should apply only to new contracts. If the bill were passed in that shape there would still remain the slur upon the credit of farmers under existing leases which arose from the present law, and, unfortunately, the evil would not be confined to them, because manure merchants and mercantile men generally could not be expected to find out whether leases were current at the time of the passing of the Act, and there would be in their minds a lurking possibility of the Law of Hypothec taking effect on all farmers for 19 years to come. There was not the least necessity for the clause, and he therefore thought that the Chamber should direct Mr. Vans Agnew's particular attention to that clause, and ask his reconsideration of it.

Captain BETHUNE (Blebo) thought it would endanger the success of the measure if the Chamber insisted on regard not being had to existing leases. This clause had always been embraced in Mr. Carnegie's bill.

Mr. M'CULLOCH thought success would be unworthy of the name if the bill was passed in its present form. He seconded Mr. Macneel-Caird's motion.

Mr. SMITH (West Drums) said that the bill would have enough to do to pass in its present form, and they should do nothing which was likely to lead to its being thrown out, as he imagined Mr. Caird's proposal would do.

It was agreed to divide Mr. Macneel-Caird's proposal into two separate motions—1. That the Chamber thank Mr. Vans Agnew for the efforts he had made to secure the abolition of the Law of Hypothec, and express the hope that he would continue them in the next session of Parliament. 2. That there are objections in principle to the proviso limiting the action of the bill to new contracts, and the Chamber request Mr. Vans Agnew to reconsider it. The first was carried *nem. con.*, and on a division as between the second and an amendment by Captain Bethune that the recommendation was uncalled for, the motion was carried by a majority of 22 to 8.

The annual dinner of the members of the Chamber took place in the Royal British Hotel, Mr. Cunningham (Chapelton, Ardrossan) in the chair; and Mr. Shepherd (Gleghornie) acted as croupier. Mr. Hope, of Bordlands, gave "The Houses of Parliament." In the House of Commons the agriculturists only required to press those important questions which had in the earlier part of the day engaged their attention upon the House in order to secure their being successfully dealt with.

Mr. RIDDELL (Hundalee) proposed the "Scottish Chamber of Agriculture." He adverted briefly to the good results which were likely to follow from the discussions that took place among members of the Chamber, and showed how these were calculated to bring about the elucidation of the truth.

The CROUPIER gave "The Highland Society." It was because discussions such as those which occurred in the Chamber were without the pale of the Highland Society, that the Chamber had been first instituted.

A "ROYAL" REPORT.—The Bedford meeting is fully described in reports on the live-stock (very poor, as they generally are), and on the implements and implement trials (excellent as they invariably are). The reports of the live-stock class at our annual shows are very rarely well done. There are not many writers capable of describing cattle, or of criticising or commending in a discriminating way the awards of judges. And the editor of the *Journal* has not got hold apparently, this year at any rate, of the proper deputy. There certainly are writers who have this power, and our weekly agricultural papers, who secure their services, are better worth reading on this subject, in the very week of the show, than is the *Journal* of the Society, issued months after its occurrence.—*The Agricultural Gazette.*——The Bedford meeting is reported on at length. Mr. G. P. Smith occupies over one hundred pages with the implements, and appears to have acquitted himself most creditably. It is to be regretted that no one equally qualified has been employed to report upon the live-stock department. The excellent article, a year or two since, by Mr. Henry Corbet, might, we think with advantage, have been followed up, so that the leading features of each gathering might be placed on record. As it is, the reports of the different juries afford very meagre information.—*The Field.* [It should be added, in justice to the Editor of an otherwise so good number of the Society's *Journal*, that he must not be held answerable for this stock report, which was taken out of his hands.]

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. DENT DENT.—Soon after the defeat of Mr. Dent for Scarborough a subscription list was opened and a sum of money raised, which it was agreed should be embodied in a massive silver candelabrum. It was also resolved to present Mr. Dent with an address acknowledging his services, and expressive of the regret of the electors that his connection with the borough had been severed. A meeting of the subscribers was held in Scarborough, when the candelabrum was exhibited, and the address laid upon the table to receive the signatures of the subscribers.

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TENANTS' IMPROVEMENTS.

At the meeting of the Inverness Farmers' Society, held in Inverness, Mr. Matthew Elliot in the chair, the following subject was discussed: What are tenants' improvements? and how can such improvements, as well as unexhausted manures, be estimated, so as to form a reasonable claim by a tenant at the termination of his lease?

Mr. MOLLISON, factor (Dochfour), said the subject, no doubt, was important; and he was sorry that he was only prepared to make a few remarks upon it. He had not written a paper, and indeed had hardly time to think over it with a view to the present discussion. It was a question surrounded with difficulty and complexity; but that was one reason for discussing it in a society of this kind. None but practical men were capable of discussing it properly. A good deal had been spoken and written about it during the last year or two, but chiefly by those who knew nothing at all on the subject; while those who did know, and might have thrown considerable light upon it, and assisted to clear away difficulties, had not opened their mouths. He was not aware of a single sentence having been spoken, in a sensible, practical way, for the exposition and settlement of this question. They knew, however, that the difficulty was not a myth. There were such things as tenants' improvements and unexhausted manures. Compare the country to-day with what it was fifty or twenty-five years ago. The change was very marked. They had finer fields and more of them, finer crops and more of them, finer stock, finer implements, better fences, better buildings; and undoubtedly the bulk of the improvements had been effected by the tenant-farmers of this country. The weight of part of it, perhaps, fell upon the proprietors—of erecting the buildings, for instance; but he was convinced that three-fourths, or at any rate one-half, had fallen upon the farmer. No wonder, then, the question had arisen, Are farmers not to be paid for this? The farmers thought they ought to be paid for it; mercantile men, who had generally a keen appreciation of value for value, agreed that they ought to be paid for it; and he thought even proprietors were bound to admit that, where a tenant had executed a solid, permanent improvement upon the subject he occupied, he ought to be paid for it. He did not believe any proprietor would dare to hold up his face and say otherwise. But then the difficulty arose, How were they to be paid? How were they to estimate a reasonable claim at the end of a lease? It was easy to arrive at this point but not so easy to proceed further. The best way, he thought, of treating the subject would be to suppose a good broad general case, such as might occur on any farm; and in the next place, to look at a similar case as it would appear under the legislation suggested for the farmer's protection. First, then, suppose that a good fair subject was let, but in bad order—the land wet, and fences and buildings insufficient. The landlord would make no improvements, but told the tenant to take it and make the most of it. The rent say was £150. The tenant, being a good, industrious, practical man, sets to fencing and draining the land; then the stock increases, and he requires better houses; and at the termination of his lease he finds that he has improved the place very much. He goes for a renewal of the lease to the proprietor, who says he likes him very well, and asks what rise of rent he will give? The tenant, who knows the subject very well, and does not want to quit the farm, but at the same time wishes to make a living out of it, offers. The offer is not accepted, and the farm is advertised. The new tenant gives £250 for it—an advance of 75 per cent.; and the old tenant says to the proprietor, "Surely you are not going to pocket all this handsome profit! Are you not going to pay me for the improvements? You know I was not bound to improve; and are you going to turn me off without making any allowance?" The proprietor agrees; and they propose to submit the thing to arbitration. But the lease is put in, as a matter of fairness, to allow the arbiters to understand the whole case. He observed Mr. Mundell listening very carefully. Would Mr. Mundell act as arbiter for the tenant?

Mr. MUNDELL: Either for proprietor or tenant, so far as you have gone.

Mr. MOLLISON: Well, he would put the case of the proprietor meantime. Leave unexhausted manures for the present out of the question. The arbiter for the proprietor says—"Look at the lease just as showing the position of affairs. You get the farm at a fair rent, value for what it was at the time, and no word of improvement. You made these improvements, and no doubt they must have paid you. The very fact of the farm letting at a rise of 75 per cent. is strong presumptive evidence that you were paid for them;" and the proprietor may say—"If I had known that you were going to make me pay, I would have expected a bigger rent." Of course, it was quite within the power of both parties to have arranged that the tenant was to make improvements, and to be paid for what was exhausted of them at the end of the lease. In the supposed case no such arrangement had been made; and now he should like to wait and hear what Mr. Mundell would have to urge on behalf of the tenant?

Mr. MUNDELL said Mr. Mollison had made a really able and practical speech so far as it went, and he had little or nothing to say in reply to it. It was an important question to ask How have the tenant farmers of Scotland come to farm their lands as they have done? These men had made all the arable land in the country what it was. For himself, he had improved a place on the west coast, and even put up stone dykes, for which he did not receive a penny of compensation. He admitted the improvements paid him, or he would not have made them: at the same time he had improved other people's property, and got nothing for it. If factors could manage to put a tenant in a place that needed improvement they could do it, but it was unfair that the tenant should have no recompense. Mr. Mollison had explained his own view of the case justly.

Mr. ROSS (Brecknish) thought Mr. Mollison's supposed case shirked the real difficulties of the question. He had selected a case which was, of all others, admitted the fairest for the tenant as the law at present stood. Where a lease of nineteen years had been allowed to reach its natural termination, the tenant certainly could not make out a very strong claim for compensation, as he would, if an ordinarily prudent man, have taken pretty good care to execute improvements which would repay him before the end of the lease. So far they could agree with Mr. Mollison, except in the case of buildings which the tenant might have found it necessary to erect shortly before the expiry of his lease, and these he should either be paid for or allowed to remove. But all tenants did not enjoy the protection of leases, nor did all leases come to their natural end. Suppose the lease was broken from ill-health, death, or bankruptcy, or that the tenant had sunk so much of his capital in improvements that he had not sufficient left to carry on with. Was it not a hardship, indeed really unjust, that the law should allow the landlord to step in and reap the benefit of those improvements, to the exclusion of the tenant or his representatives? It was for such cases, and for the vastly more important case of England, where few leases exist, that a change in the law was so urgently called for. Mr. Mollison had also avoided touching on what most people regarded as the greatest weakness of our lease system—namely, the practice of exhausting the land towards the end of the lease. So generally is this the case, that the supporters of these compensation measures say, a Scottish farm during a nineteen years lease is in good productive condition for only about half that time—the first five years being spent in raising its fertility, the next nine or ten in keeping it in that state and the remaining years in impoverishing it. Perhaps by employing artificial manures, an outgoing tenant need not leave very much capital in the shape of unexhausted manures, but surely this was a very serious loss to the nation at large. At the same time, he must confess that, looking at the great differences of opinion existing both among scientific and practical men as to the permanent qualities of manures, he was not very hopeful of a satisfactory settlement of the question being arrived at for many years to come.

Mr. ANDERSON (Lochdhu) said that in his day he had been as great an improver of land as any tenant in the North of Scotland. He had improved upwards of 300 acres in a few years. He was not bound to take in all that land, but he drained and trenced it at his own expense, and he was quite well aware that the proprietor on the other hand was not bound to recompense him for his outlay. If he had made a bargain

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would have been paid for the improvements. It just came, this, that they must abide by their bargains. Of course, if tenant required to erect buildings, he should either be paid r them, or allowed to take them away. But if a man en-red on improvements, he did so for his own benefit, and he quired to keep his farm in good order the last year, otherwise e would not be paid such a price for his crop, &c. Let them o into their leases in a proper and right way, and let there be o row at the end of a lease between proprietor and tenant. Ir. Mollison had spoken about a reference to arbitration. hat was a most difficult matter. A tenant must have seen ith his own eyes that the land would pay him, otherwise he ould not undertake improvements. In his case the farm was dvertised over his head, and now another tenant occupied the nd he reclaimed.

Mr. HENDRIE (Castleheather) thought that they should onsider their leases well before they signed them. He had een as foolish as others—very glad to get hold of a farm in ny way. And if any one came to ask him about this farm or hat, he just said—"Don't be so blind as I was; consider ell before you put your name to the lease." He had done a reat deal to improve his farm, but he was thankful to say hat he had a good landlord and factor, who encouraged him n it.

Mr. SCOTT (Parks of Inches) thought that tenants' improve-nents were easily described. Draining, fencing, building, in hort, whatever added to the value of the soil, formed an im-rovement, and he thought it was simple enough for two ractical men, near neighbours, to estimate the value of such mprovements, as of everything else.

Bailie SIMPSON thought that at least a tenant who added to he farm buildings should get something for it at the close of he lease.

Mr. JAMES ARNOTT (Ness Bank) thought the only prac-ical cure was a reduction of rents, as it is well known that, s a general rule, they were at present too high. Farmers ould then afford to make improvements, and run the risk of etting compensation at the end of the lease. They could also ford to sell their stock on more reasonable terms.

Mr. MACKINTOSH (Seatraig) described the improvements e was himself carrying on, and observed that a man should ive no more for his farm than he could see his way to clear-ng out of it. Offer for the farm either with a view to im-rovements or without such a view. Tenants, he observed, ometimes added to the buildings, but sometimes also allowed hem to fall out of repair.

Mr. FRASER (Balloch) thought that a tenant, in taking a arm, was bound to consider whether any improvements he roposed to erect would pay him. As a rule, tenants in this art of the country had considered the subject, and had ex-cuted the improvements very much to their profit. His ex-erience was, that it was not in the old-made farms tenants ived comfortably, but on farms where there was land to im-rove. In the memorable instance of the Fentonbarns, he as told that Mr. Hope not only improved the land, but ctually covered acres and acres of it with new soil; and there as a man who made a fortune on farming. Again, it was he greatest mistake in the world to say that a man profited imself by exhausting the land at the end of his lease; it was a the closing years of his lease that he got paid for the work f all the previous years. But no doubt the practice of the ountry was to farm so as to exhaust the land towards the end f the lease, and this might tend to injure the produce of the ountry. There was no such difficulty as was alleged in es-mating unexhausted manures. A certain quantity, say of armyard manure or bonemeal, was put into the soil. It was ite well known that one crop did not exhaust them, and ely the amount still remaining could, for the following ops, be estimated by respectable neighbours.

Mr. MOLLISON shortly replied. He thought more might ve been said on the tenants' view of the question, and he reed that no farmer could farm well without leaving un-hausted manures in the soil. But, on the other hand, the nant under his lease was bound to consume straw, and chaff, d turnips, and to return these to the land. Then the pro-etor might ask why, in common sense and fairness, the nant should ask to be repaid for them? Bones or bone-al the tenant would apply in the early part or middle of lease; but they were all chemists enough to know that y would not get the full return from these by applying m at the close of the lease. The tenant could apply manures for the last two or three years that would leave precious little in the soil. As regards farmyard manure, his mouth was shut.

Mr. FRASER (Balloch): Is there not a difference between straw used with artificial food and straw used without artificial food?

Mr. MOLLISON thought artificial feeding made the manure more active, and the return was quicker. Turning to the question of proposed legislation, Mr. Mollison argued that many of the proposals would do more harm than good. One tenant might be for box-feeding, another for stall-feeding, another for irrigation; and if the proprietor was bound to pay for their "unexhausted improvements," the fear of losing money would not operate to the same extent as a check upon the tenant. He quoted a paragraph from a speech by Mr. Arkwright, M.P. for Derbyshire, who was in favour of giving compensation for unexhausted improvements, but "these improvements should be made with the consent of the landlord." What was this but throwing dust in people's eyes? Plainly the matter must come to be one of contract after all, the landlord saying, "I will not do the improvements myself, but I will pay you for doing them." This was the practical course and he held that tenants could execute improvements at one-third of what the proprietor could do.

The CHAIRMAN said that the majority of the speakers had been in favour of bargains with regard to improvements, and this was also his own view. The passing of a measure to make compensation for unexhausted improvements compulsory would give endless work to the law courts.

IRISH TENANT-RIGHT.

A Tenant-Right demonstration has been held in the Town Hall, Ballymoney, which was crowded to excess with tenant-farmers, Mr. Thomas M'Elderry in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN having referred to the importance of the land question and the gallant fight which the tenant-farmers made at the last election to return Mr. Wilson, who was certain to be returned at the next election, called upon Mr. S. C. M'Elroy to read an address to that gentleman.

Mr. M'Elroy having read the address, and Mr. WILSON having suitably acknowledged the compliment paid him,

Professor SMYTH, M P. (county Londonderry), moved the first resolution, as follows:

That, four years' experience of the Land Act having proved its inadequacy in some respects, and especially for the revival and preservation of the Ulster custom, it is, where it has been impaired, desirable that an amendment bill be introduced, which shall not only legalise the custom, as granting to the tenant by prescriptive right and public equity a secure tenure and freedom of conduct in selling his interest, but provide facilities for amicable adjustment of rent at intervals in conformity with the principals and unrestricted operation of the custom.

Mr. JOHN MEGAN seconded the resolution, which was unanimously passed.

The following resolutions were subsequently adopted;

Second—That it is the duty of the Conservative Government, as the avowed protector of the rights of property, to introduce a bill calculated to preserve to the tenant-farmers of Ulster their just inheritance, and thus establish on a durable basis those social and agricultural relations, the existence of which is invariably conductive to civil peace and material prosperity.

Third—That, as the progress of the Tenant-Right cause depends on the farmers themselves, they should persevere with all zeal in their efforts to obtain a satisfactory settlement, and when opportunity arises to elect representatives pledged to advocate and support their interests in Parliament.

Fourth—That the thanks of this meeting are hereby given to the landlords who, before and after the passing of the Land Act, have upheld the Tenant-Right custom upon their estates, and to such landlords in Antrim we express our special obligations.

Fifth—That the 3rd, 4th, and 7th sections of the Land Act having granted to the tenantry of the south and west of Ireland two important elements of the Ulster custom, it appears to this meeting that the right of voluntary sale of the property granted by those sections should be conceded by the Legislature, and such provisions made as would give them full security against capricious eviction and rack-renting, thus extending to them the benefit of the Ulster custom in its essence and practice.

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"MR. THOMPSON, OF KIRBY HALL."

The journals and records of the Royal Agricultural Society of England would indeed be incomplete without some sufficient memoir of the late Sir Harry Stephen Meysey Thompson, better known to the agricultural world as Mr. Thompson, of Kirby Hall, in Yorkshire.

A certain coldness of manner and seeming chill reserve appeared to dull the warmth of a tender heart and a disposition not disinclined to a sense of genial humour. Nay, even some, who little knew the man, misconstrued unobtrusive modesty, and fancied that they detected a savour of haughtiness. There must have been rare qualities of mind to enable him, notwithstanding marked drawbacks of manner, to achieve, as a practical man of business, a singular success. Of the two great English Agricultural Societies he was a ruling spirit. Under his guidance the North-Eastern Railway Company became one of the greatest and most successful of commercial undertakings; and, moreover, he founded and guided the ever-extending United Companies Railway Association. Mr. Thompson's is a fine example of an honourable and unselfish ambition, by unsparing energy overcoming such drawbacks as natural shyness and reserve, and, perhaps, an invincible tendency towards exceeding minuteness. With tact to guide, with gentle wisdom to draw, and with sufficient power of expression to give effect to both, he was a patient man, of clear perception that went straight to his point; passionately fond of work—overwork—he delighted in setting wrong to rights, and establishing order where he found utter confusion. Always ready to help others to bear their burdens, he kept many irons in the fire, and yet allowed none to cool. A careful gleaner of opinion, consequently a good listener, he was never in a fuss or hurry, nor irritable nor boastful. The key to the knowledge of others was in his hands, for in early life he knew himself and recognised the essentially practical bent of his own talent. And "passing show," which he detested, he had above all things an ever-abiding sense of over-ruling Providence. Let Mr. Thompson's exact position be understood at the outset. He gained honours at college, but was never a literary man. He made a dive into the ocean of science, and brought up one scientific pearl of great price, of which more hereafter, but he was never a man of science. Science and literature he regarded but only as they conduced to his practical objects. In agriculture his position was between the professor of science and the man of practice—he stood midway—a beneficent interpreter. "The first attempts of the farmer and philosopher to run in couples were not encouraging" (these are Mr. Thompson's own words); "they conversed in unknown tongues." Heir to a fine estate, Harry Stephen Thompson was born at Newby Park, in Yorkshire, on the 11th of August, 1809. A clever, shy child, apt for work, he could read and sum at three, and knew something of Latin grammar at five. Being a delicate boy, his father sensibly thought that the absorption of knowledge was better than the now fashionable cram, so on his pony the boy trotted down every day to the parsonage, his pockets as well as his memory bulging with the familiar Virgil and Horace—never forgetting, however, to visit by the way to and fro a certain stock-yard, where he kept rat-traps constantly going; and a neighbouring barn-wall told of his characteristic energy, for it did many a tale unfold. As a boy, and through life, he was a fine shot and fond of shooting. When eighteen he was sent to a private tutor near London, to prepare for the university; and during two years he made so much progress that, in regard to an academical career, great expectations were raised. He entered at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1829, at the age of twenty, and found time for entomological study under Darwin; but the allurements of society and the attractions of the tennis-court were, as concerned studies, sad disturbing influences. He graduated, nevertheless, in honours in 1832—senior optime in the mathemathical tripos.

Before settling down at Kirby, and, according to his father's wishes, entering upon the rural life of an English country gentleman, the young Thompson travelled on the Continent and in Scotland, and spent a summer in the South of France to perfect himself in French. In his foreign correspondence we pass over much *naive* description, and not a little sunny humour. He says we can live in Holland for £10 a month, and buy there a good-looking riding-horse for £9 or £12. He swam across the Rhine where it was a quarter of a mile broad, the current carrying him down three-quarters of a mile; the time fifteen minutes. At Rome he had fever, and, with his horse, a bad fall. From Toulouse, in 1834, he writes that there is much agreeable society; as it is one of the retreats of the *ancienne noblesse*. He is working hard at French: all sorts of game abound, and he asks for his English gun. He was introduced to a great French agriculturist, Baron Malaret—a practical man. The shrewd old fellow keeps exact accounts; credits his working bullocks with their hours of work, and charges them for their food. The Baron is an example of what improved agriculture may do in France: chiefly by introducing the English system, he has tripled the value of the family estate. But Mr. Thompson says, "there is no fear of my becoming restless and unable to settle down to my duties as a future English country gentleman; the more I know of foreign manners and institutions, the more I appreciate home: there is no place like home."

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society—the legitimate offspring of the Society of Scotch Improvers, 1723, and of the Highland and Agricultural Society—was born in 1837, the first year of the happy reign of the Queen. The circumstances attending the birth of the Society are thus recorded by one who was then present. A country house party assembled at Kilnwick-Percy, at that time the home of the late Mr. Denison; after dinner, Mr. Thompson remarked in reference to the subject of conversation—some local cattle shows, "Don't you think we could form a Yorkshire Agricultural Society movable from place to place throughout the county?" The next morning a small meeting was held at Pocklington—Thompson rapidly and clearly sketched a scheme—he obtained the aid of Lord Spencer and of others; the thing was done. Curiously it was at first contended that tenant farmers and farming landlords could never compete on equal terms. Thompson vigorously opposed this narrow view, and there was no restriction. The leadership of this important and most flourishing Society was virtually in Mr. Thompson's hands, until the year 1870, when the pressure of other work, and perhaps failing health, to the regret of all, led to his virtual retirement. We should here refer to that which all his friends will recognise as very characteristic. Mr. Thompson had an agreeable theory that "all truly British Institutions commence with a dinner," which sociable theory he made delighted to extend and to carry into practice both at Kirby and at his town house in Mansfield-street. His hospitalities—and he was truly hospitable—he liked to make conductive to his practical views.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England was founded

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in 1838. Two eminent men, now no more, have in a remarkable degree influenced the fortunes of this national society—Mr. Pusy and Mr. Thompson. The agricultural life of both these distinguished men may find a fitting monument in its journals. Mr. Pusey edited the Journal from the first, and until his lamented and premature decease in 1855, when its conduct was confided to Mr. Thompson, who more or less is responsible for its management for a like period of seventeen busy years. A man of high character and sober judgment, Mr. Pusey was at once a philosopher and a man of business; a man in advance of his age. Practice with science, the motto of the Society, his characteristic and oft-repeated words, even he thought more desirable than probable. If to the unreflecting these two pregnant words appear trite, the pondering student sees in them the key to the agriculture of all future time. It is fit, it is essential to draw some parallel, to suggest some contrast between men so united in kindred labours in the same cause, so distinguished in the same agricultural field of action. Indeed, in 1864, Mr. Thompson in his "Essay on 'Progress," virtually invites some such comparison. Mr. Pusey and Mr. Thompson were in no sense rivals: they were altogether complementary the one to the other. When the dying man relinquished the lamp of agricultural progress to the hands of another, it was with the full assurance that it would be safely and rapidly carried forward on the path that he himself had indicated from the first and carefully mapped. Pusy was a natural leader of men, endowed by nature with that indescribable essence called genius. Thompson, on the other hand, was a man of highly cultivated talent. What the one grasped by flash of instinct, the other followed patiently and laboriously with true British pluck and painstaking. Pusey boldly led the way by the force of dominating character; irresistibly Thompson pushed men on by the gentle and modest suggestion of superior knowledge of every subject and question in issue. Mr. Thompson was essentially a practical man. The good seed practically sown by those good husbandmen, Sir John Sinclair, Arthur Young, and others, bore good fruit in the shape of practical agricultural tours undertaken by Mr. Thompson, accompanied by Denison, afterwards Speaker, and subsequently Lord Ossington, Mr. Lawes, and others. Most of the farms worth seeing in Great Britain were visited, and much valuable information gained. At this time also, the writings of Baron Liebig directed attention to the practical application of chemical science; Mr. Thompson's thoughts turned towards the chemistry of agriculture.

In an ancient corner of the ancient city of York, where old beetle-browed houses with quaint carved beams overhang the narrow foot-pavement, there lived, in the summer of 1845, a chemist and druggist of capacity, a shy and retiring, but able and exact member of the Society of Friends—his seal a pestle and mortar, underneath the letters J. S.—Joseph Spence. He was also managing partner in the York glass-works. The Thompsons of Kirby were old customers. Spence knew nothing of agriculture but what young Thompson told him; and often he came to and fro. An agricultural laboratory was fitted up-stairs. Thompson suggested, amongst others, an experiment—the power of the soil to absorb and assimilate ammonia. A glass tube to be afterwards filled was made at the glass-works: it represented down to the drain a four-foot section of earth. Spence, much interested, worked early and late: he ground down turf to fill the tube. The result of the percolation of a solution of ammonia fairly startled them all: it was not filtration, but a new chemical action. Spence threw up his hands in astonishment, and called up Holden his assistant to see the unexpected result. Friend Spence! did it at that moment occur to thy practical mind that mere money might be made of this discovery? No, not in the coin of this work-a-day world, but it is most negotiable in the universe of science. The eleventh volume of the *Journal* contains Mr. Thompson's modest account of his discovery: the paper is a model of lucid exposition. The guiding idea flashed upon him when observing the escape from manure heaps of quantities of ammonia. In the words, specially addressed to us, of a great living authority, "It is remarkable that this slight experiment contains the germ of what I should consider to be one of the most important, if not the most important of all the scientific investigations connected with the practice of agriculture." Mr. Pusey, President for the second time, was prevented from taking his place at Lincoln. The sixteenth volume of the *Journal* for the year 1855 contains the record of his early and lamented death at the age of fifty-four years; and so ends what we may venture to call the Pusey period of the Royal Agricultural Society. The *Journal* of the Society was now conducted by Mr. Thompson. The new editor added half-yearly valuable statistical tables. The Report to the Council contains the suggestive phrase, "international agriculture." In the next year, 1857, there is a curious reference to American public judging in the ring, to "prevent favouritism." There appeared in 1864 Mr. Thompson's exhaustive paper on the "Progress of the Royal Agricultural Society." If reprinted, this might well be entitled an Agricultural Handy-book. As president of the Society, the presidential address delivered by Mr. Thompson at the end of year 1866 comes as a fine close to the history of his long literary career in connection with the agriculture of England, as represented by the Royal Agricultural Society. He taught the lesson of his life—Press on!

As with agriculture, so with railways: in the one case there were old prejudices to be fought, old customs to be uprooted; so in the other there was culpable mismanagement, if not fraud; there was wrong to be righted, there was confusion to be reduced to order, and therefore, with characteristic energy and moral courage, Mr. Thompson, being a practical man, advanced to a practical attack. It is always the case, the cruel demon of greedy speculation was devouring indiscriminately the substance of the innocent and of the guilty—unworldly clergymen, widows and orphans, were sufferers as well as the mixed mob of gamblers—the dirty, the fashionable, and the vulgar. He moved the resolution which removed the late Mr. Hudson from office; the immediate object being to rescue the property of the shareholders by introducing sound and honest management, and by restoring to rival companies the blessings of peace. This labour at first was well described to us as "night and day work!" Mr. Thompson was not actuated by any motives of self-interest. Owing to his mistrust and by his instigation the greater part of the family interest had been removed from the suspected undertakings. As chairman of the North Eastern Railway Company, Mr. Thompson saw the good seed he had sown bring forth good fruit most abundantly: that which he undertook to lift from its state of abject desolation, became under his hands one of the most highly appreciated and greatest of English commercial undertakings. He proposed and organised, in 1852, a Railway Companies Association, of which he was chairman; but after several years it was torn asunder by the battle of the gauges and long territorial contests. A a second attempt, however, which, like all truly British institutions, commenced with the characteristic dinner, was more successful, and has not only introduced moderate and give-and-take feeling between the companies, but also between the companies and the great public it is their interest to serve. He continued until almost the last to be chairman of this association. Suffice it here further

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to say that when the railway history of Great Brittain shall be written, the railway-direction career of Mr. Thompson may well fill many an instructive page, and every line will convey the impression of a policy pre-eminently successful, because it was thoroughly honest, and admirably straightforward. The political career, so much desired in early life, came, but it came late: at the age of 50, in the year 1859, Mr. Thompson entered Parliament as Member for Whitby. Seven years afterwards he lost his seat in consequence of a dramatic but unfortunate circumstance, for which in no way whatever was he responsible—during the election contest, his opponent, Mr. George Hudson, was arrested by his creditors. The originator of improvement schemes, the founder of the water works, Mr. Thompson did much to encourage art in the jet trade, and he will long be remembered at Whitby as a public benefactor. At the next election, in 1868, he was brought forward for the Eastern Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire; after a severe contest he was defeated by a narrow majority. The Parliamentary position Mr. Thompson speedily gained has been estimated and summed up by two thoroughly qualified political friends, to whom we are specially indebted. By no means an ardent politician, the cool administration of Lord Palmerston was not calculated to add fuel to any political fire that may have smouldered. On agricultural and railway subjects Mr. Thompson, from his conspicuous knowledge and accuracy, was soon recognised as an authority. As a speaker, with a mastery of detail, he was always clear and definite; he never attempted oratorical flights—his was a thoroughly House of Commons style, full, ready, and conversationally flowing. If in early life his inclinations had not been diverted, had he entered Parliament whilst yet his dispositions and habits were plastic, he would, no doubt, have risen high in the Government of the country. Coldness and reserve of manner were serious drawbacks in electioneering, more than compensated, however, by the good sense and tact which often induced compliance, and never failed to command respect.

"Home! there is no place like home." We have followed Mr. Thompson from boyhood to youth; we have traced with care the more important highways of his public life; it remains for us just to indicate the lesser paths of duty, which he trod with so much benefit to his family, his neighbours, and the public, and it is as pleasant as it is essential to the completeness of our biographical sketch, to conclude with a rapid glance at the home life at Kirby. We have seen that the two great agricultural societies were founded in the years 1837-8; two years afterwards Mr. Thompson established his home farm, and devoted much time, and his surplus income, in extending the use of machinery, and in otherwise improving agriculture, and in promoting education, as well upon his own estate as in the management of the diocesan training-colleges of York and Ripon—and this at a time when those educational institutions had few supporters and scanty means. Afterwards middle-class education interested him; and during many busy years he found time on Sundays to visit his farm to teach the farm-lads. We may not do more than refer to his happy marriage in 1843, and to the numerous and promising family by which he was subsequently blessed. Charity, melting charity, claimed from his busy life many a well-spent hour. From 1845, for 20 years he acted as chairman of the House Committee of that admirable institution, the York County Hospital, and during his chairmanship the new hospital was built. The railway directorship, as we have seen, commenced in 1849. He succeeded at his father's death to the family estates in 1853; and six years afterwards Parliamentary business for a time somewhat interrupted home duties. Early in life an acting justice of the North and East Riding of Yorkshire, in 1865 he served the office of High Sheriff of that great county; and, as we know, in 1867 he was President of the Royal Agricultural Society. We fancy we gather in Mr. Thompson's writings much that is autobiographical—he sketches a man so hungering for knowledge, that he is never satisfied until he could ascertain all the causes of failure. "The management of an imaginary farm" savours greatly of his own experience. Mr. Robson, hale and hearty, his bailiff from the very first, is still at Kirby to speak much of his late master and little of himself: he can tell of the exceeding minuteness that regarded every minute detail of the estate, of the household, and of the farm—no turnip sown, no sheep bought without his master's knowledge. As a landlord, Mr. Thompson is autobiographical when he says, "there exist personal ties which, if rudely severed, would be most inadequately replaced by additional rent." Safe tenants may crop as they please—simplify agreements, and regard good stocking and thorough manuring. Give plenty of notice; so combine freedom for the incoming with justice to the outgoing tenant. Routine, he adds, cannot be broken through without a pang, which never, however, survives a favourable balance-sheet. In the somewhat flat country of the Vale of Ouse Kirby Hall is pleasantly situated, exactly in the centre of a circle of park and other lands, which have been cultivated and improved by Mr. Thompson. The garden-front commands a distant view of the grey towers of York Minster. To the north you may see wonderfully-improved park land—in June yellow with the buttercup. At no great distance, embowered in trees, there is the ancient parish church. Westward, following the home circle of cultivation, the new approach, crossing a serpentine lake, leads through a grass-field, on deep hazel loam, to the Kirby home-farm. Beginning with 250 acres, this home-farm in 1867 had grown to 670 acres, of which 300 acres was grass. At first he maintained a pure herd of Shorthorns, but this was sold in 1848; he always, however, had a well-bred bull. The sheep, of the Leicester breed, were also carefully selected. There is here a characteristic of the Kirby estate—a covered foldyard. In every direction may be traced the hand of the improver—he was no mere paper farmer—drainage, which he thoroughly understood, marling, enlarged fields. Towards the south point on the home circle of cultivation there is the new home-farm of 340 acres with its covered foldyard. Many of the buildings, with corrugated tiles, are only just finished. Some land here is poor clay, much cracked; two large fields have been recently laid down to permanent grass: thanks to artificial manure, the ground is pretty well covered, and there is clover. Still the general impression is, that on this bad land the good grasses say to the farmer, "Wait a bit." There is close by an old pasture, of which its late improver was very proud—a triumph of skill in old grass cultivation. Previously the quaint old tenant of this "deafish" field used to say: "The grass came a week afore Barnaby fair!—June 22nd—and went a week after!" Difficulty has been experienced in getting good grass-seed—some has been lately got from the hay crop of Wensley Dale, some from the neighbourhood of Knaresborough. Circling eastwards, and entering the park from the east, there is a fine field of grass, laid down thirty years ago; thirty-two Irish cattle bought in May were in June feeding here, and many cribs about told of other food than grass. Passing by experimental grass-plots, interesting only as showing the interest to the last which the careful experimenter took in his latest practical study, we regain the front park—our point of original departure—to admire, beneath the well-cared-for plantations, 40 fat bullocks, as sleek, fat, and restful as a rich pasture and rich artificial food could possibly make

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them. Stay—to complete our landscape we want a foreground figure. It is more than imagination that enables us to dash him in—an ancient tenant and neighbour—he will tell us that Sir Harry was respected and influential elsewhere; but, in addition, around Kirby Hall he was much and generally beloved. Health failed—gradually, very gradually. A sojourn in the South of France. A welcome return to Kirby. More illness, and, as before, tended with domestic devotion. Honours came. The Queen, by the hand of her Minister, conferred an hereditary distinction. Commercial gratitude was shown in the shape of a magnificent testimonial. Political addresses gratefully acknowledged. But as he stood on its brink, and looked steadily into the black gulf—probably next to a mental onlook—an humble onlook—towards the promised land—he found comfort in the doubting retrospect of 65 years of a busy, a well-spent, and an unselfish life, which, on the 17th May, 1874, death came to close in peace.—*From Lord Cathcart's admirable Paper in the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal.*

MAIDSTONE FARMERS' CLUB.

INDIGESTION IN THE HORSE.

At a meeting, at the Star Hotel, Maidstone, on Thursday, Professor Pritchard, V.S., was announced to deliver an address on "Indigestion in horses, and the effect of the change upon their system on passing from dry to green food;" Mr. T. B. Lovett, president of the Club, in the chair, Mr. R. Waterman the vice-chairman.

Mr. PRITCHARD said he thought it would be well first of all to make a few general remarks about the digestive process, and to describe the change which food undergoes from its reception in the mouth of the animal, and its passage through the intestines, and to point out the difference between digestion and indigestion. Indigestion, as popularly received and understood, arises from some irregularity in the action of the stomach, some defect in that organ or the walls of that organ, or in the secretions and their actions upon the contents of the stomach. But if they were to look at the subject narrowly it would be found that indigestion might be produced in some other way than from these causes. To begin with the mouth, they would find that the food when taken into the mouth was masticated by means of the teeth, and mixed into saliva or spittle. This was a very important point. The food had to be crushed, and unless the teeth were in a condition to enable them to crush the food properly, and the glands were in a healthy condition, neither mastication nor salivation could properly take place, and if the food passed into the stomach in a crude state the digestive process could not go on properly. This showed the necessity of the teeth being in a sound condition. It was not generally known that the saliva bears a very important part in the digestive process; it mixes with and softens the food, and thus renders it easier to be crushed. The taste of the food is also affected by it, and it has also a chemical action upon the food. Some animals could swallow their food without hardly any mastication. A dog, for instance, could take its food and swallow it without any chemical change taking place in the food at all. The food having been crushed and softened down in the way described, it was made into a pellet, it was conveyed down the throat, and by the gullet into the stomach. Having got to the stomach, when the stomach becomes full, another process of digestion goes on. The stomach in the horse was very small in comparison to the size of the animal—not more than a sixth part of the size of the stomach of an ox. It would not have done for the horse to have had a large stomach, for he has to travel long distances, and if he had a large cavity like an ox, it would occasion very great inconvenience to him. The stomach has two coats—one a muscular coat and the other the mucous membrane. It was necessary that the food, when inside the stomach, should be well salivated by the secretions, and unless the food was moved about, it could not be properly saturated with the secretions or the gastric juice. If they were to place their ear on the left side of the ox when the first portion of the stomach was distended with food, they would hear this mixing of the food going on by means of the contraction of the muscular membrame. There was only one other animal that he was aware of that had a stomach like this, and that was a rat. The function, then, of the stomach was that of thoroughly mixing the food with the secretions of the living membrane, and it does this by means of the muscular action of the membrane coat. Within this portion of the digestive organs they have the softening process and the dissolving of the food by the chemical action of the gastric juice. Having undergone this process, it is not even then in a fit state to be absorbed, for it has to pass again into the intestinal canal, where it receives other fluid secretions from the liver, pancreas, &c. So that other organs, besides the stomach, if they are in an unhealthy state, have the tendency to produce indigestion. The food, which when in the stomach is called chyme, passes from thence into the intestinal canal. This in the horse is remarkably long, compared with that of flesh-eating animals. The food which they eat contains, comparatively speaking, a small amount of nourishment, and requires a longer time for the nourishment which it contains to be abstracted. This is a reason for the intestines in a horse to be longer than in flesh-eating animals. The length of the intestines in a horse is about 9 ft., and an important change in the first portion of the intestine takes place before it passes the food into the first portion of the gut. It meets here a secretion called bile, and another secretion called pancreas, and by the action of these two secretions the chyme is converted into chyle. The liver of the horse is without a gall-bladder, and in this it differs from most other mammalia. Having been subject to the action of these fluids, the food afterwards passes into the form of fœces. The extraordinary length of the small intestinal canal, which is 64ft. in length, is for the purpose of allowing it to roll about the abdomen and shake together, like the contents of a barrel when rolled down a hill, the fluids and solids which it contains, and thoroughly mix up and absorb the contents before they are passed into the large intestines. After passing the small portion of the intestines the remainder of the contents pass into the large intestines; it is there mixed with a portion of the fluid, which washes out what food remains for absorption before it finally passes away. Such is the manner in which healthy digestive action is carried on. Were he asked what indigestion means, he should reply that it not only meant irregularity of stomach, but any irregularity in any portion of the digestive system. He proposed to speak of indigestion under two heads—the first chronic, or of long standing, and acute indigestion, which may take place in a few minutes, and terminate in a very short time. He would take the acute form first. There were several causes which would give rise to this. First there was overloading of the stomach, and taking a quantity of what was known as indigestible food. From these two causes they had acute indigestion of two very different kinds. Suppose an animal gets to a quantity of wheat. This being a kind of food which the animal had not the opportunity of eating, he relishes it, and eats a large quantity, and thus overloads the stomach. This food having got into the stomach, and been mixed with the fluid there secreted, the food swells, and distends the stomach so that the muscular coat becomes absolutely useless, and its actions wholly or partially paralysed. Suppose a horse takes a large quantity of this kind, so that he is unable to mix the contents of the stomach properly, a small portion only of those contents is acted upon by the gastric juice. There is, as they knew, a great and intimate connection between the stomach and the brain. After eating a hearty dinner and drinking wine, a man feels inclined to sleep; this was because of the connection between the stomach and the brain. When the stomach of a horse becomes distended in the way he had spoken of, the animal appears unusually dull, and as the symptoms advance, he walks to the manger, or any other convenient place, and rests his head. The pulse, instead of being from 32 to 36 falls to 28, and even in some cases to 24 or 20; the eyes immediately become glassy, and the

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pupillary opening becomes elongated instead of circular, this showing that the brain is being affected. If they put him to walk, the poor animal will stagger and seem to fall. These are some of the symptoms of acute indigestion. The brain to some persons seems to be affected, but the animal is really suffering from an attack of acute indigestion. There was another cause. Suppose an animal is taken from a stable, where he has been fed on hay and corn, and gets a large amount of green food, probably clover. From this he may get acute indigestion. When the food gets into the stomach in this way, fermentation sets in, gases escape, and the stomach becomes distended. But the symptoms are different to those in the other case. Instead of the animal being dull, sleepy, and careless, he feels a considerable amount of pain, not perhaps acute pain, as they see in ordinary gripes and colic, he rolls on the ground, kicks about, turns round and round, and his pulse, instead of being at 32 or 36, or as in the other case, as low as 20, runs up to 55 or 60, and as the malady increases even to a greater figure than this; the external surface of the skin shines, the flanks are distended. This arises from eating various kinds of food, such as mouldy hay, or hay badly got, or coarse dry clover, or oats covered with mould, bad oats, or kiln-dried oats—from any of these causes they might expect this form of acute indigestion. If horses are kept without water for a long time and then given a large quantity, this will also produce it as well as irregularity of feeding. In the first form—that wherein the horse suffers from cerebral symptoms—unless relief soon takes place, a different appearance altogether comes on, and if there is no change in from six to twelve hours, he becomes affected with what is called mad staggers. He paws the ground, and runs on to show all the symptoms of inflammation of the membranes of the brain or of the brain itself. The eyes are wild, and the horse kicks about: he runs his head against the wall, he kicks out violently, and knocks himself about as if he did not care what became of himself, and unless soon relieved the horse will die. In the other case the evil will continue until the walls of the stomach burst by the accumulation of gas, and so the horse dies. By vomiting a dog may get rid of the contents of his stomach, but it is very seldom that a horse can be got to vomit. Something must be got into his stomach which may operate on its contents, and make them pass in the usual manner. When a horse becomes affected as he had been describing, what should be done? In the case of stomach staggers, or the walls of the stomach being paralysed, he would recommend the use of strong stimulants, such as aromatic ammonia, with spirits of ether or ordinary spirits. He should also give a purgative and something to rouse the nervous system and to irritatate the membrane, so as to stir up the secretions and enable the contents of the stomach to pass into the intestinal canal. When the stomach is in this distended state, if the horse were to fall down he would be liable to be ruptured, and rather than let a horse roll or stumble about when in this condition, he would even place him in slings. In all cases affecting the stomach and bowels they could not do better than keep the horse moving about on his legs, in order to prevent his injuring himself. In the other case, that of the presence of gaseous material in the stomach, it was difficult to deal with, and unless they could get rid of it medicine was of no use. To get rid of the carbonic acid gas they should pour into the stomach such agents as would change it into solid matter. Aromatic spirit of ammonia was one of the best things which could be used for this purpose, and hartshorn was very good, and so was also, in a solid form, carbonate of ammonia. This given in small and diluted doses, will gradually bring about the breaking up or the decomposition of the gaseous material; they can then drive it out of the stomach into the bowels, and so get rid of it. In the other case—the chronic form—the evil may go on for a considerable period, and the changes brought about may be very slow in their progress. Suppose a horse in the stable or out at grass is seen not to thrive, notwithstanding any amount of food is given to him. If they examine the coat, they will find it presents an unhealthy appearance, and the horse, as it is said, "stares" in his coat. The appetite is uncertain; he feeds well for a time, and then falls off; he becomes voracious, and eats any quantity of food, but without taking any notice of the quality. He will eat mouldy hay, or even his bedding sometimes. He had known horses, when in this condition, eat soiled and stained bedding, and even actually eat their own fœces, just after eating a good quantity of proper food from a manger. He knew a case where a horse ate plaster, and when out at grass horses had been known to eat loam or sand. The skin appears hidebound at such times, instead of being easily and readily moved about, as is the case at ordinary times. The action of the bowels is irregular, and the horse is often supposed to have worms. The cause of chronic indigestion may be from some defect in the mouth, or in the glands which supply the spittle; it may arise from some defect in the stomach, from want of power to contract and perform its functions, from an impaired condition of the liver, or the pancreas, or any portion of the lining of the intestinal canal. Suppose a horse has anything the matter with his teeth, and can only partially masticate his food. In this case a healthy chyle cannot be obtained, and all the symptoms of chronic indigestion are shown. In such cases, they might ask what chances are there of the horse's recovery? He should say this depends in a very great degree upon the length of time the animal has been suffering. If it has come on recently, he should change the quality of the food, giving a diet small in quantity, but containing a large amount of nutriment. He should give, first, a purgative to get rid of the material in the stomach, and then he should feed the horse on a good stimulating diet. He would not treat him so as to give rise to debility, for the horse would have become very debilitated, and they should avoid doing anything to increase that debility. Passing suddenly from dry to green food, affects horses in this way very much. Suppose if they were to make a change to grass, after the horse had been standing some time in the stable. If the grass were of such a kind as to afford a fair amount of nourishment, if it has been properly collected, and has not undergone fermentation, and does not produce over-distension of the stomach, the change would be of a very beneficial character: variety of food was beneficial to all animals. If they were to feed an animal in good condition upon grass, it would afford rest to him from his usual hard labour. When horses are kept for hunting or racing purposes, they must be fed on food which contains a large amount of nourishment, such as oats, peas, or beans. They had a larger amount of work to do than animals fed on less nutritious kinds of food, and if a horse was fed properly in his stable and his food regulated nicely, giving him a grass rest would bring about a change which sometimes would have a very beneficial effect. But care must be taken that the utmost regularity is practised, or very bad results may be brought about by the change. If, however, a horse is put into pasture which does not grow grass, or is fed on clover which has run to seed and has been a long time growing, they might expect indigestion, both acute and chronic. When a horse was turned out to grass too much care and judgment could not be used. If a horse had passed the first eight or nine years of his life in a stable, it would not, in his opinion, do much good out at grass; he might thrive for a time by the change, but his condition would be so reversed, and his digestive system would undergo such an utter change, that it could not be of benefit. Instead of having a small portion of nutritious food, without any trouble to obtain it, he has to walk over a large space before he can get food sufficient to afford a proper amount of nutrition. It would be like, as had been observed, taking a City alderman who had been accustomed to live on turtle and other light food, and putting him to live on workhouse diet. Then, also, the kind of pasture into which the horse was put had to be considered. If he had been accustomed to be turned out for a portion of the year, he should not be turned out where there was a small amount of grass, or where the grass was quickly grown. This last condition had a great deal to do with the matter. In Northumberland and Cumberland it was the custom to feed horses partially in the stables and turn them out to grass at night. But the grass in the northern part of the kingdom was slow in growth, and contains a large amount of nourishment. Horses thrive generally when out at grass, and there were cases where it was advisable to turn them out. For instance, where horses had a sand-crack, turning them out to grass rests them and gives them time to recover. If they were to place such a horse in a nice soft pasture where there would be the opportunity of gentle exercise for the foot, it would be much better than keeping him in the stable, where, by the hardness of the place on which he stands, the action of the foot might cause the crack to open again. The horn growth was also increased by the action of the moisture from the pasture. Suppose, again, a horse had met with an injury whereby he had lost some muscle, gents

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exercise would bring it back again, and this would be best promoted by turning the horse out to grass. The Professor concluded by stating that he had had lately a severe attack of neuralgia, from which he was still suffering, and had he consulted his own convenience only he should not have appeared before them that evening. He expressed his desire to answer any questions that might be asked, and should be pleased to visit at another time the Farmers' Club at Maidstone.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Professor what food he would recommend for cart horses, to prevent the indigestion of which he had been speaking?

Mr. EDMETT asked if a horse which had been in the stable a long time, and been used to dry food, was turned out to grass, would not a little dry food given with the grass food be beneficial to him? He also asked if the use of the nosebag, and the dust getting through it into the lungs, would not be likely to cause indigestion?

Mr. BURKETT said he had been in the habit every summer of turning out his horses to grass for four or five months, and gave them also the usual amount of corn and other dry food which they had had when they were in the stable. The horses were turned out at the latter part of the day, when they had done their work. He should like to know whether his plan was advantageous or not.

Mr. WATERMAN said that some farmers were in the habit of turning out their horses for work at six o'clock in the morning, and working them till eight o'clock; then they had a rest and some food, and were afterwards kept on to work till 12, when they had another rest and a feed, and were turned out again to work in the afternoon. Others turned their horses out at six o'clock, and kept them working till two, a period of eight hours. Which plan did the Professor consider the best—doing the whole of the work to be done without rest, or letting the horses do it at two or three different times, as described?

Professor PRITCHARD, in reply, said the feeding of cart horses very much depends upon the quality and kind of work which the horses were called upon to do. Horses employed in iron work and in coal pits have more laborious work than in agricultural districts, and the kind of food which should be given depends upon the nature of the work which they have to perform. He was an advocate for cutting up hay for agricultural horses, instead of their eating the hay from a rack—of giving them as feed-stuff chaff mixed with corn, rather than hay and corn, also of mixing with their food a quantity of bran. Horses were in the habit of getting constipated bowels, and pains arising from colic, and to prevent this he advocated the mixture of a small quantity of bran with their food. In the iron and coal works, they were in the habit of giving their horses a few peas or beans, but to agricultural horses, or horses employed on ordinary road work, oats should be given. He thought when horses were about to be turned out from the stable to grass, the more gradually the change was brought about the better. If they were turned out for a few hours only, and so avoided a too-sudden change from one food to another, it would be a good thing. With reference to giving horses in full work the ordinary quantity of corn before turning them out to grass, he thought such a plan a good one, as then the horses would not be likely to overload their stomachs with green food, and they would reap full benefit of the change of food. But he should take care to allow the horse to have the whole allowance of dry food, which was necessary, before turning him out; because if he had the grass before the final feed of corn, the stomach would be likely to be overloaded with green food, and indigestion would probably follow. With reference to the question about the manner in which horses should be worked, he was of opinion that if a team of horses were worked eight or nine hours at a time, and then taken into the stable after performing their work, it would be more beneficial than if they were to do their work after resting two or three times in the day. In London this was the practice with owners of horses, and the plan was admitted to work very well. But there the horses were not usually out for so long a period as nine hours. He should not, however, recommend abstention from food for that length of time. He was a great advocate for the nosebag, and he believed since its introduction became general, on the recommendation of Profesor Coleman, stomach staggers were not so prevalent as they had been before. This he believed was due in a very great degree to the use of the nosebag.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, a vote of thanks was given to the Professor for his lecture.

GLOUCESTER ROOT SHOW.

JUDGES.—ROOTS: S. Priday, J. Witcomb, and D. Vick.

ROOTS.

SWEDES.

Twelve of any variety.—First prize, Earl Ducie, Whitfield Farm; second, C. H. Price, The Hayes, Newent; third, J. Copner, Hill Farm, Stonehouse. Commended: C. Cadle, the Hall, Awre. Six heaviest, no award.

TURNIPS.

Twelve white round.—No entry.

Twelve Lincolnshire red globe.—No award.

Twelve green globe.—First prize, C. H. Price; second, T. Robinson, Longford House.

Twelve yellow Scotch.—No award.

Twelve grey stone.—No entry.

Twelve yellow tankard.—No entry.

Twelve tankard (other varieties).—J. Copner.

Six heaviest.—C. H. Price.

MANGOLDS.

Twelve yellow or orange globe.—First prize, N. Jenner, Buckover Farm; second, I. Theyer, Zoons Farm, Hucclecote. Highly commended: C. Cadle and Earl Ducie. Commended: T. G. Parry, Highnam Court.

Twelve long yellow.—J. D. Crump, The Hawthorns, Corse.

Twelve long red.—First prize, N. Jenner; second, T. Morris, Maisemore. Highly commended: Capt. Lysons, Pontville, Bristol-road.

Twelve red globe.—J. D. Crump.

Six heaviest.—First prize, N. Jenner; second, T. Lowe, Hucclecote.

CARROTS.

Twelve red.—First prize, B. St. John Ackers, Prinknash Park; second, T. Lowe.

Twelve white.—First prize, Earl Ducie; second, J. Buchanan, Campden.

PARSNIPS.

Twelve.—First prize, B. St. John Ackers; second, W. Bannister, Barton-street. Highly commended: T. Parry and T. Robinson.

COW CABBAGE.

Three large.—First prize, Earl Ducie; second, J. H. Tyler, Tytherington.

KOHL RABI.

Twelve green.—First prize, J. Buchanan; second, T. Gambier Parry. Highly commended: J. Copner.

Twelve purple.—First prize, J. Buchanan; second, J. Copner.

KING'S ROOT SHOW AT COGGESHALL.—List of the Prizes: Champion orange globe wurzel.—First, Messrs. Dixon, Wickham; second, R. W. Hall Dare, Wrenningham; third, E. J. Ash, Chadwell, St. Mary's. Yellow globe wurzel.—First, Messrs. Grout, Totham; second, — Staines, Gosfield; third, R. W. Hall Dare. Red globe wurzel.—First, Messrs. Dixon; second, — Staines. Long red wurzel.—First, W. S. Goodchild, Glemsford; second, Messrs. Dixon. Long yellow wurzel.—First, R. W. Hall Dare; second, — Staines. Intermediate wurzel.—First, T. Yeldham, Stambourne; second, R. W. Hall Dare. Heaviest mangel.—First, W. S. Goodchild. Unrivalled swede.—First, W. Joyce, Waltham; second, Mrs. Honywood, Marks Hall; third, T. King, Halsted. Skirving swede.—First, J. Hutley, Stebbing; second, J. Howell, Little Walsingham; third, — Bolton, Terling. Heaviest swede.—J. Hutley. White globe turnips.—First, W. Stabbins, Boreham; second, Mrs. Pyle, Sidmouth, Devon. Green globe turnip.—First, H. Smith, Leighs; second, G. Pettitt, Mount Bures. Green kohl rabi.—First, Central London District School, Hanwell; second, Mr. D. Robertson, Avely.

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CARMARTHENSHIRE FARMERS' CLUB.

MANURES.

At the usual quarterly meeting in Carmarthen, Mr. D. Davies, Ystradwalter, president, in the chair. The raffle took place, when the following prizes were distributed: Horse-rake, Mr. W. W. Prosser, Alltyferin; chaff-cutter, Mr. Thomas; weighing-machine, Mr. Davies, Typicca; knife-stand, Mr. J. Rees, Llwynyfortune; cart-rope, Mr. D. Harries, Abersanu; dung-fork, Mr. T. Davies, Wernddu; Mr. Thomas, merchant; Mr. P. Lewis, butcher; hay-fork, Mr. D. Jeremy, Cwmddu; Mr. T. Rees, Ivy Bush; Mr. Davies, Waunllane; Mr. Humphreys, Coed; Mr. Thomas, Penlan; Mr. Davies, Cincoed. The winner of the horse-rake had to pay £4 towards the funds of the Club.

Dr. Hopkins then said: I have been called upon somewhat suddenly to introduce the subject of Manures. Manure is a very large subject, and one intimately connected with every transaction in farming. We are almost connected with it during the whole of the year; and in one way or another, it comes up for discussion at every meeting of our Club, unless we except that of breeding of cattle, and our farm produce. Manure is composed mostly of two constituents, represented by two divisions—the organic and inorganic—all manures are divided between these two, and it will be for you, gentlemen, and I see many here well capable of taking the matter up from a practical point of view, that I do not intend to do more than introduce it to you. It is for you to decide the manures best calculated to the cultivation of your lands. There are many gentlemen in this meeting who, I am sure, will follow up my few remarks. I shall first speak with regard to the advantages of manure as the main pillar of farming. We have various ways of placing manure. Take organic first, it is dung, or farmyard manure. We all know that farmyard manure is the best, that is, if we can get it; but in this country we are unfortunately unable to procure a sufficient supply. Whether large or small farmers can farm profitably, before they can do so well, they must have plenty of manure. I therefore would suggest, where that is deficient, as unfortunately it is in too many cases in this country, that greater care should be taken of the liquid manure arising from that already existing, by the erection of tanks to save all that now passes away to where it is not required. I think too little attention has been paid in nearly all the farms of this country, to the use of liquid manure; I must state that here, too little attention has been given to the draining from farmyards, and the saving of such. Another portion of organic manure is the neglect of plashing our hedges, and getting hold of all sorts of vegetable remains, such as the clearing out of ponds and ditches, because it is a fact that what was once a vegetable will become a vegetable again; I assert that there has not been sufficient attention paid to the scraping out of old ponds and ditches, and to the use of other vegetable remains at present at our service; they have been too often neglected in this country. Considering the thinness of the soil with us, the use of every adjuvant is indispensably necessary—the great consideration is to make as much manure as you can, which, as I told you before is the main pillar of farming. Another thing which is very valuable to us and a great deodiser and absorbent is peat. It is nearly within every one's reach, and when dry is a great absorbent of liquid manure, and should be placed at the bottom of every farmyard to absorb that which would otherwise be lost. Having been in water for so many years, it is not nearly so valuable as a manure until it has been animalised if you have tanks or any other convenient place, in which you can add the liquid manure so as to produce that effect, I say you cannot make a finer manure than with peat. It is really pure carbon, or charcoal, and as I said before has the power of charcoal of deodorising. I am not going to detain you by any lengthened remarks, because there are many practical men of talent to follow me, and it would be impertinent on my part to dictate to you as to which is the best plan; that I leave necessarily as an open subject. But now I come to the inorganic manure; at the head of all which is lime, then we have phosphates and superphosphates, burnt clays, common salt, and ammoniacal salts, soot, &c., &c., and it is for you to say, how far one supersedes the other in your different localities; how far they will meet your necessities and supply your wants. Taking cattle or sheep for example, these ingredients will be found of eminent service in rearing and feeding. Burnt clay you will find is an exceedingly benefical manure upon the poorest of land where peat is to be had to char it; if you burn one with the other it makes an excellent and active manure. A little work has been published by an celebrated Professor under the French Government of how to farm without manure, and if you read it you will find this. I must say the essay is a very scientific and valuable addition to what we know of farming; you will find there that the analysis of farm produce such as beet root, peas, beans, and the leguminous plants, abstract certain salts from the soil which if returned to it by the grower will make it as fertile as before for the same or any forthcoming crop. If you grow mangolds, wheat, and other produce from the soil, you will find that it robs it of certain ingredients in excess, which you as farmers will have to return to the soil, so as to reproduce the fertility of which it had been deprived. It is for you to return to the soil that of which you have taken from it, and give it back to put it in the position in which it was before you meddled with it. Farming is nothing more than an exceedingly rough system of gardening, where if you do not rotate the crops you will have to resupply what I told you betore, you deprive the earth of. All we can do is to adopt the best plan that our circumstances will permit. Potash is like ammonaia or lime; a great fertiliser in minute quantities and in the work published by the French Government, you will find how these are to be supplied. Please let me tell you, gentlemen, this is not hypotheses but founded upon most careful experiments, conducted in the most elaborate manner. Because you often hear men say, "I think this and I think the other," when in reality they know next to nothing about it, for these experiments have been carried on in the science of chemistry without affection or fear of any scrutiny, so as to render the greatest amount of advantage to the agricultural public in general. I now leave to my fellowers the filling up of any omissions on my part, and to those gentlemen who have commissions to urge the respective merits of their favourite measures, and to show them to be worthy of your notice.

Mr. Brodie did not profess to know much about the scientific side of the subject that had been so ably introduced to them by Dr. Hopkins; but if it would do any good one way or other, he would tell them what he really did himself. He might tell them that he had not been successful in his first means for supplementing his farm yard manures. He had used animalised carbon, and had found that it was not worth a penny. He had dropped down now to a plain and simple mode of manuring his farm. This scheme of his did not require any scientific knowledge; common sense, he might tell the Doctor, was just as good as chemistry. Besides, in this scheme there was another advantage; he was not the least careful who he dealt with; he would as soon buy from Mike Sullivan and Co., as from J. B. Lewes and Co.; as soon from anybody else as from H. T. Proctor and Co. Perhaps Dr. Hopkins or some of them would not believe him when he announced his plan, but in truth it was merely this: he crushed his own bones. ("A very good plan" from Dr. Hopkins.) Bones he bought all the year round, in different quarters, as he had said. These bones he allowed to ferment; he did not even dissolve them. They came to the roots of the plants, to the help of the land, as well that way he found as if they were dissolved; not having the appliances about for dissolving the bones thoroughly he took this method and was satisfied with it. In any other way of dealing with these bones he found that often the acid in them that was of use was all but lost; at all events, the bone was always to pay, which could not well but be a point of importance in the eyes of the farmer. He believed his plan was a good one. He went in, of course, after so crushing the bones for careful mixing. He hoped nobody would adopt his plan and outstrip him in success.

Mr. Warren would only supplement Dr. Hopkins's remarks as to manures that were very much neglected, by remarking

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that those who live near the sea left most valuable manure to lie unappropriated, and so go to waste. Admirable crops and large crops were grown with such manure he assured them; it contained potash and soda and other salts. He thought the manure to be thus obtained should be more utilised than it was.

Mr. D. T. Morris explained that when it was known that Mr. Pughsley was unable to be with him it was suggested that a few notes that had been put together on the subject he should read to them; but he was pleased that the arrangement had been carried out as it had been. He would still, if it pleased the club, read to them the notes of the paper to which he referred. He then read as follows: With your permission I beg to offer a few remarks upon farmyard manure, more particularly that of horse-dung, which I verily believe many farmers in this and the adjoining county do not value nearly as much as they ought to. The dung of farmyards generally is the produce of hay, straw, turnips, and so forth, and is used, as you are all aware, as provender or litter upon the farm. When cattle are housed, it is invariably carried and put in a heap on some high place—sometimes in large heaps—consequently when heavy rain comes it washes away all, or nearly so, of the fertilising properties it contains; therefore, I would suggest that to retain the liquid a place should be made purposely for holding it—say two or three feet deep—and if the ground is not of a clayish nature, let it be cemented so that the ground should not absorb the liquid, as the latter contains the principal fertilising ingredient. This tank or cesspool should be so constructed as, in the event of an overflow of liquid, another tank should be placed for the overplus; and, when this is full, let it then be taken in a cask upon wheels and allowed to run over the surface of the field, the dung, after a time, being well mixed and taken to the field and spread upon the land when in tillage; the dung, covered by the earth, soon passes through its course of fermentation and becomes decomposed and mixed, or combined with the matter of the soil. Where the dung produced is very rich and decomposed, as where cattle have been feeding in stalls on juicy and nutritive food, it may not require much turning over to fit it for use; yet even in such a case it is generally beneficial that it be turned over before being used, the effect being to ferment the mass not only sufficiently but equally, and to mix its different parts together. Now, referring to house dung particularly, I may here remark I am often grieved when going into a farm-yard to see a large heap of this steaming away. Possibly you may not all be aware that the steam you see and smell is the ferilising properties of the horse dung, and the means by which the farmer may return these is to put the stable dung into a square heap, and in every twelve or eighteen inches rise place a layer of gypsum, fine earth, or ashes. Then this evaporation condenses and falls back in the dung, and when the manure is got out, instead of being dry and mouldy, with no fertilising qualities, it will be like bread thickly buttered, with all the ingredients horse dung contains. I should also observe that when the stable opens upon a common yard the dung should not be allowed to accumulate in a heap about the stable, but be spread abroad upon the general heap. A square wall built in the yard to contain the dung would be advisable, so as to prevent evaporation through the sides. Professor Muspratt says, "it is better to take dung into the field fresh from the stable and plough it into the ground than throw it in a heap and allow it to evaporate." This I can easily understand, as you have then all the fertilising properties of the horse dung in the soil. Low also says, "that horse dung is more susceptible of quick fermentation than that of oxen," and this is why I should advise dung to go through the process I name. After fermentation is over there should be a thorough mixing previously to its being put upon the land. Preparing manure in this way you will find one ton worth three of that where the evaporation has escaped. Perhaps there are some here who imagine the solid excrements of a horse that is badly kept have the same fertilising properties as those of a horse well kept; most decidedly not, for the better you keep your horse the better he will do your work, and the dung will be worth three times as much.

Mr. Harries said the point he would more particularly press on them than any other, perhaps, was the importance of looking after the farm-yard liquid manure, which so often was allowed to run waste. He quite agreed with Mr. Morris in what he had said as to the horse manure, and the prevention of loss or waste from evaporation. One thing had been said in which he did not agree; that was Dr. Hopkins' remarks relative to peat. He differed from the Dr. in this question *in toto*. Peat was one of the worst so-called manures they could have. It would not pay any one, he believed, to spend five shillings on it. There was, for one thing, more labour required regarding it than it was all worth. He certainly would not advise any one to speculate in peat as a manure. He believed there ought to be no farm-yard without a building for the accumulation and mixing of farm-yard manures; all the farm-yard manure, which was the best they could have, should be received into this tank. Much of that valuable manure was at the present time neglected and overlooked; and if it was all utilised, and its value fully appreciated, there would be almost no necessity for artificial manures. The expense of haulage, which was very great, he alluded to briefly as a great difficulty in the way of the farmer perfectly manuring his land. Nitrate of soda was one of the most marvellous things he had ever seen; it had, however, to be used with caution and care.

Mr. Thomas (Derllys) believed when he got the intimation of a paper by Mr. Pughsley on Manures, that he and Mr. Morris would come forward as the advocates of an entirely new manure. He had heard them talking of a new manure that was to be got at the works; sulphate, or hydrate of copper it was, if he mistook not, which being mixed with earth, made an excellent manure. He thought Mr. Pughsley, had he been here, would have been more taken up with chemical manures than any other. The farm-yard manures they knew a little about, but chemical manures they lived to learn about. They, in using these chemical or artificial manures, were—at all events most of them were—groping in the dark, and did not know what they got. Especially after such short crops as they had had this year, any information or suggestions Mr. Pughsley could have given them would, he had no doubt, have been acceptable and valuable. Many things were very much neglected, as they had heard. One of the neglected things was to be found in this—that they had never provided any safeguard for the farmers, any means of ensuring that in what artificial manures they bought they got their money's worth. The best firms were represented, no doubt, in this town, b men of good standing; but, after all, he thought it was th duty of this club to guard the members against being taken in by the sellers of artificial manures. This could only be done by arranging for analysis of these artificial manures.

Mr. Lewis spoke strongly in favour of peat as an absorbent and fertiliser; he likewise agreed that in the slaughter-houses of towns like Carmarthen there was a great waste of very valuable manure. In Llandilo Mr. Thomas had the whole benefit of the slaughter-house, and he even complained of the manure being too rich; he advised him to mow sooner than he did.

Mr. Harris (Llandilo) referred to a manure he had used, that was like some that had been mentioned, of little worth—he meant a manure that was called economical. He was now using a much superior mixture—superphosphate and bone, mixed half-and-half. Farmyard manure, of course, he attempted to secure in as large quantities as possible.

Mr. Broadman said the subject was a large one, but it could be narrowed down by remembering that farmyard manure was the mainstay of the farmer, and that all artificial manures were supplementary to it, and were required because of the limited quantity of it that could be procured. He advised thorough economy in farmyard manure, especially liquid, and stated the arrangements he had on his farm used for the preservation of it all. He had everything under cover, thus avoiding the loss of liquid manure, and the decrease in value of the other kinds through rain or the effects of the sun. He explained, likewise, the careful mixing he made of the different manures. By the system he adopted he had manure worth from 7s. to 8s. per load. Coming to artificial manures, he remarked that he had tried nitrate of soda alone, and was not pleased with it. He was thoroughly convinced of the propriety of the scheme advocated in a work published under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society, in which it was set forth that the mixing of the mineral and other manures made a difference in the effect of the manures on the land, doubling if not sometimes trebling it. Nitrate of soda and mineral superphosphate were calculated to keep the land in as perfect a state of productiveness as anything he knew. Referring to the way in which the manure was piled where there was no tank or pit on the farm, he thought there was great room for

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improvement; they piled up their heaps in these half-square and half-oval forms. By this method, he held, the rain water was allowed to get into the heap and destroy the fertilising powers of the manure. He recommended the manure to be heaped up in the shape of a house, the thickest part in the middle, and earth to be then heaped on the top of that. He was sure the more science they applied to the cultivation of the soil the greater would be their reward. He mentioned to the members a very excellent book he had recently come across, Professor Johnson's Agriculture, Chemistry, and Geology, which treated of the application of manure, and the way to preserve it.

Mr. JAMES (Carregceggan) pointed out the importance of giving every kind of land the manure suitable for it; he was sure any money carefully spent in this work, or in the price of manure would pay them better than any bank.

Mr. THOMAS (Moreb) spoke very strongly in favour of slaughter-house manure, of which he had a fair trial at Llandilo. He found the few fields he held even too richly fed; he was prevented, however, by his landlord from taking more than one crop a year, so that he made sure of getting a thundering good one when he did cut. He agreed with the majority of the speakers, as to the value of farmyard manure, the advisability of saving it, and on many of the minor points as well.

Mr. J. L. PHILIPPS layed particular stress on mixing the manure they intended to lay on the land with earth or water; he repudiated the idea of the necessity for a tank; it was only necessary to have a pit at the farmyard for the purpose; it would allow of all manure being there mixed sufficiently. Nothing was of more importance than the thorough mixing through and through. They could not expect good manure from anything but well fed animals; it would not do to saturate straw with dirty water and call it manure. He condemned at some length the application of lime to the land when it was not required; when applied under such circumstances it was not manure, or food to the land, but poison. Referring to artificial manures he came to speak of "the Economical," after warning them that in trying artificial they should not strive after or look for anything else than a fair article for fair price. This "Economical" they were told of was advertised as having a backing up of 2,000 testimonials, one of which was from his friend on the right, Mr. W. E. B. Gwyn, Plas Cwrt Hir. That manure was supposed to be a substitute for guano; it certainly was nothing of the sort; it was quite worthless. Mr. Phillips believed peat was a good manure, and that the member who had spoken of it as no manure at all was perfectly wrong. He suggested a pit with good mixing and the use of absorbents, so as to avoid the expense of a tank. The rain water could, he showed, be thrown off.

Mr. GWYN agreed to a very great extent with Mr. Phillips' remarks. On his own farm all the manure was well mixed as it was carried out every day. The suggestions as to peat, made by Dr. Hopkins, he considered excellent; and among the unutilized means at the hand of every farmer, some of which had been pointed out by Dr. Hopkins, he thought the refuse from hedges and ditches was not sufficiently looked to. He intended himself, in the coming season, carting 300 or 400 cartfuls of that for the purpose of mixing with light soil; it made a capital manure. Referring to the Economical Manure, he had tried it, and had, it was true, sent a testimonial to the dealers that it was not worth much.

Mr. MORGAN, Llwyn, supported warmly the proposal for the protection of the members by the club, through the appointment of an analyist. He was certainly in favour of peat as a manure, and proved its value by several illustrations. He held that the mixing of all manures in a pit, which should be covered with earth, one of the best absorbents we could have, was a capital plan. He had tried the Economical, but he had not intended to say anything about it unless somebody else spoke first; he thought nobody else could have been such a fool as to meddle with it.

The CHAIRMAN having thanked Dr. Hopkins on behalf of the club, and summed up the discussion,

DR. HOPKINS, replying on the discussion, said that Mr. Harris made a great mistake in saying that peat was not a manure and no use; and he (the Dr.) was glad to find that every one also seemed to share the opinion that he had enunciated in his opening address to the effect that peat was a very beneficial manure, and especially so when mixed with animal substances. Peat was nothing less than the decays of the vegetables of ages, mostly grass and water plants, the remains of which consisted nearly of pure carbon or charcoal, known to be an enormous fertiliser, and even when put upon red land, unaided, proved a considerable fertiliser. With regard to the observations which had been made as regarded clay, he would say that even brick dust when placed on vegetables, especially the vine was of itself a great service as a manure. As an illustration of his meaning, he might say, and he thought he would bring it home to every practical farmer, that when a bonfire had been made upon land so as to clear the surface, the crops there were three weeks earlier; a more plump, and a finer colour, and could be seen at a distance before any other portion of the field, although the ashes had been carefully scattered about. In addition to what had been said of the heaps of manure, the best plan that had hitherto been proposed had been the making of a tank in the centre of the farmyard for receiving the liquid manure, into which a pump could be fixed at a very small cost, and by which means the liquid manure could from time to time be pumped over and upon the heaps, so as to increase the strength of the manure to the utmost extent. Then again he might remark that those gentlemen who farmed in the vicinity of towns where bituminous coals were burnt, could not do better than purchase the soot, which might be easily obtained at not more than about from 4d. to 6d. per bushel. This could be sown broad cast upon wheat or grass lands with great success and advantage, and made a fine and powerful manure.

COUNTY BOARDS.—Whilst the Central Chamber of Agriculture has passed a resolution in favour of extending District Highway Boards through the country, and making the Highway Acts compulsory, some of our local Boards have been making ineffectual efforts to dissolve themselves. There can be no doubt that in the Eastern Counties the new system is extremely unpopular; but does it follow that we should return to the old system, with all its neglect and irregularity? Let us hope not. The complaint against the new system is that it is too expensive. This is chiefly because the District Surveyor receives a high salary for doing very little beyond issuing directions and keeping accounts, whilst the Waywardens do the practical work of Surveyors as the Parish Surveyors did under the old system. How would it be to have an Inspector of Highways for every County, County Boards County Rates (aided by Government support, if we can get it), and Parish Surveyors, as of old? Under that plan the expense of employing a Professional Surveyor would be spread over a larger area. One man can inspect a very extensive mileage of roads in the course of the year, and it is said that the District Surveyors now do little more than inspect the roads. The Parish Surveyors would, of course, act under the control of the County Board, and would be compelled, if unwilling to keep their roads in proper order. Complaints could be made to the Inspector, who would report to the Board. It may be objected that if there were a County Rate, Parish Surveyors would be careless of expense. Well, perhaps they would not be so parsimonious as they commonly were under the old system, but the ratepayers, who would elect them, would take care to choose men not likely to be extravagant and the Board, too, would check inordinate expenditure.—*From Essex Standard.* From the county report of our own East Essex correspondent as given in another place, we gather that "the proposal of the Central Chamber of Agriculture that highway districts should be made compulsory throughout the country, will be most unpopular in the Eastern Counties. Two of our district boards have for some time been ineffectually attempting suicide, but the magistrates—no doubt members of the Humane Society—insist on saving their lives. But the magistrates should have nothing to do with the matter. We want County Financial Boards to take charge of the highways and other business."

THE IRISH FLAX TRADE.—At the meeting of the Ballineen Farmers' Club, Colonel Bernard, the chairman, said he had received a letter from Mr. Anderson, the Belfast Flax Association, from which he regretted to observe that trade in the North of Ireland was still depressed, circumstance that would account for the comparatively low prices obtained for flax.

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CONFERENCE OF POOR-LAW GUARDIANS IN THE WEST.

The annual Conference of the Poor-law Guardians of the South-Western Counties took place at Sherborne, under the presidency of

Earl NELSON, who said he had failed in getting any one to read a paper that day, but what they really wanted was not so much a statement of fact as discussion. It was often remarked at these meetings that there was very little method in them. It was true they began perhaps with medical relief, or friendly societies, and then passed to the loan system or sanitary officers, and then to poor-house accommodation; but every speech was sure to end in the question with which their discussions were mostly filled—the question of out-door relief—and people who were outsiders looked upon it as a jumble, and did not understand it. It was very easy to give a reason why that must be the case, and at the same time to defend the committee for having proposed at all the conferences the question—What accommodation is essential in a workhouse to enable the gardians to carry out the provisions of the Poor-law and to meet the present requirements of the Local Government Board? They were all pretty well agreed that the object of the Poor-law should be to encourage thrift, and to discourage pauperism by using the workhouse as a test for real destitution, and by doing away as far as possible with out-door relief. It was no use to mince matters, and to talk about people's "independence." There was no real test but "the house." Every one was willing enough to let their parents receive medical or out-door relief, or to receive it themselves, as long as they were left in their own dwellings; and therefore without the house-test they were encouraging a pauper spirit and they were discouraging thrift and independence. Most of them had heard of the man who was about to emigrate to New Zealand, who, after making all inquiries as to his chances of obtaining land and getting on, finally decided he would stay in this country "because there is no workhouse in New Zealand." But what he (Earl Nelson) felt was, that although the house-test was so essential as a general rule with their present workhouses, yet without a better classification than they had now it was really too severe a test in many cases; and the knowledge of that fact, that it was too severe, was the cause why it was so seldom thoroughly applied. With single persons, and with illegitimate children, the matter was plain enough; they of course would go into the house. But with married people with a family the test was too severe. What did it amount to? The complete breaking up of home and family life. It was such a break-up that the chance was lost for years afterwards of a man having a settled home. There was the sale of his little furniture, and altogether the circumstances were of a most depressing character. They must not forget that family life, which they thus destroyed, was at once the greatest civiliser and encourger of self-respect and independence. In too many unions there was the certainty that the children would be brought up with a pauper spirit; and that the more decent girls above school age were degraded by being mixed up with the foul-mouthed companionship of others. That was one of the things they ought to discuss, how they could best classify the inmates of a workhouse so as to avoid those evil results. Some people said "Oh! we won't put a poor girl with women who have illegitimate children; we will put her with the married women." Now his belief was from the married women, when they were freed from the restraint of husband and family and were angry at being there —he believed there was as much evil to be learnt from them. Therefore it was one of the points that required a great deal of discretion before they said exactly what the rule was to be, as to where those untouched children should be placed. Because of those things they were not to discontinue the house test, but they were to take care the houses were properly classified as far as they might be. It was necessary to notice the condition of the poorhouse itself. That was the root of the thing, and it would be very wrong of the guardians to press the test unless they were doing all they could by sanitary measures to reduce the number of causes which brought people into poverty. They should take care to organise a system of medical clubs, or other clubs, to aid in sickness apart from the Poor-law, to give some opportunity to people to be saved from drifting into pauperism. In some places the loan system had been very successfully tried, and he maintained they were bound to start it if they applied the house test rigidly. They were bound to give people the opportunity, if they liked, instead of breaking up their families, to give security and take a loan. Then, as he had said, they must see that the house was properly ordered. He would ask the chairman of the Wincanton union, if he was present, to introduce that subject to them, and to state how far his rules had been carried out. The noble earl proceeded to refer to several classes of paupers to whom the house-test should be applied, amongst them being wives deserted by their husbands, the families of prisoners and persons of drunken and notoriously bad habits, and the wives of militiamen. With regard to the last named class he said Government, if they would have married militiamen, should pay them enough to support their families, and should also take care that the money was sent to their families, otherwise the ratepayers had to make up the deficiency. [A VOICE: Instead of the taxpayers generally]. He then reverted to the difficult subject of preserving workhouse children from the leaven of the pauper spirit, and concluded by calling attention to a plan which had been recently suggested, by which there would be separate houses for children and for aged and infirm paupers.

Mr. GORDON, the secretary, spoke of the advisability of originating an asylum for the Western Counties for idiots. He did not mean for harmless and chronic lunatics, as their removal from the county asylum would seriously prejudice the usefulness of those institutions. He also alluded to the immense number of lunatics maintained out of the rates, whose relatives were in a position to pay for their maintenance. That was a subject worthy of their consideration.

Mr. DODINGTON said that militiamen received about 15s. a week, including their bounty, and therefore their families ought not to come upon the parish. By a recent regulation they could draw money so as to send to their families.

Mr. FESTING (Mere) suggested that the unions should be grouped either in counties or in divisions of counties; that the present buildings should be utilised, and that one should form a hospital, another a convalescent home, a third a reformatory, and so on.

Mr. JARVIS (Mere) believed if small unions could be grouped together they could be worked much more economically than they now were.

Lord FORTESCUE said his opinion was that the workhouse should be used, not only as a test, but as a safe shelter for the aged and the infirm. The difficulty of getting persons to nurse others than their relatives was increasing, and they had had to pay 5s. or 6s. a week for a nurse to a pauper. Unless they had some assurance there were persons of good character to look after infirm patients, they usually insisted on their coming into the workhouse. He thought it exceedingly rash to give out relief where friendless and kinless old and infirm persons could not secure nursing. With regard to grouping of workhouses, it seemed to him a wonder that in large places—the metropolis for instance—grouping had not been effected long ago. He understood that the difficulty with respect to vagrants would have been got rid of years ago if the Government had displayed more firmness in the matter and had not shown such sympathy for the vagrant. In fact, they required wards for him instead of remitting him to the police station. He quite agreed with what had been said about old men and women; he thought out-door allowance for them was best. He did not think it desirable to form a convalescent home in connection with the Poor-law.

The Rev. W. SAVAGE (Wilton) said there was one class he should like to see turned out of the unions, and that was the idiots. Very often their habits were so filthy and dirty that they made the older paupers most uncomfortable. With regard to workhouses, he should like to see them made stern test-houses for the idle and dissolute, and as comfortable as possible for the aged poor. The windows were generally like those of prisons. He should like the old invalids to have a sitting room on the second floor as the sick wards.

Sir C. B. GRAVES SAWLE thought the grouping of unions would answer in agricultural counties, but not in populous districts.

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The discussion was continued, some of the guardians expressing an opinion that there should be county accommodation for idiots. A guardian of the Bridgwater Union said at that house they had adopted the boarding-out system, and had found it answered well.

After a two hours' discussion, The CHAIRMAN asked if any gentleman desired to say anything on the question before them —What accommodation is required in Workhouses? A discussion followed, after which the Chairman summed up, observing they could not go fully into several of the subjects that had been raised, but some of the suggestions had been most valuable. He might take it for granted that they were all against any large additions of expenditure, and were agreed their present system might be relieved by the boarding-out system, which in his union had been a great success. He was of opinion one special idot asylum for a district would be a great advantage. With regard to grouping, if it only amounted to turning one house into a district school he thought some relief would be afforded. If it were possible to abolish the vagrant wards they would have greater room for classification. He should have been glad to hear how good masters and good house committees got over their difficulties with regard to classification, and broke through red-tapism in particular instances.

It was agreed that Mr. Gordon, the secretary, should represent the conference in the general committee which will assemble in December. It was further agreed the five representative members should be Colonel Cox, Dorset; Mr. Broadmead, Somerset; Earl Nelson, Wilts; Earl Fortescue, Devon; and Sir Charles Sawle, Cornwall. It was settled the next meeting should be held at Plymouth, under the presidency of Earl Fortescue.

The CHAIRMAN read the rules of the Wimborne Union with regard to out-door relief. No relief is to be afforded to— 1. Non-residents. 2. Deserted wives. 3. Wives and families of convicted prisoners. 4. Single women, pregnant or with illegitimate child. 5. Wives of militiamen. 6. Children between six and fourteen not attending day-schools. 7. Those whose families are capable of supporting them. 8. Drunken, improvident, or notoriously bad characters. There were some other regulations, such as no midwifery order to be granted but by way of loan, except in certain cases.

Various other topics were then discussed, during which Lord FORTESCUE proposed that all relief in emergency, medical or otherwise, should be considered as relief on loan. This proposition was seconded, but was not pressed to a division.

The CHAIRMAN asked what they should do where an applicant for relief received pay from a friendly society? The usual way was to cut his club pay in half. He suggested they might treat the whole pay as for his wife and family, and relieve the children fully.

Mr. WILSON said his board had decided that money received from clubs should be treated as other property, and they had found no inconvenience.

Some conversation took place upon making sons support their parents.

The conference next year is fixed for the second Tuesday in November, at Plymouth.

A LABOURER'S EVICTION.—The case of Flitters *v.* Allfrey, tried at the last Spring Assizes in Reading, has just been before a full Court at Westminster. The action was brought by a labourer against Mr. Allfrey, of Wokefield-park, for being turned out of his cottage without due notice, he being a yearly tenant. At the trial, the jury found for the defendant; but several points of law having been reserved, Lord Coleridge, the judge, asked the jury to state what damages they would give if the decision on the points raised were reversed, and they stated £5. The decision on all these points has been reversed, and the verdict is accordingly entered for the plaintiff; but as the £5 damages do not convey costs, application for costs is to be made. The verdict itself, however, is not yet to be considered settled, as it is understood that the defendant will appeal to the House of Lords. Mr. C. Henderson, of Reading, is the solicitor for the plaintiff.

BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY, AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on Tuesday, the 27th Oct.; Sir J. T. B. Duckworth in the chair. There were also present Messrs. R. Bremridge, J. Gray, and J. C. Moore-Stevens, vice-presidents, C. T. D. Acland, J. D. Allen, H. Badcock, J. T. Boscawen, C. Bush, R. H. Bush, R. R. M. Daw, T. Danger, A. F. M. Druce, T. Duckham, T. Dyke, C. Edwards, W. R. Gilbert, F. Gill, J. Goring, A. Grenfell, H. M. Holdsworth, H. P. Jones, H. A. F. Luttrell, H. St. John Maule, R. Neville, S. P. Newbery, G. Radmore, J. C. Ramsden, G. Simpson, W. Thompson, R. Trood, C. A. W. Troyte, E. U. Vidal, H. Williams, R. Wippell, H. Spackman (Official Superintendent), and J. Goodwin (Secretary and Editor).

Payments to the amount of £1,172 11s. 2d. were sanctioned by the Council, and a list of District Agents, recommended for the purpose of increasing the list of Members in their several localities, was provisionally approved.

On the motion of Mr. Jonathan Gray, seconded by Captain Acland, the following Report of the Arts Committee was received:

Your Committee have to report, with very sincere regret, that Mr. Edward Simcoe Drewe, who for so many years has acted as Chairman of the Department, has felt constrained by continued indisposition to retire from the office; but they venture earnestly to hope that Sir T. D. Acland, Bart., M.P., may be induced to act as his successor. The retirement of Mr. R. R. M. Daw from the office of Hon. Secretary is an additional cause of regret on the part of your Committee. For the long term of fourteen years he has discharged the duties of the office with exemplary zeal, efficiency, and courtesy; and apart from his generous offer to initiate his successor in the duties of the office they would feel considerable anxiety with reference to the future. The time, however, has now arrived when they deem it expedient that the various departments of the Society should be consolidated, and they recommend that the Secretary of the Society be directed to undertake the duties of Secretary to the Arts Committee at such increase to his salary as the Council may think fit. Your Committee, after long and anxious consideration, have arrived at the opinion that the Arts Exhibition, in its several branches, should be held, as usual, next year, at Croydon; and they have to request of the Council a grant of one hundred pounds towards the Art Union as in former years.—EDWARD W. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

A special vote of thanks was passed by acclamation to Mr. Drewe for his services; the Council expressed their gratification that Sir T. D. Acland, Bart., M.P., consented to act as Mr. Drewe's successor; a committee was appointed to consider the extra amount of salary to be paid to the Secretary; and the Council granted the usual sum of £100 towards the expenses of the Art Union at Croydon in 1875.

Tenders for the printing of the Society's catalogues, and the supply of refreshments at the annual meetings, in both cases for one, three, or five years, were directed to be invited by advertisement; but the contract of Mr. Keene, of Bath, for the Society's general printing, was renewed for the term of five years.

The stock and poultry prize sheets, and the implement regulations for the Croydon meeting were brought up, and, after some minor alterations, were approved and ordered to be printed; Monday, the 31st of May, being the day fixed for the commencement of the meeting.

The Council, while recognising the desirability of having a railway siding communicating with the show-yard at Croydon, declined the responsibility of contributing towards the expense of its construction; but left it to the enterprise and discretion of the local railway companies to act as they may think proper in their own interests and those of the public.

The following new members were elected:

Lord de Mauley, Langford, Lechlade.
The Hon. Hedworth Jolliffe, Charlton, Radstock.
W. S. Gore-Langton, Newton Park, Newton St. Loe.
R. Fowler, Broughton, Aylesbury.
J. Outhwaite, Bainesse, Catterick.
Redgrove and Bowden, Croydon.

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Rigg, Wrotham, Sevenoaks.
H. Roberts, St. James-street, Bath.
T. Rose, Melton Magna, Wymondham.
H. S. Waller, Farmington, Northleach.
Kennet Were, Sidmouth.
A. E. Wyatt, Strawberry-hill House, Lympstone.

A SHOW AT HOLKHAM.

The Committee of the Norfolk Agricultural Society has decided to recommend that the meeting of next year should be held at Fakenham in preference to Dereham. These two towns being the only applicants, the decision given to the former in preference to the latter will be generally acceded in. One place, however, probably through forgetfulness or doubt, has been passed by, which will be thought, for various solid reasons, past and present, by the agricultural interest, not only of Norfolk, but of all England—as that at which of all others, at this moment, the Norfolk Agricultural Society should hold its anniversary. That place is Holkham Park, the birthplace of that system of husbandry which raised the character of the tenantry of England by the example of its great leader, and by the practical effects which that example produced up to the time when the Holkham Sheepshearings terminated. It is slightly beyond a half-century from that time when the turn of the Western Division of the county again arrives. Year by year since the Society has made an annual migration to the different divisions of the county, its celebrity has risen in the increased numbers and excellence of the stock exhibited, and in the quality, novelty, and superiority of the machinery shown, while the numbers who have flocked to the show, not only of proprietors and tenantry, but also of the cultivators and their families, have increased in a way which has astonished even those who were the most ardent for the change of system—a change which has proved most beneficial to the labourers, and profitable to the Society. The last meeting at Holkham was held in 1821, and as Mr. Coke then gave a *résumé* of the improvements which had emanated from that agricultural meetings, the opportunity would now present itself to compare the advance made within the last half-century with that made during the Holkham annual gatherings. And it is the more desirable that this opportunity should be given from the fact that the Essay for which the Earl of Leicester has offered a prize is to be the result of a personal knowledge of the progress and practice actually made within the specified time. Now it is in Holkham Park that not a little of agricultural advance in cultivation on the Holkham Estate, as well as in the immediate district, will be found. There would, perhaps, be few persons there in 1875 who saw or can know what Holkham and the farms and stock immediately around it were, but the tenantry and the landowners would be able to see and judge by comparison with the above-named *résumé* what it has became under modern improvement, and that union of capital, energy, and science, with practical skill, which has reclaimed nearly one thousand acres from the sea, and made it a prolific and valuable addition to the estate handed down to its noble proprietor, who has proved himself, by his devotion to agricultural pursuits, a worthy son of that great pioneer in agricultural advancement—Mr. Coke, of Holkham. Looking at what has been accomplished on the Holkham Estate, I venture to urge on the Committee to re-consider their recommendation, and, if it be not adverse to the wishes of Lord Leicester, that Holkham Park should be once again the scene of the triumphs of agriculture in Norfolk. We might then hope that the Royal Patron, in common with the landed proprietors and the tenantry, will feel it to be their "duty, not less than their interest, to connect society by one grand bond of harmony" in Holkham Park in July, 1875, as in the days when the first week in July saw the famed assemblage of that time congregate on the domain.—*The Norwich Mercury.*

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at the office, Upper Sackville-street, on Thursday, October 29th, Sir Allen Walsh, Bart., in the chair. The other members present were Viscount Powerscourt, Hon. Bowes Daly, Major Borrowes, L. Waldon, L. Cust, H. Harris, E. Purdon, D. Millward, J. Robertson, Rev. R. W. Bagot, H. J. MacFarlane, S. F. Adair, C. Connor, P. Riall, H. H. Woods, J. M. Royse, W. Donnelly, C. U. Townsend, C. Cobbe, R. Chaloner, and J. Simpson.

Major Borrowes, agreeably to notice which he had previously given, moved: "That the wording of conditions for tenant-farmers at present 'limited for competition to tenant-farmers whose Poor-law valuation is under £ per annum' be altered to 'Tenant-farmers holding land under valuation £100 a year;' and the same intention be carried out in all the rules affected by same wording." The object, he said, in bringing forward this matter was, that at the last meeting of Council several objections were made against exhibitors whose holdings were over £100 a year valuation. It had been proved that tenant-farmers had competed who held land value for £500 or £600 a year, and, therefore, they were not the class of agriculturists whom it was originally intended should carry off these prizes. By limiting the rule to tenant-farmers holding land under £100 a year, they would effectually stop such parties carrying off prizes.

The resolution was seconded and adopted, with a trifling alteration.

The next matter for discussion was Mr. Macfarlane's notice of motion, as follows: "That the objection of Mr. M. A. Maher, in reference to the decision at Wexford council meeting, by which his thorough-bred sire Gunboat was disqualified, be re-considered."

Mr. MacFarlane said he was not sure whether they had the power to re-consider the matter, and therefore he approached the question with some difficulty. Mr. Maher's object seemed to be to have the character of his horse——

Mr. Cannon rose to order. They should have the decision of the chairman on the point as to whether or not they could go into the question at all. On looking at the rules a few days ago he observed that no protest on veterinary grounds could be rescinded. That was set forth in page 28, and was under rule 34.

Mr. MacFarlane moved the following resolution: "That the V. S. at Wexford show, on whom devolved the duty and responsibility of reporting as to the freeness of Gunboat from any hereditary disease, appears to this Council not to have sufficiently informed himself as to the nature of the enlargement on the haugh of Gunboat on the seat of spavin, and the judges, in consequence, could not award him the prize or Croker Challenge Cup; and this Council regret that the rules for competition prevent the decision arrived at by the Wexford Council being now re-opened in favour of such a superior sire as Gunboat."

The Chairman said as the resolution had not been seconded it fell to the ground.

Mr. MacFarlane handed in the following notice of motion: "That at the future shows of this Society such steps be taken, and arrangements made, as will ensure the fullest consideration of an appeal made by any exhibitor against a decision on veterinary grounds."

Mr. Townsend mentioned that in the month of August last he brought under the notice of the Council the desirability of offering prizes for the best managed farms in the county or province in which the shows of the Society were held. This course had been adopted with great success in England, and could not fail to be useful if followed in this country. He moved the appointment of a committee to report whether it would be advisable to offer prizes as in England, how this could be best accomplished, and what steps should be taken to provide the necessary funds.

Mr. MacFarlane said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion, believing as he did that this was a most valuable thing to accomplish. He also took additional interest in the matter, because he had received a letter from a friend who was disposed to give a prize for the most superiorly managed farm in the four counties with which he was identified. The gentleman in question wrote to him, to give him some outline as to how the prizes should be awarded.

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The resolution was put from the chair and adopted, and the following gentlemen were appointed as a committee to draw up a report on the subject: The Rev. R. W. Bagot, Sir Allen Walah, Bart., J. Robertson, D. Millward, E. Pardon, J. M. Royse, P. Riall, C. Cobbe, L. Cust, C. Cannon, H. J. MacFarlane, Colonel Vesey, and C. Uniacke Townsend.

On the motion of Mr. MacFarlane, seconded by Mr. D. Millward, a resolution of condolence was passed to the Duke of Leinster and his family on the death of his father, who had been most active in the administration of the Society, and for over sixteen years its President.

Mr. W. W. D. Pollard Urquhart, Kanturk, Castlepollard, was admitted a member of the Society.

THE TIPTREE LETTERS.

There is great scope for the profitable investment of capital in the reclamation of many millions of acres of waste land which now disgrace this wealthy country. In this neighbourhood much of the once barren heath has been converted into useful arable land. The Duke of Sutherland is most commendably reclaiming the vast wastes on his estate in Sutherland, and wisely using steam as the motive power. The non-use of steam power is a misfortune for British agriculture. It must ultimately become an important element of increased production and profit. In Scotland, where 300 years ago a law was passed to compel landowners to build a school in every parish, there has long been general education, and consequently steam power has there for very many years been appreciated and availed of in agriculture.—J. J. MECHI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Mr. Mechi, in his wild letter in *The Times* of Tuesday, in his talk about the many millions of waste acres, merely *cuckoos* Odger. Again, it is notorious that steam is far less used in Scotland than in England. Ask any agricultural engine builder, and he will tell you there are a few fixed thrashing engines in the Lothians, but hardly a portable in all Scotland, where steam-ploughing is a long way behind England. The letter is intended to give the impression that English Agriculture has remained stationary, and is written to please outsiders and consumers.

Yours,
A MIDLANDER.

Permanent pasture employs a *minimum* of labour and capital, and is a great obstruction to the production of human food.—J. J. MECHI.

SIR,—I am renting a farm in Somerset, composed of 486 acres permanent pasture and 148 arable. The capital employed in farming it is £10,000; the manual labour during last year amounted to £1,143, and the human food produced was 60 tons of prime cheese and over 50 tons of pork, besides corn, which realised £711. There is nothing exceptionable in the land, nor was the season I have chronicled propitious, for in the spring the cows were suffering from foot-and-mouth disease (in consequence of which nine died), and the summer was far too dry for grass to abound on fairly stocked land. Whenever Mr. Mechi leads us into the green fields we cannot forbear a smile at his expense.

Yours,
Winchester. J. STRATTON CHILCOMBE.

[In *The Times*.]

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.

Memorial forwarded by the local authority for the county of Norfolk to the Privy Council:—

To the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

The memorial of the Justices of the Peace, as the Local Authority for the County of Norfolk, in quarter sessions assembled, the 22nd October, 1874, showeth.—That your memorialists are decidedly of opinion the costly experiment which has now been tried for upwards of twelve months in Great Britain, of attempting to stamp out pleuro-pneumonia by slaughter of all cattle found to be affected with that disease and compensating the owners, must certainly fail, unless such slaughter and compensation are extended to Ireland. That the county of Norfolk is the largest winter grazing county in England, and that the great majority of cattle there fed are imported direct from Ireland. That although Irish cattle generally arrive in an apparently healthy condition, several have been attacked with pleuro-pneumonia shortly after arrival; thus showing that the disease must have been contracted in Ireland, or upon the journey into Norfolk. That your memorialists are aware a rigid inspection of cattle coming from Ireland has recently been established at the ports of embarkation; but they are satisfied such inspection is powerless to prevent the exportation of a disease where the period of incubation extends to weeks, and sometimes to months. That your memorialists have good reason for believing that outbreaks of pleuro-pneumonia in Ireland are not in all cases reported to the authorities; and they are strengthened in that opinion by their own experience, previous to compensation being allowed, of the unwillingness of stockowners to give notice of the disease. That since the Animals (Amendment) Order of 1873 has been in force in this county, upwards of 1,200 cattle have been slaughtered by order of the inspectors of the local authority, in consequence of being afflicted with pleuro-pneumonia, but without in any way arresting the progress of the disease. The compensation payable to the owners of such cattle out of the county rate considerably exceeds £5,000. Your memorialists therefore pray that, in conformity with the unanimous recommendation of the select Committee of the House of Commons, compulsory slaughter with compensation for pleuro-pneumonia should be extended to Ireland, or, if that be found impracticable, that the Animals (Amendment) Order of 1873, as now in force in Great Britain, so far as relates to compulsory slaughter, should be at once rescinded.

DEATH OF DALESMAN.—Mr. Chaplin has just lost this well-known horse, at a time when he was becoming especially valuable. Dalesman, bred by Baron Rothschild in 1863, was by King Tom, out of Agnes by Pantaloon. After a not very brilliant career on the turf he was purchased by Captain Barlow, in whose charge Dalesman became distinguished in the show-ring, being, perhaps, the best horse for the purpose who ever won the Royal Agricultural Society's premium, as he did at Hull in 1873. At Manchester, however, Dalesman had actually been put below such animals as Carbineer and Laughing Stock—an outrageous mistake, as we pointed out at the time, and of course he beat Carbineer at Hull, as we had predicted he must when they met again. Dalesman was sold by Captain Barlow to Lord Spencer, who took him to Ireland, and then in turn to Mr. Chaplin, in whose possession he won at Hull. Dalesman was himself a capital sample of the thoroughbred hunter, as the sire of some good hunting stock, while from very few blood mares there came Lowlander, one of the best race-horses of the day at heavy weights.

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THE ASSESSMENT OF MINES.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, Westminster, before Justices Blackburn, Mellor, and Lush, an appeal was heard against the rating of South Caradon Mine by the Assessment Committee of the Liskeard Union. The appellants, who were represented by Mr. H. Lopes, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. Pinder, were Richard Kittow, Thomas Kittow, Christopher Childs, John Laurence, and John Raby; and they had been rated to the relief of the poor as the occupiers of surface land at South Caradon Mine, with the houses, buildings, machinery, tramways, and plant thereon. The rate having been objected to, the present case had been stated for the opinion of the Court. It seemed that by a deed made on the 6th May, 1862, the Rev. G. P. Norris and Mary Ann, his wife, the owners in fee of the land in question, granted to Richard Kittow and Thomas Kittow, and Peter Clyma, since deceased, power and authority to dig and search for metals and minerals throughout the land for a term of twenty-one years. The operations under that licence had been carried on by a company under the cost-book system; and the company had, in accordance with the provisions of the deed, erected houses, buildings, and sheds on the land, and fixed all the machinery and plant requisite for the general working of the mine. All the buildings were on the surface land, and this, together with the other land of the mine, formed the subject of the rate. The appellants were the surviving grantees under the deed, and shareholders of the company, of which Thomas Kittow was purser. The question to be decided was whether the appellants were occupiers of the property, and liable to be rated? Mr. Lopes contended that there was no occupation of the soil beyond what was actually necessary for working the mine; that there was no rateable occupation at all; that everything that was conveyed by the deed was a mere privilege or licence; that no exclusive occupation was intended to be given by it; and that if there was a rateable occupation, the appellants were not the occupiers. The deed conferred a mere incorporeal hereditament, and did not in any way deal with the actual soil. The appellants had not the exclusive possession of the houses and buildings which had been erected; and if they had, that would merely authorise the rating of the land on which they stood, and not the rating of the whole of the surface land of the mine. The grantors had actually reserved to themselves the power to drive adits and make water-courses within the very limits of the mine.

Mr. Justice Blackburn: None of which have, in fact, been acted upon.

Mr. Lopes contended that the substantial intention only of the deed must be regarded. Everything that was rated was subservient to the mine. Under the Act which would come into force in January next a mine, *qua* mine, would be no longer rated, but the dues or royalty; and the rate so assessed would be payable half by the occupier and half by the landlord. The Act also provided that the occupier was to be the pursuer, whose name should be on the rate-book, and expressly said that the dues being rateable, neither the surface nor anything appertaining to the mine should be rated. Assuming that the occupation in the present case was rateable, were the appellants the occupiers?

Mr. Justice Blackburn: If they are not, who are?

Mr. Lopes submitted that he was not compelled to show that.

His Lordship considered that doing so would be an important step in the case.

Mr. Lopes argued that neither of the appellants was in the occupation of the houses; they had no interest of any kind in the soil. The mine had probably been in existence for two thousand years, and up to the present time no rate had ever been levied upon it.

His Lordship: Then it is time that one should be put on. We will hear argument, but cannot be influenced by assertion.

Mr. Lopes had no intention to make an assertion which was not justified by the facts.

His Lordship, without calling upon Sir H. James, Q.C., and Mr. Poland, delivered judgment in favour of the Assessment Committee. A dictum of Mr. Justice Bailey had given rise to the idea that because a mine was not rateable the other things along with it were not. That was a mistake; and where there was an exclusive occupation of land, though it was for the purpose of assisting to work the mine, the land so occupied was rateable. He would assume in favour of the appellants that the deed itself contained nothing but a licence; nevertheless, *de facto*, those acting under it had been permitted to erect houses, buildings, sheds, steam-engines, and machinery, and to make tram and other roads. The appellants were in occupation of those things by their servants, and they were rateable for that at all events.

The other judges concurring, the appeal was dismissed

THE PRICE OF SHEEP IN TASMANIA.—The sheep farmers of Tasmania seem to occupy the proud position of possessing the flocks to which the sheep farmers in the other colonies look for stud animals to improve their breeds. Our Gibsons, Taylors, Kermodes, Fields, Archers, and Tooseys, are names as familiar in the other colonies, in connection with the highest class breeds of sheep, as they are in Tasmania, and others of our sheep farmers are fast treading on their heels. The great suitability of our climate is being turned to the best account by a careful selection of pure stock, and an equally careful attention to their flocks, till the very fact of a sheep being Tasmanian imparts a certain additional value. We are led to make these remarks by the very satisfactory result, so far as yet ascertained, of a sale of pure sheep at Melbourne, that was looked forward to with considerable interest throughout Victoria, and even in the other colonies. An advertisement by Messrs. Powers, Rutherford and Co., the well-known auctioneers, occupied a column in the Melbourne papers with a list of high-class sheep entrusted to them for sale. Among the owners of stock advertised for sale, we find names well-known in Victoria, but the greater number were Tasmanian, including Messrs. W. Gibson and Son, James Gibson, W. H. Gibson, T. D. Toosey, W. Archer, Wm. Field, James Brock, Geo. Wilson, W. Dodery, and R. Jones. Our Melbourne correspondent's telegram informs us that Mr. William Field's pure Leicester ewes were sold at prices reaching up to £21 10s. We were shown a private telegram, received on Saturday, by the Hon. James Whyte, which stated prices received by Mr. James Gibson, unprecedented in the colonies. Mr. Gibson advertised "his far-famed stud, pure merino ram, 'Sir Thomas,' one of the grandest sires in the colonies, and in every respect a most perfect sheep." That Sir Thomas' qualifications were not over-stated was shown by the price realised. Seven hundred and fourteen pounds (£714) for one sheep! Mr. James Gibson also offered for sale 150 stud rams by Sir Thomas and Goldendrop, and other rams the progeny of Sir Thomas. The first 26 offered averaged £53 per head. One word as to the Scab Act. That piece of legislation has been found fault with as harsh and unjust. Perhaps it has made careless sheepowners pay for their carelessness, but had there been no Scab Act, would Sir Thomas have been allowed to enter Victoria, or, if allowed admission, how far would he have fallen short of £714?—*The Hobart Town Mercury.*

THE SHORTHORN SOCIETY.—Expression is just now being given to a very strong feeling of dissatisfaction at the treaty for the purchase of *The Herd Book* having fallen through; and it has been suggested that the new Society should forthwith make arrangements for publishing it own *Shorthorn Register*, in which, of course, there would be room for improvement on the present cumbrous system of preserving stock pedigrees.

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A SATISFIED FARMER.

Having learned a trade in boyhood (though born on a farm near Boston) I worked at it until, in 1834, I then concluded to "go west" in search of better fortune. A journey of fifteen days brought me to Buffalo, and in the winter of 1835-6 I purchased 130 acres of land at 25 dollars per acre, which, as it was a time of general inflation, was regarded an extremely high price. I paid 200 dollars down, and borrowed money to make further payments in the spring. The farm was mostly woods, with a poor log house; about fifteen acres cleared and fenced, and about three miles from the village. Not a very inviting residence. I took possession in 1836; hired a man and set him to clearing, fencing, &c. During the following winter I got off some wood and timber. About this time the great bubble burst with a tremendous crash, and business all closed up. I waited patiently till the spring of 1838, but nothing turned up for me. I was not quite ready to encounter the cares of the new home, being all unacquainted with farm life, but after looking the subject squarely in the face, decided to make the attempt, though not without some doubt and misgiving. But necessity overcame all objections, for which I have ever been thankful; and I proceeded at once to build a small shell of a house, 18 by 26 feet, enclosed with good sound matched boards, without plastering or paint. My wife contrived to paper neatly, with the various kinds of newspapers, which answered the double purpose of keeping the cold out and educating our children. We were now about to take possession of what we expected in due time, to make a comfortable home; yet under the circumstances, the outlook was not very encouraging. Our family consisted of myself, 44 years old, wife, 40, and five children—the eldest a daughter about 13, three sons and an infant daughter, not a very formidable force to begin with on a new farm. My capital was small, not exceeding 500 dols. cash; a credit always available when wanted; furniture sufficient to make us comfortable; strong, willing hands, and a young, growing family. I hired a man, took off my coat, and went to work in earnest. The year previous I had made some little progress in clearing, fencing, &c., which, by-the-way, cost 15 dols. to 20 dols. per acre. Our first available cash crop was 100 cords of wood, at 1 dol. 12½c. per cent., and what little could be retailed in the village at 1 dol. 25c. Oak timber—but little, however, of that—at from 70 dols. to 80 dols. per cubic thousand; very little money in either after paying expenses. The first permanent improvement was a "bank" barn 40 by 100 feet, with stables under the whole. Next, a good substantial stone house, suitable for all purposes of comfort and convenience. In 1848 to 1850 I had paid up the first purchase and bought thirty acres adjoining, for which I was to pay 25 dols. per acre, which was paid in due time. About this time my eldest son became of age, and proposed looking for something better. He did so, and spent several months, and returned fully satisfied, and went to work with the understanding if the boys wanted farms our united efforts would be more available than separate. This was all the arrangement made with my sons, who were expected to remain at home and take their chance on the farm, and here commenced our co-operative farming. We then had four sons, the second studying for a profession; the third, fourteen years old, who was expected to remain on the farm. In 1852 and 1853 we had made good progress, and were getting on quite well. In August, 1853, we were checked by the burning of our barn, with all our wheat, hay and most of our farming tools. Here I would remark that, in addition to our former capital, a windfall came into the family of 2,000 dols, which assisted in rebuilding the barn, which we commenced at once on a more approved plan, 56 by 76 feet, with basement stables for some thirty head, and good root cellar. Now, as opportunity offered, from this time to 1857, we purchased 410 acres of land, for which we were to pay some 21,000 dollars. This for a time insured a tax of 3 dollars per day interest. The next purchase was a house and lot in the village, for 1,200 dollars; then a little more land that adjoined us, which we coveted and purchased; then, from 1861 to 1865, we bought 171 acres more, which cost about 11,000 dollars, and was the last purchase of real estate. In 1866 my sons were both married. The younger settled in his new home, which cost about 7,000 dollars, and the eldest took possession, in the spring of 1867, of his building, estimated at about 10,000 dollars. It now became necessary to make a division, and we proceeded to do so, with the following result: The farm on which we commenced in 1838, contained 130 acres. Previous to our division we had sold 15 acres, for which we received an advance of about 700 dollars.

	Dollars.
We had added by purchase, 610 acres, making in all 740, for which we had paid a fraction less than 50 dollars per acre	36,778
Permanent improvements, buildings, &c. on homestead	7,000
For the first son married and settled about	7,000
For the other, in spring of 1867	10,000
Loss by fire	4,000
Educating two sons professionally	3,000
Two substitutes for army	1,400
House and lot in village	1,200
Stock and tools	4,600
Cash on hand, permanent improvements, &c.	4,500
Total	79,478

Now for the result as far as the boys are interested. They have performed their part faithfully and perseveringly to the end, and should be well paid. They leave for their new homes with good warranty deeds for 560 acres of choice land, with all fixtures and appurtenances thereto belonging, stock, tools, and well and handsomely located, worth at least 75,000 dols. If my sons, when they became of age, had wanted and obtained situations as clerks in some respectable, well-established business, they should have received for their services, each, 3,500 dols. per year, to have balanced their receipts from the farm, and then they would not have had comforts and privileges as at home, with few exceptions, besides the exposure and influence of city life, and probably been no better, if so well educated for the common business of life. Now let the boys who are looking forward to that end, remember that nothing really valuable can be obtained without well-directed, persevering effort, and that a well-developed brain is very essential to that end; that mother earth always pays liberally and promptly for well-directed labour, and that seed-time and harvest have never failed. As the subject of temperance is being so fully and freely discussed, I will say that in early life I adopted the motto, "Taste not, touch not, the unclean thing." When I commenced farming, I was told that harvesting could not be done or a building raised without its use. I have, however, done all my harvesting, raised several large barns, some of them requiring the services of one hundred men, and carried out all our operations on the farm without its use, to the fullest extent. I am aware that some of my brother-farmers may be a little incredulous as regards my statements, without some further explanation. I would say that our forests were disappearing, so I was induced to purchase largely of heavy woodland, on which was a very good limestone quarry, suitable for building purposes and for lime, all of which we made available for both purposes. We converted some 400 or 500 acres of this timber into cord-wood, &c., and from 1854 to 1868 put into market from 1,000 to 1,500 cords yearly. We cleared and cultivated as we proceeded, and in so doing we kept as many men and teams as would pay all the time. Our winter crop was the most productive and profitable, yet the farm furnished the means and results, as before stated. Now, as I am about to bring my long, rambling story to a close, I will only add that in this record of my farming operations I have endeavoured to show results and not particulars, and that a good practical mechanic in middle life might change his business, if he has a desire and taste for farming, and in the end be successful. As a whole, he is better qualified, can plan, lay out, and execute better. I have raised good crops of the various kinds, and some not so good. In 1863 I had ninety acres of wheat which promised a large return, but after thrashing six days with ten-horse power, I got only 600 bushels. If the midge had let me alone

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the first thrashing should have yielded more than 2,000 bushels. Here we were short 3,300 dollars. The straw from forty acres, seventy-three tons, sold for 730 dollars. But similar losses happen alike to all, and who but farmers will feed the insects and birds?—*An Octogenarian, in the New England Farmer.*

THE AGRICULTURE OF ALGERIA.

One of the best of the French generals is now engaged in administering the affairs of Algeria, a country where soldiers in the highest grades of the army with doubtful politics, or suspected lack of zeal for the existing state of affairs, whether Orleanist, Republican, or Bonapartist, have been made to pass a period of honourable banishment. The sombre weird-like scenery, with the flitting Arabs and the life on the plains or hills, is said, however, to work a fascination upon all who have passed their time in African service; and to the influence upon the *morale* of the privates and officers whilst serving there was attributed some share in the disasters that recently befell the army of France. By competent observers it has been thought that the mission of colonisation has been fulfilled, and that sentiments too depreciatory of French occupation have been entertained. The restoration to civilisation of this former empire of the Mediterranean is a task worthy of a nation that is more than any other impressed with the desire to rival the great actions of antiquity.

The portion most favourable for cultivation stretches in a belt along the sea coast, and is protected from the intolerable heat of the desert by the ranges of the Lesser and Greater Atlas, whose sides are clothed with magnificent forests and their summits capped with snow. The Tell, as it is called, contains not less than thirty millions of acres, of which about ten to twelve millions are planted with the cereals. Here the principal markets are held, and the inhabitants of the interior resort thither at certain seasons of the year, to join in the harvesting of the grain, and to purchase or exchange their varied productions. The land, although very fertile, remains untilled in many places, for the want of settled occupiers, the natives being of a migratory character. It is usual to plough and sow in October, and if the rains fall in abundance during April a good crop is tolerably certain, and the harvest takes place at the end of May or the beginning of June. The plough is the same as that used in Spain and Provence, but not shod with iron; it is drawn by cows and asses, very rarely by horses, yet with such an imperfect implement the crops are generally excellent. When reaped, the grain is trodden out by cattle or horses, and after being cleaned, by throwing it up against the wind is deposited in subterranean caves or magazines. The wheat mostly grown is the *Triticum durum*, this hard wheat of Algeria being much esteemed in European markets for the manufacture of maccaroni, vermicelli, and other *pâtes*: the gluten which forms the essential element for the transformation into maccaroni exists in greater quantities than in that of other countries, even in that of Taganrog and Sicily. The variety of barley cultivated by the natives, and which the Europeans have adopted as the most productive, is the *Hordeum noxusticum;* but other kinds have been sown with success. There being no oats grown, it is used as food for mules and horses, but the poor classes eat it too: it is also grown as forage, either to be cut green, or made into hay. Algerian barley is well adapted for the manufacture of malt liquors.

Amongst the mountains of the Atlas, which extend to the interior and terminate in the Sahara, there are immense plateaux, where agriculture is an absolute impossibility, but the breeding of sheep supplies the colony with one of the great sources of wealth. Before the Conquest, the Arabs reaped hardly any advantage from their flocks, save their own subsistence, as they were to a great extent cut off from a market on the sea coast by the rapacity of the intervening tribes. For some years after the Conquest, 2s. or 3s. was considered a fair price for a sheep; even five or six years ago, one could be purchased at the market near Algiers for from 9s. to 11s.; now a similar beast fetches from 16s. to 20s., and when sent to Paris by rapid steam transport it realises from 32s. to 40s.; and in summer more than 20,000 sheep are thus sent to France every month. The sheep are of two kinds: one small with a thick large tail, the other of much larger size, chiefly found in the country of the Getulæ. The fine Tunisian breed are not to be met with. The cattle usually are black; their milk is inferior to that of European cattle; that of the sheep and goats—the latter animals being numerous—is most used in making cheese and butter. The Arabs seldom diminish their flocks by killing them for food, but live on their milk and wool. The common beasts of burden are camels, dromedaries, asses, and mules. The horses are not always, nor even often of the pure Arab breed, not altogether well shaped, being lanky and round shouldered, small and not ill-formed, ear erect, and they are hardy, fleet, spirited, and docil. Those of Oran are considered the best: they are used for riding, and like the camels are reared and live in the tents with their masters.

The average head of cattle is a million and a-half. The cultivation of cereal crops will ever stand at the head of Algerian agriculture. There is a perpetual outlet for its superfluity. England alone would take what Algeria has to spare; and where these provinces made to rise to their utmost limits, they are believed capable of producing 220 million bushels of cereals annually. The French are at present making strenuous attempts to colonise, by offering inducements to the former residents of Alsace and Loraine, and an exposition of industry has been projected to take place in the autumn of next year, that will prove a source of attraction to the visitors from other countries. The difficulties which the European population have to encounter in their dealings with the natives are almost insurmountable, and often result in uprisings and rebellions, which greatly retard the progress of the country. The habits of the Arab are such that being a man of pre-eminently few wants, he can well afford to sell his labour at a low figure, asking 1 f. 50 c. per day, when the European demands 2 f. 50 c. But the Arab's highest motive is avarice: he refuses himself substantial nourishment, the result of which is a visible failing of physical power. He is unable to continue any one kind of work which will require the consecutive employment of any single set of muscles for more than a couple of hours at a stretch; and unfortunately there is no combination of agricultural labour which will admit of constant change of occupation. His absolute ignorance also becomes a stumbling block to a proper execution of a task, as well as his unutterable laziness. By those who have seen him at work he is described as being awkward with the pick, more awkward with the hoe, whilst his habit of going barefoot effectually prevents his working with a spade. The plough he holds loosely with one hand, while with the other he goads the bulls, whose business it is to drag it over the soil. When we consider that the Arab's paradise is to bask in the sun, and smoke and wrangle, we

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can well imagine to ourselves the labourer he makes. The European colonist must, therefore, turn watch-dog, and stand over his Arab labourer, if the task that he has set himself to do in the restoration of the ancient border lands of Carthage can ever be made capable of accomplishment.

COUNTY BUSINESS AND COUNTY BOARDS.

At a meeting of the Winfrith Farmers' Club a very general opinion was expressed that "with regard to the landlord and tenant bill and various other subjects, such as local taxation and the malt-tax, differ as they might do thereon, they would not be fairly represented until they had a Minister of Agriculture." And at a meeting of the Norfolk Chamber of Agriculture, only two days afterwards, a strong majority, in a full meeting, was in favour of the establishment of County Boards, altogether apart from Quarter Sessions, "to manage matters relating to bridges, lunatics, weights and measures, with jurisdiction under the health act, and of course under the contagious diseases of animals act, as well as with the roads to look after." The resolution termed this a County Committee, but Mr. Sewell Read spoke directly to the more familiar title of a County Board for the administration of county rates.

There is a straightforward simplicity of action, as here recommended by the Norfolk Chamber, which comes in favourable contrast to the more fussy and less weighty proceedings of similar associations. In so many words, there should be county roads maintained by county rates, and managed by county committees, further empowered to undertake other matters, independent of magistrates' business, or, to put it plainly, out of magistrates' hands. And yet it is very doubtful whether this way of cutting the Gordian knot by the Alexander of Agriculture will have the approval of the Central Chamber, as clearly for this reason: the magistrates or landlords are at heart loath to lose any of their local power, and, as Mr. Hutchings puts it, "the Chambers are overshadowed and their freedom crushed by the influence of the landlords." There can be no possible mistake as to the position taken by the leaders of the country party. Mr. Henley, the very Mentor of the Commons, and long the chairman of a bench, has maintained that "they have managed their affairs very smoothly;" while Lord Hampton, the Telemachus of the Lords, has declared that "there is nothing to complain of in the internal management of the affairs of our counties, no extravagance, and no mismanagement;" Sir Mathew Ridley, that "the financial business in every county of England by a numerous body of gentlemen has long been performed to the advantage and satisfaction of the public," and so on. All this was said some years since, but it will be certainly interesting to hear now what Lord Hampton, Mr. Chaplin, and other heads of the school may say on their next appearance in Salisbury Square.

There was read, also some years since, at the Farmers' Club a paper advocating the establishment of County Boards, which was so far adopted by the Club that a copy of it was at once sent to every member of the Upper and Lower Houses; and in this a petition was quoted which went very much to say that which Mr. Read said in Norwich, as well as what some other people are saying all over the country. Thus, the petition served to show how "the amount of county taxation has very much increased;" how "taxation without representation is entirely at variance with the principles of a free constitution;" and, wherefore, "your honourable House will be pleased to enact a measure for the separation of the financial from the judicial duties of county justices, and to appoint county finance boards, in which the ratepayers may be fairly represented, for the management of county finances." Mr. Read's advice or argument ran precisely in this course, but we think it will be found that he spoke more after the manner of the London Farmers' Club than the London Chamber of Agriculture.

At any rate here is an opportunity. No one who has studied any of these questions will care to deny that local taxation, the highways, and cattle diseases would be all the better for efficient, or in other words duly recognised local direction. We shall venture to assume that no farmer will dare to oppose any proposal for the establishment of County Boards; as on the other hand it will be good to see how many are prepared to openly support such a movement. Highway boards, Cattle-disease Committees and so forth will be very poor shifts or substitutes for that concentrated control, of which some people are already fighting shy. At a meeting of the Central Chamber in the Spring it was distinctly stated that since his accession to office, Mr. Sewell Read had thrown cold water on the cause, that he was muzzled, and so on. Since then the honourable gentleman has explained that he has been doing all he can to advance agriculture with the Government, and now he broaches, or revives a proposal which should be the very foundation of something more, as affording to the farmers more power and more representation. For this very reason we repeat the movement will be distasteful to many of the landlords who have either avoided or declared against it. Of course, we do not know whether the Chamber will go for County Boards on Tuesday, but if such a principle be avoided or smothered in mere verbiage, then Mr. Read to right himself should give notice of a distinct yea-or-nay motion on the subject, if only in order to ascertain who is now muzzled, who is throwing cold water on the cause, who is prepared to thoroughly support, carefully stay away, or sit tongue-tied under any county member's opposition to County Boards.

A report on a Government Department for Agriculture will be presented on Tuesday; but one should lead up to the other, and a central office without local machinery would be manifestly imperfect. Of course an Agricultural Department and a Minister of Agriculture, as talked of at the Winfrith Club, should mean much the same thing; but of late this has not been very becomingly put about. Since the site of the foreign market was selected the Government, whether as represented by Mr. Forster or the Duke of Richmond, or the staff, or, further, through the City of London, has never done anything right. Time even has not tempered the discomfiture, and in Dorsetshire but a week or so since the meeting heard how the Corporation paid a premium for the site of the London market to the proprietor of a skittle-alley, and how this man was a friend of the solicitor of the Admiralty. But then it is only human nature that people should be looking after premiums, and if the game of skittles was won it was probably lost. But this is scarcely the line to take over a Government Department In any case the first and most available step should be towards the establishment of County Boards, as it is only to be hoped that the council of the Chamber will not feel it necessary to refer this matter to a Committee of Inquiry.

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THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAYS.

At a meeting on Monday of the Devon and Cornwall Chamber of Agriculture at Liskeard, the MAYOR in the chair, in introducing the subject, remarked upon the many questions connected with agriculture which required to be discussed, with a view to elicit opinions and arrive at the best conclusions. The subject of large and small farms was one of these. The exigencies of modern farming rendered improved implements necessary, and these were costly, and could be only afforded by those who farmed a large quantity of ground. On the other hand he often saw very large farms under very indifferent cultivation, large tracts of ground enclosed by hedges, it is true, but in a state very little better than sheep runs; and certainly it would be very much to the advantage of the community if these farms were cut in two. With respect to highways, they must have good roads; but the question was who was to pay for maintaining them, and how? Good roads were costly things, but they paid themselves in diminished horse-power required, and smaller saddlers', blacksmiths', and wheelwrights' bills.

Mr. HENRY STEEL (Bicton) in proposing the first resolution, said that the speedy abolition of turnpike trusts was a foregone conclusion. In many places it had already been done, others, like that of Liskeard, the trusts had been renewed for only a limited period—seven years. But it must be a wasteful system in which one-third the proceeds of the pikes were absorbed in cost of collection, and it was a great annoyance to be stopped every now and then to pay a small sum at a gate. Certainly such a system is quite opposed to the reforming spirit of the age. At present any district could join a highway board under the Acts of 1862 and 1864, and this had been very generally done, especially in the West of England. But he urged that they should be made universal and compulsory, and that as soon as possible. The cost of maintaining the roads has been certainly greater under highway boards than before, but the condition of the roads was infinitely better, and a few would like to return to the condition of things existing before 1862. The Highways Boards Acts were capable of amendment it was true, the system of audit should be improved, and the date of the expiry of the offices of the waywardens should be made so co-terminous with the expiry of the financial year. But on the whole, they had worked so well that he desired to see them at once, if possible, supersede the turnpike trusts. He therefore moved—"That it is expedient that the remaining turnpike trusts be abolished as speedily as possible, and the formation of highway boards be made compulsory."

Mr. S. ROSEVERE seconded the motion, pointing out the unfair way in which the system of turnpikes operated, and the waste which resulted from such a mode of collection.

Mr. LUSCOMBE opposed the resolution. He could not see what it mattered to the farmers what the cost of collection was so long as they had not to pay for it.

Mr. TREMAYNE, M.P., reminded the last speaker that when the amount raised by tolls did not suffice for the repair of the roads, the magistrates were empowered to raise a rate to supplement it; and in some places, St. Austell for instance, this was actually done.

Mr. N. ROSEVERE supported the resolution. He was able in his neighbourhood to use the turnpike road without paying toll; but this was not equitable to the public generally; and dealing with the matter on a broad principle a rate would be more just and advantageous.

The Rev. R. MARTIN, of Menheniot, pointed out that when the turnpike roads were thrown on the rates it would be very unfair to burden the parishes through which the turnpike roads happened to pass with the cost of maintaining them.

It was explained that under the scheme proposed by the Chamber the cost would be borne by a general rate, spread equally over the whole district.

Mr. TREMAYNE having given the motion his support, it was put and carried, with only three dissentients.

Mr. PRYN, of Callington, moved, "That there be only one class of roads (private roads excepted), and that all roads be maintained from the common fund raised by the highway boards, as at present constituted." He urged that the work of maintaining the roads could be carried out much better by highway boards than by county magistrates in quarter sessions. He did not see why the whole work could not be done with one staff of officials and surveyors and clerks, and he believed in the long run it would cost them less for rates than for turnpike tolls. They ought to look at the matter patriotically, as to what was best for the whole country and not for individuals.

Mr. G. DEWDNEY supported the motion, urging that it would be more economical and in every way beneficial that all the roads within every highway district should be under one staff and maintained from a common fund. He enforced his remarks by citing the experience of his own district, where they had taken over thirty miles of turnpike-road.

Mr. SOBEY explained the meaning of the motion, the wording of which he thought to be obscure.

Mr. PROUT urged that in the proposed taking over the turnpike-roads and throwing the burden of them on the rates, it should not be forgotten that many farms had been rented on the basis of the supposition that no such burden existed or would be placed on the farms, and a higher rent was paid in consequence of this immunity. To saddle such farms with additional cost would be unfair, unless allowance were made for it.

Mr. S. ROSEVERE had come to the conclusion that two distinct classes of roads should be maintained, and not all roads be merged into one class. On the chief roads thousands of persons travel who derive more benefit from those roads than the persons who would pay rates to support them. At the same time there was something in the argument that the repair of the roads could be effected more economically by one staff of officials than by two, and it had occurred to him that this might be done, and yet the payment of that repair be derived from different funds—one for the first class, and one for the second class roads.

Mr. N. STEPHENS said that it appeared to him to be a sound principle that "those who daneed should pay the fidler," or, as in this case, that those who used the roads should pay for the use of them. Now the fairest way to do that would be to devote to the repair of the road a tax on carriages and horses—a gradiated scale of taxes would be most equitable. But as the horse-tax had been abolished by Government, for which he was very sorry, he would apply to this purpose the tax on carriages, for certainly he did not see why those who had no vehicles, and did not use the roads, should contribute to their maintenance as much as those who did use them.

The motion was then put and carried, only two or three hands being raised against it.

Mr. PRATT, of Buckland, moved "That the funds now raised by licences on carriages be transferred to the county treasurer, in order that they may be distributed *pro rata* among the Highway Boards." They had heard that the amount at present raised by taxes on carriages was £520,000. He contended that while Government received so substantial a sum as the result of taxes on carriages, the burden of the whole cost of maintaining the roads should not be borne by the ratepayers, but this half-a-million ought to be handed over for their relief. A tax on carriages he thought a very good tax, as it was a tax on luxuries—they saw many luxurious equipages rolling along their roads—as distinct from a tax on industry. Government, through Mr. Clare Read, had asked them as practical men to chalk out for them some way in which this great and important question should be dealt with. The council of the Devon and Cornwall Chamber had arrived at this in their solution of the difficulty; the Central Chamber had arrived at a different conclusion, but perhaps it might hereafter change its opinion, when they saw what the views of the country chambers were. It was felt at Callington, when this subject was last discussed, that if the highways were all transferred to the Boards, and maintained by rates, many who now paid for the roads, and who ought to pay, would be altogether relieved of the taxes. This would be remedied by the adoption of the proposal which he had the honour to move.

Mr. PROUT seconded the motion. He contended that if the tolls were removed, the assessed taxes on carriages should be devoted to the purposes to which the tolls were formerly

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put. That, indeed, was the only way they had of getting hold of some persons who used the roads, and who did not pay rates. There were many lodgers, for instance, who took their drives in hired carriages, and how, except in that way, were they to be made to pay their share for the injury done to the roads? If assessed taxes on carriages were still paid, it was immaterial to those who paid whether the amount went to the repair of the roads or to the Government. They had been told that the taxes on carriages amounted to about a quarter of a million, and the total receipts of turnpikes to about two millions. Surely it was not too much for Government to pay them back from the imperial exchequer the quarter part of what the turnpikes had realised, and this was just what the taxes on carriages had produced.

Mr. STEPHENS asked what reason could be adduced for maintaining the tax on carriages which did not equally apply, maintaining the taxes on horses?

Mr. GROSER (Plymouth) had not intended to take part in the proceedings, but as a member of the sub-committee of the council which had drawn up these resolutions, it might be well that he should point some of the difficulties with which they had found the subject to be surrounded. It had been laid down as an axiom by Mr. Stephens that the user of a road should pay for its maintenance, and that therefore the assessed duties on carriages ought to be maintained and applied to the repair of roads. But who was the user of a road? Everyone was, in fact, a user for whose use anything was drawn over the roads. A householder, although he himself owned no vehicle, required supplies, say of coals. They were drawn for his use, not in his own carts, but in the vehicles of the coaldealer. But the consumer was really the user of the road, for he paid for the cartage and all the expenses attending on the cartage. If the cart in coming to him passed through a turnpike-gate the cost of traversing the turnpike-road was paid by the purchaser of the coals in the shape of tolls. If the turnpike-gate were abolished and the cost of the repair of the roads thrown on the rates, the consumer of the coals would still pay, not in the form of tolls, but in the form of rates. No assessed tax on carriages, therefore, was necessary to make him pay; but if there were an assessed tax on the cart that brought coals to him, although nominally paid by the dealer, the consumer would really pay it in the form of an enhanced price charged for his coals. So with all other commodities, although, perhaps, in a less marked degree. Again, it had been said by Mr. Prout that an asserted tax on carriages or turnpike tolls were necessary, in order to get at the lodger who rode out in hired vehicles, and did not pay rates. But surely that was not so. The livery-stable from which the lodger's vehicle was hired would be rated, and pay its quota for the repair of roads. The amount so paid as rates would increase the livery-stable keeper's expenses, a fact he would be sure to remember when making his charge to the lodger for the use of the carriage. The same would be true, but not more true, of any payment in the form of assessed taxes. The user, be he ratepayer or lodger, would one way or another be "got at," and would pay his share. Again, Mr. Pratt had depreciated taxes on industries, and said that an assessed tax on carriages was a right one, because it was a tax on luxuries—the use of luxurious carriages on roads. But he (Mr. Groser) thought they would find that if they were to have roads kept up by the rates, assisted by taxes on vehicles, that vehicles used for industries must be taxed as well as others. He would illustrate what he meant by referring to the case of mines, although clay works or manufactories would be equally to the point. Supposing a mine were opened in the middle of a moor, and a tramway were made to convey material to and fro. Would they say that such a tramway, used for the enrichment of one set of adventurers, should be maintained from the highway rates? Of course not. If, instead of a tramway, a private road were made, still they would say that the cost of that road, cut up by the mine carts, should not be paid from the rates. But if the mine were started close to an existing highway already maintained from the rates, and it were cut up by the incessant cartage from the mine? What then? It would still be a public road, but it would be a road used to an excessive degree for the private benefit of one set of speculators, who would hope to realise a profit from the use of that public road for their own purposes. No ordinary assessment to the poor-rates would touch them adequately, for, perhaps, the mine would not be paying dues on which assessment could be levied. Some special form of taxation; perhaps an assessed tax on carriages would be necessary. But then the farmers must be prepared to have their own farm vehicles, which were at present exempt, taxed also, for they did the same thing, although perhaps in a less marked degree. Yet this would be a tax on industry, and undoubtedly in the abstract all taxes on locomotion were undesirable. It was a national advantage to have good roads, great arteries of communication, and Government might fairly be asked to assist by a contribution. Whether that contribution should be by continuing and making over an assessed tax on carriages for the purpose, or by making a direct *pro rata* grant from the imperial exchequer, derived from the ordinary sources, was a question of detail; he should, on the whole, prefer the latter. He apologised for speaking at so much length, but he desired to show that the matter was by no means a simple and easy one, which could be settled by a few axioms, and that other considerations were involved than those which appeared on the surface.

The motion was carried unanimously.

STOCK SALES.

SHORTHORNS AND CLYDESDALES AT KEIR.

The property of Sir W. STIRLING MAXWELL, M.P.

BULLS.

Lord Errant, roan, calved 16th August, 1873, by Mr. Booth's Banner Bearer.—Sir W. Gordon Cumming, of Altyre, 63 gs.

Banner Keeper, roan, calved 16th Sept., 1873, by Mr. Booth's Banner Bearer.—Viscount Strathallan, 35 gs.

Fawsley, roan, calved 2nd Feb., 1874, by Keir Butterfly 9th, —Mr. A. Scott, Towie-Barclay, 61 gs.

Master Towneley, white, calved 24th Aug., 1873, by Keir Butterfly 9th.—Mr. Menzies, Tullochville, 34 gs.

Cherry Prince, red, calved 12th Jan., 1874, by Keir Butterfly 9th.—Mr. Fleming, Coates, 28 gs.

Dalzell, red, calved 22nd June, 1874, by Mr. Booth's Banner Bearer.—Mr. Currie, Halkerton, 38 gs.

Flower Lad, roan, calved 24th Dec., 1873, by Keir Butterfly 9th.—Mr. Michell, Greenyards, 28 gs.

HEIFERS.

Banner Lass, red and white, calved 3rd May, 1873, by Mr. Booth's Banner Bearer.—Mr. Cruickshank, Sittyton, 35 gs.

Lady Melville, red, calved 27th July, 1873, by Red Duke (29731).—Mr. Cruickshank, 38 gs.

Rose Flower, roan, calved 2nd Nov., 1873, by Mr. Booth's Banner Bearer.—Col. Williamson, of Lawers, 70 gs.

Isabella, roan, calved 10th Sept., 1873, by Mr. Booth's Banner Bearer.—Mr. Campbell, Kinnellar, 29 gs.

Banner Maid, red, calved 26th April, 1874, by Mr. Booth's Banner Bearer.—Mr. Cruickshank, 50 gs.

CLYDESDALES.

Bay filly, two years old, by Sir R. Bruce.—Col. Williamson 131 gs.

Brown filly, two years old, by Conqueror.—Mr. Riddell, Kilbowie, 55 gs.

Bay filly, one-year-old, by Mr. Riddell's Old Times.—Mr Riddell, 82 gs.

Bay filly, one year-old, by Prince of Wales or Old Times.—Mr. Riddell, 43 gs.

Brown filly, one-year-old, by Flower of Monteith. — Mr. Riddell, 35 gs.

Brown filly, foaled 22nd April, 1874, by the Keir horse Derby. —Mr. Campbell, 41 gs.

Bay filly, foaled 13th May, 1874, by the Keir horse Derby.—Mr. Whyte, Cluniterty, by Aberdeen, 44 gs.

Brown filly, foaled 30th May, 1874, by the Keir prize horse Newstead.—Mr. Marr, Cairnbrogie, 47 gs.

Bay colt, foaled 27th April, 1873, by the Keir horse Newstead. —Mr. Riddell, 92 gs.

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Bay colt, foaled 16th April, 1874, by the Keir horse Derby.—Mr. Smith, Castlemains, 61 gs.

Bay colt, foaled 19th May, 1874, by the Keir horse Derby.—Mr. Riddell, 30 gs.

Brown colt, foaled 6th May, 1874, by the Keir horse Derby.—Mr. Marr, 50 gs.

Brown colt, foaled 9th May, 1874, by the Keir prize horse Newstead.—Mr. Swan, Moat Mill, 31½ gs.

Grey filly, foaled 21st May, 1874, by the thorough-bred horse Mesmer.—Mr. W. Forrest, Allanton, 18 gs.

Sixty sheep, Leicester tup lambs, ranged from £1 to £4 15s.; average, £2 1s. 2d. 34 ewe lambs, in lots of two, brought from £1 to £4 15s.; average, £2 0s. 9d. 6 cast ewes fetched from 17s 6d. to £2 7s. 6d. Two fancy black sheep (tup and ewe) brought £4 15s. each. A number of pigs from prize breeds sold at prices ranging from £1 10s. to £6 17s. 6d.

MR. MARR'S SHORTHORN BULLS AT UPPERMILL, N.B.—The total proceeds of the sale amounted to £1,113, giving an average price for 31 animals of £35 18s., which is £6 1s. 6d. per head more than the prices of last year.

LORD CHESHAM'S SALE OF JERSEYS AT LATIMER, ON OCTOBER THE 29TH, BY SEDGWICK AND SON.—Lord Chesham has for many years paid great attention to the Jerseys as a dairy stock. Mr. Fowler supplied good animals long since, and there were also purchasers at the sales of Mr. Selby Loundes, Mr. Dauncey, and Mr. Duncan's stocks. Lord Braybrooke, whose Jersey herd has been in existence for man's allotted three score years and ten, dipped into the Latimer by using Chesham, and a son of his went to Lord Dacre, who bred the Baron; this bull took first prizes at the Royals at Cardiff and Hull, and left some capital whole-coloured calves; but breeders were not for him, though his strength and masculine character would still make him useful as a stud bull. Mr. Wright, butcher bought him at 25gs. The cows were shown in a corner of the Park near the Dell Farm. Several were old and blemished and an impression prevailed they were a cull lot. Still on the whole there were some very good specimens, and they made respectable prices. The whole colour, which was a "French grey," was got by importing whole colours from the Island, but the produce came out with white marks, and Lord Chesham thinks the climate and soil had some influence. A portion only of the herd made a total of 833 guineas. There were 33 cows and heifer-calves, for which 744 guineas were realised. Of the other cows, Sunshine was purchased for 63 guineas for the foreign market, by Mr. Thornton, and Slender, by Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., for 50 guineas, while Dormouse, one of the Dauncey's, now going out of fashion, made 40 gs. to the famous Mr. Mutton, of Brighton. In addition to the cows and heifers there were ten bulls and bull-calves, of which two were withdrawn. The other eight fetched but 89 guineas in all.

THE LAW OF DISTRAINT FOR RENT.

During a rather wild discussion down in Cornwall the other day on the tenure of land, two important points were touched on which do not often receive so much attention as they should do in any consideration of this now popular subject. Mr. Symons denounced the law of distraint for rent and advocated its abolition; and Mr. Grose said the system of tendering for farms was a very bad one, for as a rule, the landlords took the men who bid the highest prices. In Scotland, certainly, a movement against hypothec is forcing itself upon the legislature; and, as we said last week, here in England we suffer from hypothec at least in a degree, or, as Mr. Symons puts it, from the law of distraint for rent.

There can, indeed, be little question but that the indifference evinced by the majority of landowners and their agents as to any proposed improvement in the system of tenure may be traced to one or the other of these two causes. Were the prior claim for rent discountenanced, of course the practice of offering farms by tender would also drop through. One, in a word, depends on the other, as, however careless the landlord may be about the tenant's security, he is tolerably sure to keep a sharp eye on his own. With the law of distraint prevailing, the owner is naturally not so particular either as to the character or means of the occupier as he would be did he stand in the same share-and-share-alike position with other creditors. His guarantee under any altered state of things would be the actual ability in purse and person of the man with whom he treated, as it would be all to the higher of the contracting parties' interest that the other started on fair terms. This is so clear, that it becomes a question whether, as in Scotland, the movement in favour of the right to the tenant to his own investments and against the landlord's prior claim for rent should not be worked simultaneously? As it is, the applicant for a farm is pretty generally at the mercy of its proprietor, who, through his steward, dictates his own conditions; and "if you do not choose to take it, somebody else will." It is highly probable that somebody else, who is not so careful in looking to his premises, may be in no respect so desirable a tenant, although he will be ready to agree to anything. On such a showing he is too often accepted simply because the landowner is ensured by the legislature against loss. If the new occupier continue to keep on so much the better, or if he fail he will not be allowed to go beyond his tether. An argument is occasionally offered that while the law of distraint exists a tenant will have more time to make use of the money, or as Mr. Major put it at Bodmin, "if the law of distraint were done away with my tenants would pay quarterly instead of yearly." The receipt, however, of a farm rent only once in the twelve months is surely very exceptional, if the payment of one half-year only when another is due be more common. Of course, such a plea as this—the use of another's capital—applies almost altogether to the needy man who would be swept away with its abolition as he has been if not created encouraged by the law of distraint. Under a more equitable and wholesome tenure the loan of half-a-year's rent should be no very weighty consideration, as the direct influence of any alteration would be the enlistment of men who could find their own money. As Mr. McNeel Caird said at the Scottish Chamber last week, "With the best tenant-farmers in Scotland, it is not the rent that troubles them; give them just security, do away with the artificial hindrances which hamper their industry, and they will not quarrel with the rent." In a word, we should by removing these artificial hindrances *establish* a better class of tenants and a better system of farming.

In a strictly commercial sense nothing could sound much worse than the law as it now stands. Men get into possession of farms mainly because they are willing to make bad bargains, and the owner and the occupier play a game at chances. But the risk here is not equal; for the landlord is playing with the money of other people, as he pays himself in full first out of a pool to which others have contributed, so soon as the tenant cannot put down his own stake. This game is called the Law of Distraint: while in another variety of the same amusement one of the players stakes his money without any rule which will ensure him a fair opportunity of ever getting it back again. And this game is known as Blind Confidence. In fact, in either case the landlord takes a very similar position to that of the Emperor of China, who when he

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sits down to whist exercises the privilege of never naming trumps until he has seen his hand.

Palpably there are great difficulties in the way of any reform here; as nothing would promise to create more indignation, either in the House of Commons or at the Chamber of Agriculture, than any proposal for the abolition of the law of distraint. The tenant-right cry is terrible enough in a landlord's ear, but the very mention of any tampering with his prior claim would be something overwhelming. Still we do not despair of his being educated up to the one or the other; and as Scotland is fast following us on the way to a tenant-right, so must we watch her attack on the abuses of hypothec.

BARLEY OR WHEAT MALT.

A very remarkable change is about to take place in the history of agriculture, consequent on the change in the value of English wheat and barley. This may be partly owing to a deficient crop of barley, but still more to the total inadequacy of other sources of supply. On the other hand, the importations of wheat have been so liberal, and our own crop also so large, that the best red wheat is selling below the best malting barley, the one being quoted at 48s., and the other at 46s. per qr. Formerly the relative normal value of barley seldom exceeded two-thirds that of wheat, and it must have been a bad crop indeed that would bring the two products near upon a par, or change to any large extent their relative values on the market. Such, however, are the transpositions produced by, first, the increase of the population, and secondly, the duty-free importations of all kinds of articles of consumption. Amongst these the new market prices of wheat and barley are in every respect the most remarkable, when we consider the *intrinsic* value of each, and that the open market of the whole world furnishes supplies. Such, however, is the scarcity of malting barley, that, with all our sources of supply from both the old and new worlds, so great is the increased demand for beer, that our brewers are again using enormous amounts of sugar or molasses as the readiest and most economic article offering itself.

But the mere 2s. per qr. plus on barley does not represent all the difference between the actual relative values of the two products. The weight of the best red wheat may be reckoned at 64lbs. per bushel whilst that of the best barley is no more than 57lbs. making a difference of 7lbs. per bushel, or 56lbs. per qr., which, if the weight of the wheat is assimilated to that of the barley, will reduce the value of the one to the extent of 6s.—that is, 456lbs. of wheat sell for only 38s. per qr., whilst the same weight of the best barley fetches 48s.—an anomaly in commerce which never occurred until the present season.

There is, however, another question to be considered in the matter—namely, the materials of which the two products are composed, and how near the quality of wheat-malt approaches to that of barley-malt. This is a most important part of the subject, and one that can only be solved by experiment and chemical analysis. The amount of saccharine matters is greater, we believe, in wheat than in barley, and the specific gravity is greater. If such be correct, a denser kind of liquor will be the result, and, therefore, a greater facility of producing intoxication; but this is partly conjecture, which, perhaps, some of our readers may be able to confirm or confute. We have certainly no reliable data to enable us to give an opinion on this part of the subject; still, it is important, because on the quality of the product in beer, and the quantity a certain proportion of wheat-malt may yield of given strength, depend any continued use; as, of course, there is further the flavour to be considered.

We have started this question, because in France a good deal of wheat-malt has already been made, and the maltsters appear to be going into the trade rather largely; some also in our own country, whilst wheat is so low and barley so high in price, are disposed to try it. The question then remains, Is it probable or possible that wheat will continue at so low or barley relatively at so high a price as to enable the maltsters to use wheat for barley? This is a matter which only time can determine, but towards the solution of which we may throw out a few hints. First, it is tolerably certain that the growers of barley abroad are large competitors for producing the best malting barley; and secondly, it is as certain that the United Kingdom cannot, either at home or abroad, supply one-half of the demands of her own breweries. Thirdly, can the cultivation of barley at home be increased by substituting that grain for wheat or other grain? Fourthly, is the importation of foreign wheat likely to continue and increase? and are the cultivators and merchants of Russia and America so satisfied both with present prices, and with the certain prospect of a market for any amount they may have to spare, so as to induce them to cultivate wheat expressly for the English market at all times and under any fluctuations in price?

The last query would look to be very easily answered. The value of land in those two countries is small, and readily attainable, while the cultivation of wheat, the principal produce, is grown in so primitive a manner, that there is always an excess of the home demand; and since England has become a customer to be depended on, the supply of wheat has, from the United States, been increased in proportion to the expected demand. In both Russia and the United States, however, a good deal depends upon the charges for carrying the grain to the ports; especially is this the case in America, where during the last year some of the railways charged the value of two bushels for the conveyance of one bushel to the nearest shipping port.

CASTLE-DOUGLAS HORSE FAIR.—The show of horses numbered about 200, and was the finest that has been seen at Castle-Douglas at a Martinmas fair for many years. Good horses were in fair demand, but inferior were difficult to sell, and brought prices from 3 to 5 per cent. lower than those current at the Roed Fair. Few farmers were seeking horses, and the most of the business done was among dealers. Messrs. R. and A. Johnstone showed a splendid stud of 60, and sold 30. They sold a beautiful four-year-old, purchased from Mr. Hunter, Leaths, to Mr. H. Crawford, at £110; two to Mr. Carselaw, Mearns, at £190; a mare at £70 to Sir Wm. Maxwell, of Cardoness; a two-year-old colt to Mr. Brown, Ingleston, at £80; a horse at £95 to Mr. Yuille, Glasgow; and upwards of twenty others at from £40 to £75. Mr. T. Currie disposed of the whole of his stud of seventeen. He bought a grey mare from Mr. Rigg, Banks, at £140, which he resold to Mr. Thomas Clark, Mearns, at £150. He sold a two-year-old colt at £65, a chesnut mare to Mr. Riddell, Kilbowie, at £85, three to Mr. John Brown, Biggar, at £70 each, a one-year-old filly to Mr. John Crawford, Beith, at £43; and others at lower prices. Mr. M. Teenan had also a fine string of draught and harness-horses, and sold a number at prices similar to the above.

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THE MANCHESTER AND SALFORD FAT STOCK SHOW.

IN THE POMONA GARDENS.

With a fat stock show already established in Manchester just about Christmas time, it is a question whether this earlier exhibition was ever required, as certainly the result does not say much for the experiment so far. In many of the leading features of such a meeting it was a most unmistakable failure. There were in all eight Herefords entered to compete in five classes, and these were so generally indifferent that not one first prize was awarded; and the judges consequently refused to admit of such a thing as a "best Hereford." There were in all three Devons entered, and in the outset the management proposed to throw over these classes altogether by returning the exhibitors their fees, but eventually the animals were allowed to come on, when Mr. Senior's ox, which has now been knocking about the country for the last two years, won. In fact, amongst the cattle the only creditable display centred over the Shorthorns and the Scotch or Scotch crosses. Messrs. Freshney, from Lincolnshire, made their mark with a Shorthorn ox, bred by Mr. Wells, of Withern, which was not only the best of his class, and the best Shorthorn but the best of all the oxen or steers; the actual awards in his class being strengthened by commendations to Mr, E. J. Howard, Nocton Rise, Lincoln; Mr. A. H. Browne. Doxford, Chathill, Northumberland; and Mr. Thomas Elliott, Hindhope, Jedburgh. Only one commendation, to Mr. J. H. Stephenson, was appended to the three prizes in the three-year-old class; while the open class of cows included two or three well-known show animals, Mr. Wells' cow now beating Moss Rose, as we contended she should have done at Northampton; but Mr. Wright's heifer, first at Northampton, was first again here, as she has also been in Lincolnshire, and, as we have written of her, always sure to be heard of in good company. There was a fair show of polled Scots, with Messrs. Martins' ox as the champion; but only two or three Highlanders and a good specimen of the Shorthorn and Poll cross shown by Mr. Adamson from Alford, backed by Mr. Statter's cross-bred cow, pronounced to be the best cow or heifer in the show.

There were only two exhibitors of Southdown sheep, two of Oxfords, none of Hampshires, and none of Lincolns. Lord Walsingham took all the three prizes against his veteran opponent Lord Sondes, who was highly commended for both pens; while the Merton flock will not be represented at Birmingham, as the extra premiums for Southdowns have this year been struck out of the Bingley Hall list. A solitary ewe did duty for the Cotswolds, but there was really a respectable entry—as things went here—of Shropshires, where Lord Chesham was still invincible, although Mrs. Beach was so close up that a referee had to be called in. The competition in the pig classes was often very limited, noticeably enough one of the best filled being that of Berkshires, which seem to be taking root in Lancashire and Cheshire.

There were further premiums for corn and roots, with an exhibition of implements, often enough of an almost ludicrously "miscellaneous" description.

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—R. Woods, Osberton, Worksop; W. Cropper, Minting House, Horncastle; F. Lythall, Offchurch, Leamington; T. H. Hutchinson, Manor House, Catterick; T. Dodds, Wakefield; J. Lynn, Stroxton, Grantham; J. Fisher, Carrhead, Leeds; W. Lort, King's Norton; B. Baxter, Elslack Hall, Skipton; H. V. Grantham, West Keal Hall, Spilsby; J. Downham, Bury; W. Hewett, Chester; J. Bradley, Leeds; J. Hicken, Dunchurch, Rugby; R. T. Smith, Whitchurch; T. Rigby, Winsford, Cheshire; A. Mills, Heywood; R. Tait, Manchester.

CATTLE.

HEREFORDS.

Ox or steer of any age exceeding three years and three months old.—First prize, withheld; second, £10, S. Miller, The Court, Abermule; third, £5, R. Everall, Woolaston Hall, Leebotwood.

Steer, not exceeding three years and three months old.—First prize, withheld; second, £10, R. Heighway, Lea Cross, Shrewsbury; third, £5, R. Wortley, Aylsham.

Steer, not exceeding two years and six months old.—First prize, withheld; second, £10, R. Heighway.

Heifers.—Third prize, £5, R. Wortley.

SHORTHORNS.

Oxen or steers of any age exceeding three years and three months.—First prize, £50, T. and J. B. Freshney, Saltfleet, Louth; second, £10, T. Lund, Monk Bar, York; third, £5, T. H. Ferris, Manningford, Marlborough.

Steer, not exceeding three years and three months old.—First prize, £30, R. Wortley, Aylsham; second, £10, E. Wortley, Ridlington; third, J. Outhwaite, Bainesse.

Steer, not exceeding four years old, bred and fed by a tenant-farmer.—First prize, £15, J. Cran, Kirkton, Inverness; second, £10, J. Nicholson, Willoughton Grange, Kirton-in-Lindsey; third, £5, J. Nicholson.

Cows.—First prize, £15, Earl of Faversham; second, £10, W. T. Wells, Withern Hall, Alford, Lincolnshire; third, £5, O. Bennion, Cresswell, Stafford.

Heifers.—First prize, £15, R. Wright, Nocton Heath, Lincoln; second, £10, T. Statter, Stand; third, £5, E. Liddell, Morris Hall, Norham, Northumberland.

DEVONS.

Cup, 50 guineas, for best Devon, T. L. Senior, Aylesbury; second prize, £10, R. H. Harris, Earnhill, Forres, N.B.

Cows or heifers.—Second prize, £10, T. L. Senior.

SCOTCH BREEDS.

Polled oxen or steers of any age.—First prize, £50, J. and W. Martin, New Market, Aberdeen; second, £10, Sir W. G. Gordon Cumming, Altyne Towers.

West Highland oxen or steers.—First prize, £20, and second, £10, T. Statter.

Cows or heifers.—First prize, £15, Sir W. C. Trevelyan; second, £5, T. L. M. Cartwright, Melville House, Lady bank, Fife.

PURE-BREEDS AND CROSS-BRED ANIMALS.

Oxen.—First prize, £50, H. D. Adamson, Balquhorne, Alford, Aberdeenshire; second, £10, T. L. Senior.

Fat steers under three years old.—First prize, £20, W. M'Combie, M.P., Tillyfour, Aberdeen; second, £10, J. Cron, Kirkton.

Fat cows or heifers.—First prize, £20, T. Statter; second, £10, J. and W. Martin, New Market, Aberdeen.

EXTRA STOCK.—Bull, cow, or heifer, of any age, breed, or variety, and not necessary to be fat stock.—First prize, £10, G. Fox, Hare Field, Wilmslow (Leeman); second, £5, and third, £3, T. Statter.

Cup of 50 gs. for best ox or steer, Messrs. Freshney (Shorthorn).

Cup of 50 gs. for best cow or heifer, Mr. Statter (cross).

SHEEP.

Cheviot wethers, three years old.—First prize, £15, Th Duke of Roxburghe; second, £10, J. M'Gill, Rotchill, Dumfries.

Cheviot wethers, not exceeding twenty-three months old.—First prize, £10, R. H. Dwire, Barney Mains, Haddington, N.B.; second, J. M'Gill.

Southdown wethers, not exceeding twenty-three month old.—First, second, and third prizes, Lord Walsingham.

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Shropshire wethers, not exceeding twenty-three months old.—First prize, £15, Lord Chesham; second, Sarah Beach; third, F. Bach, Craven Arms, Salop.

Shropshire wether.—First prize, Lord Chesham.

Pen of three fat Oxfordshire wethers.—First and second prizes, G. Street, Maulden, Ampthill; third, N. Stilgoe, Adderbury, Oxon.

Sheep not qualified to compete in other classes.—First prize, W. and G. Bird, Taunton; second, The Duke of Portland.

Cross Breeds: Pen of three fat wethers.—First prize, J. Christie, Whittingham, West Morris, Haddington; second, N. Stilgoe.

Cotswold ewe.—Silver medal, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour.

Southdown ewe.—Silver medal, Lord Sondes, Elmham.

Shropshire Ewe.—Silver medal, S. Beach.

Ewes of any pure breed.—Silver medal, R. H. Harris, Earnhill, Forres Border (Border Leicester.)

PIGS.

For the best collection of breeding pigs.—Champion cup, the Earl of Ellesmere, whose pens obtained 119 points, against Mr. P. Eden's pen of 117 points.

Large breed: Pen of five pigs of one litter, exceeding three and not exceeding six months old.—First prize, £10, and second, £5, P. Eden.

Pigs of the middle breed, five of one litter, exceeding three and not exceeding six months.—First prize, £10, P. Eden.

For collection of breeding pigs, being the *bona fide* property of the exhibitor.—A cup, value 25 gs., the Earl of Ellesmere.

Pen of three fat pigs of one litter, not exceeding ten months old.—Prize, £10, P. Eden, Cross-lane, Salford.

Pen of three fat pigs of one litter, not exceeding 15 months old.—First prize, £10, and second, £5 P. Eden.

Fat pig, exceeding 15 months old.—First prize, £5, the Earl of Ellesmere; second, £4, Colonel C. Towneley, Towneley, Burnley.

Breeding pigs of the Berkshire breed: pen of five pigs of one litter, exceeding three and not exceeding six months old,—First prize, £10, H. Humfrey, Kingstone Farm, Shrivenham-Berks; second, £5, J. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour; third, £3, A. Stewart, St. Bridge, near Gloucester.

LAND TENURE.

At a meeting of the Cornwall Chamber of Agriculture held in Bodmin, Sir Colman Rashleigh, Bart., M.P., who was voted to the chair, announced that he had received letters from John St. Aubyn, Bart., M.P., Mr. John Tremayne, M.P., and Mr. Jonathan Rashleigh, expressing regret at inability to attend. Mr. Tremayne added—"It is a subject to which the attention of Parliament will shortly be drawn; and it would have been an advantage to me to have heard the opinion of my constituents." He (the chairman) agreed with his colleague in thinking that the subject, and in fact the whole question of land, was one which must occupy the attention of Parliament very shortly—probably in the coming session; and he also fully agreed in thinking it was one on which it was desirable that he should hear the opinions of his constituents. He was glad that the matter had been taken up by such an able agriculturist as Mr. Olver, but he would not yet express an opinion in regard to it. He should be very sorry to make up his mind, or to declare prematurely his opinions on such an important matter as the subject of land—not only the tenure of land, but the transfer of land and the present laws relating to the land. They were matters, in his opinion, requiring the greatest possible consideration, especially at the hands of those who had the honour of representing the large landed interests of the country. He should listen to the remarks made that day, and from the remarks made there and elsewhere he should make up his mind as to what course to take as their member of Parliament; but it would be wrong and premature for him to express any opinion at all until he had heard the subject talked over and argued out.

Mr. Olver read the following paper: Few questions are of greater importance than this which I have chosen for your consideration, and designated *The Tenure of Land*. This question, which has been so frequently ventilated of late, is evidently in a very unsatisfactory state; a circumstance to be universally regretted, since wills resulting therefrom are not confined to landlords and tenants, but extend to the community at large. "The first condition in every State is the plough," and something must be wrong in any State, particularly one possessing abundance of capital, if it cannot be profitably employed in cultivating a fertile soil like that of Great Britain, while so much inferior food is annually imported from abroad to feed its inhabitants. Such, however, is the state of this country at present. One cause of the commemorative condition of agriculture, when compared with other industrial pursuits in this country, is undoubtedly the undue burdens laid on the landed interest in the shape of rates and taxes, which ought to have been considerably reduced when the Corn-laws were repealed and the British agriculturist had to meet "all comers" with his hands tied. In the absence of that relief, however, a great stimulus would be given to agricultural progress by an understanding between landlord and tenant, calculated to afford security to capital invested in proving the land; since many capitalists, now that agriculture is become such a fashionable occupation, would readily invest in cultivating land belonging to other people, having no opportunity to purchase; but they are generally too shrewd to do so without security, feeling that the profits arising from agriculture would be small under the most favourable circumstances. Much has been said here from time to time respecting the legal points affecting this question; I will not, therefore, waste your time by dilating on them, nor in taking you back to that primitive state of agriculture when occupiers of land had nothing to offer the owners but suit and service; but will as briefly as possible, with the view of promoting discussion, point out some of the many inconsistences connected with the tenure of land. *Landowners.*—The first persons to be mentioned are landlords, by which I mean extensive owners of land; and amongst them, like mankind in general, there are good, bad, and indifferent, varying in character and position. Some do their duty in the station it has pleased God to place them, by taking an interest in their own affairs and trying to make all with whom they are associated prosperous and happy, remembering that "Property has its duties as well as its rights;" while others appear to treat those matters with indifference. Some are wealthy and affluent, while others are poor; consequently, incapable of doing the good they would. But life is uncertain with all: hence the necessity of preparing for these changes which death might produce, when another Pharoah might come in who knew not Joseph. The place of the first-mentioned worthy might be filled by some well-meaning, but arrogant military officer, taking no interest in rural affairs and expecting the same amount of homage from his tenantry as he has been accustomed to receive from the troops under his command, which must lead to unpleasantness, and probably impede the progress of agriculture without previous security of tenure. *Leases.*—Leases are generally provided for the purpose of security or protecting the interest of both landlord and tenant in Cornwall, but unfortunately many of them are ill-adapted to the age in which we live, being in many instances mere copies, with slight alterations, of those made by lawyers, having no knowledge of agriculture, perhaps centuries ago. I once heard the principal clerk in an attorney's office say that he had frequently pointed out to his employers the inconsistency of these leases, but the reply he invariably received was, "If we make alterations we shall probably make mistakes; so it is better to let matters remain as they are." Each tenant was therefore expected to sign and pay for this antiquated document, irrespective of the character and situation of the farm; and I fear that such cases are not uncommon in this enlightened age. Lease making under these circumstances is very profitable to the lawyer, and I know of no other reason why men of straw are so frequently taken as tenants in preference to men of capital. It is true the former sometimes offer more, and fictiously augment the rent-roll while they rack the farm. Lawyers are qualified to receive rents and draw leases, but not

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to lay down rules for the management of farms; that should be submitted to a practical land agent. Now a practical land agent is a very important personage in connection with this question. He should have a thorough knowledge of agriculture, the construction of farm buildings, and the draining of land. Tenants would not then be required to adopt systems of cultivation in the fickle, humid climate of Cornwall which would be suitable to the dry Midland and Eastern Counties; buildings would be more judiciously constructed on some domains, and drains would not be made so shallow under his supervision as to become choked with the roots of vegetables. Land agents should be affable in manner, so that tenants might at all times make known their complaints; and possess sufficient independence to decide justly any disputed question that might arise between landlord and tenant. We have many such men in Cornwall: would that we had more. My observations are not, however, confined to this county. Wherever such men are in office, I invariably find liberal landlords and improving tenantry; but when empirical tyrants occupy this important position the reverse is generally the case. "Birds of a feather flock together." Agriculture is not so profitable an occupation as to enable the farmer to stand up against oppression; on the contrary, it is so precarious as to require great forbearance and encouragement. Many enterprising tenants have sustained such losses through adverse seasons at the commencement of a term, that they would have been ruined had it not been for the kind forbearance of their landlord, brought about by the instrumentality of a confidential land steward. *The letting and holding of land.*—There are different modes of letting land in this country. The first I would mention is one frequently adopted in various parts of this kingdom, where landowners look upon their tenants as members of their family, and transmit to them the land occupied by their ancestors at a fair yearly rent, adopting the motto, "Live and let live." No comment is required on this happy state of things. I envy the parties concerned. Yearly tenancy, however, in the general acceptation of the term, subject to six months' notice to quit, is objectionable even when the tenant is allowed for unexhausted improvements: as when this uncertainty exists men are not so likely to effect improvements as when they have a long term under a lease. Besides, where that system prevails, parties frequently take farms for the express purpose of getting what they can out of them, and leaving at the end of a year or two—a system pernicious in its effects, and one that ought to be discouraged. Yearly tenancy is not without its advantages, however, over a lease, when a person for the sake of convenience takes a farm that does not suit him, which frequently occurs. The system which I have long advocated for the occupation of land is a liberal progressive lease, with compensation on quitting for unexhausted improvements, by which I mean such improvements as are calculated to enhance the renting value of the farm, at which no landowner can justly complain. When farms are offered to be let for a term of years I strongly recommend that the rent be named: the system of letting by tender is objectionable in many respects, as persons frequently offer rents which they never intend to pay, and when they get possession stipulate for a lower sum than was offered by a more deserving tenant, and one that owner would have preferred. Others through ignorance offer rent beyond the value of the farm, which places the land agent in an awkward position, the temptation being too great for many landowners. Moreover young farmers become discouraged by this unjust and undue competition, and seek other occupations at home or abroad.—*Leases:* Many clauses in existing leases are prejudicial to the interest of landlords, tenants, and the community at large. The first I shall mention is that prohibiting the sale of hay and straw, and other produce of the land; this might have been produced prior to the intrduction of artificial manures and railways. One can hardly suppose that the intelligent landowners of Cornwall will now stand so much in their own light, as to allow the vast number of horses employed in this county, where abundance of hay, straw, and roots are grown to be supplied with fodder and litter from other counties. Can they be ignorant of the fact that land in populous districts where tenants are at liberty to sell these commodities lets at higher rent in consequence, while with few exceptions the landlords of Cornwall prohibit their sale. How often does one see near a railway station ricks of straw rotting in the field, the residue of which is not worth 10s. a ton as a manure, while it could readily be disposed of at 50s. a ton. No agriculturist knowing his business will now cultivate land without manuring it, and manure is abundant. In order then that land may fetch the maximum rent, or yield the greatest amount of produce, those absurd restrictions must be removed from leases, its occupiers be at liberty to buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest. Restrictions in the cultivation of land should be few, as seasons will beat any man's judgment, but tenants should be amenable to landlords on quitting farms. Some leases, although apparently liberal, are subtle and delusive. A circumstance came to my knowledge a few years since where a tenant was simply bound to farm according to the rules of good husbandry, but subject to a fine of £10 an acre if he failed to do so. In consequence of the land being over-run with rabbits, unpleasantness arose between the tenant and keeper, so that the tenant decided on quitting the farm, when, in accordance with his lease he was charged £200 for thee mismanagement of 10 acres of land which had become foul through rabbits destroying his cultivated crops. A more daring attempt of might to overcome right never came under my notice. The tenant, however, successfully resisted it, though at considerable expense. These accursed vermin, rabbits, have caused more discord between landlords and tenants, and have been a greater bane to agricultural progress than all other things. My object in reading this paper is to show that a long lease with compensation for the tenant on quitting, is calculated to afford greater security for invested capital than a yearly tenancy. It is not intended, however, that this lease shall interfere with existing laws affecting the interest of landlord and tenant or those that may in future be enacted, any clause in a lease contrary to these laws should be ineffectual. For instance, no clause should prevent tenants from destroying hares and rabbits, as they by law belong to him. I have avoided touching those questions so ably introduced at this Chamber by my friend Mr. Snell, cordially agreeing with him, that the proposed Landlord and Tenant Acts will not be worth the paper it is printed on if the twelfth clause be struck out. Many minor questions respecting leases might be considered, but I greatly prefer having the opinions of gentlemen present so capable of expressing them, and with these brief remarks I conclude.

The Chairman saw present the land-steward to Sir Charles Sawle—Mr. Stokes—whom he should be glad to hear.

Mr. Stokes said that in his unfortunate profession he got many kicks and no half-pence. He never granted a lease without consulting his land-agent, and then going through the points which related to the particular farm. There were now, however, many lawyers who studied agriculture, and were good farmers. He did not believe they would ever get the landlords of that county to do without leases; for though there was no doubt that the tenants were honourable men, who might be trusted implicitly, yet he had known tenants who could not be trusted. He believed in many leases there were clauses which were unnecessary, and which were never carried into effect. The words, "according to the rules of good husbandry," were very vague, and only lately he had occasion to re-open the question and decide what those rules were. He believed there were now very few yearly leases. He would like a little information concerning the disposal of hay and grass. Where there were good landlords covenants were not of much use.

Mr. Olver said the more liberal the covenants under which land was let the greater would be the rent. Straw might often be disposed of to the advantage of the tenant, who might pay a higher rent, and be allowed to accommodate neighbours who wanted straw. When they saw the immense quantity of manure which was carried back to replace the straw that had been taken away, they could not but think the change was a profitable one. A lease should be a practical lease, and a lawyer without any knowledge on the subject was not the person to draw up a lease. Two years before a tenant left a farm certain conditions should be agreed on, so that the incoming tenant should have something on the farm when he came.

Mr. Allanson thought that in popular questions like this the majority was not always correct, for people were often led by zeal without discretion, selfishness without reference to justice, and a jumping to conclusions without analysis. He believed that they had not so much to complain of as they thought, for in the past forty years he had seen more instances where the landlord had cause to complain of the tenant than

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the tenant had of the landlord, though he did know of a few cases where there had been injustice on the part of the landlord. Leases were not intended to be carried out, and it was a difficult thing to get a fair, common-sense lease. If the leases did not interfere with them as tenant-farmers, they ought to be satisfied. There was a good deal of moonshine and sentimental work connected with the question. The tenant-farmers of Cornwall were not worse than the yeomen. That showed they were good farmers. He believed that, as a body, they were satisfied with the landlords, who for the most part were just men. During thirty or forty years he had known a few run from their word; but if they were to have a change in consequence of this, he might as well have a legal document in every transaction he had. He believed that nineteen out of twenty had no fear of their landlords acting dishonourably towards them. If they had a 90 years' lease he believed they would not farm better than they did now, nor would they farm better than they did now if they had a lease made out to their own liking. He was, therefore, at a loss to see what change was wanted. The six months' notice to quit was, he confessed, a mere farce. When they talked about Tenant-Right he believed that it would be a long time before they saw a measure which would be satisfactory to landlord and tenant. If the bills that had been submitted to Parliament were passed he believed there would be no end of litigation. By the late bills they could take money from a good tenant, but, if he were a bad farmer, they could get nothing from him. The land which was good 40 years ago was good now, and the bad was still bad; the surface might be improved or deteriorated, but the subsoil would remain the same. He believed that the tenants as a body had confidence in their landlords, who were fair men.

Mr. Henry Symonds denounced the law of distraint, and advocated its abolition. He wanted to know why there were leases at all, if, as was said, they were virtually nullities.

Mr. Magor said, so far as he was concerned as a landowner, he should be willing to do away with the law of distraint if his tenants would pay him quarterly instead of yearly. He believed in a long take. He advocated the union of landlord and tenant in endeavouring to secure good cottages for the labourers, and to give them a good education, which would make them not mere machines, but men of good sense, who would know how to work their way through life. The tenant-farmer was not sufficiently secured. A man, when he went out of a business had money paid him for the goodwill, but the farmer had not. He believed in the tenant receiving compensation for unexhausted improvements. There was a difficulty in the way, but it might be managed by arbitrators being appointed by a board of agriculture.

Mr. Wesley Grose was at a loss to know what man would be such a thundering fool as to invest his capital in land if he had not got a lease. Two-thirds of the nonsense in the leases should be left out. The lawyers should write half as much as they did now, and charge half the price.

Mr. Collings denied that lawyers were actuated solely by money-making motives. He could not believe that what was taken away in the shape of hay and straw from a farm would be compensated by the return of manure.

Mr. Grose said the system of tendering for farms was a very bad one. As a rule the landowners took the men who bid the highest prices.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Olver and to the Chairman.

MR. SEWELL READ'S BUDGET.

Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., has just addressed his constituents at the Market Tea, Diss.

Mr. Read said that the kind reception which he had met with that evening showed him that he had not forfeited the confidence of his constituents. It was, he thought, a great compliment to the tenant-farmers of Norfolk that one of their number should be in the Ministry. Some of his kind friends had said that they had not heard so much of him lately in Parliament, or seen his name so often in print: perhaps he was like the old lady's parrot, which when it did not talk was considered to be thinking all the more. If he had not spoken very much in the House of Commons, he had voted much more frequently than he had ever done before. He had voted some 130 or 140 times during the past session; this was double the number of times he had ever voted before in any one year, although he had always been a tolerably attentive member. He had made a calculation, and he found that he had to traverse eight miles in order to vote 140 times, and the voting also occupied some 35 hours, so that his time had been well and properly spent. The late hours of the House and the work of the days were, in fact, more than he had bargained for. He once read a tale of a man whose hair became white in the course of the night. One Session had turned his own hair iron-grey; and he believed that if he went on for another Session he should find his health rather worse than it was at present. However, a good heart would carry him through. He had no Government secrets to communicate, for the best of all reasons—that he did not know any. As regarded the next Session, he did not think that there would be anything sensational in the legislation attempted. Should a Bill be introduced to give legislative protection to the capital of the tenant, he was quite sure that the just rights and interests of the landlord would be properly regarded, although this was not the case with the Irish Land Bill. He believed, however, that there would next Session be a useful amount of what might be termed domestic legislation, which really was very much wanted. Sir Henry James told his constituents the other day, at Taunton, that the Conservatives were not good administrators, and that even in regard to a Turnpike Bill, the Liberals would conduct it with greater precision, and a much better style, than the Conservatives. However, as such matters were generally arranged by the permanent officials, he did not think that there would be much difference found in the conduct of business either by the Conservatives or the Liberals. As he could not talk much about the future, perhaps he might be allowed to say a word or two on the past, and he thought that the most important matter of the Session was the Budget. Now, if he had been the Chancellor of the Exchequer—and perhaps it was fortunate for the country that he was not—the sort of Budget which he had sketched out for himself was somewhat like this: He should have repealed half the Malt-tax, and by this the country might have lost £3,500,000 in the first year, perhaps not so much in the second year, while the remission of taxation might have reconped itself in time; but then, if he had done this, he should not have repealed the Sugar duties, and the repeal of those duties was a wise and beneficial measure, for the public were hardly aware of the extent of the restrictions which those duties imposed upon traders and merchants. As far as regards local taxation, he should have done exactly what the Chancellor of the Exchequer actually proposed. He should have left a jolly good surplus to be dealt with as might be deemed expedient next year; but he feared that taxpayers objected to pay taxes merely to make a surplus, and it must be remembered that a Chancellor of the Exchequer was always badgered from morning till night by deputations anxious to have a share of any surplus which might exist. He should have taken the duty off tradesmen's horses, as horses were just as necessary to tradesmen in their trades as for those engaged in agriculture, but he did not know that he should have repealed the tax upon hunters or racehorses. With regard to game, he should have exempted a gun used by a farmer, whether he carried it himself or lent it to his servant, for the purpose of securing his crops. With regard to dogs, he thought it would be a very good thing indeed if shepherds' dogs and dogs of a really useful character were exempted from taxation, but pleasure dogs ought to be doubly taxed; but he feared that all these ideas of his were quite contrary to the spirit of the age, and that they would not hold water in the House of Commons for one moment. It was therefore, perhaps, fortunate that he was not Chancellor of the Exchequer, because, if he had been, he should have destroyed his party, while he did not know that he should have pleased anybody. He was quite sure that a budget like that which he had sketched out would not have passed the House of Commons. When he told the Central Chamber of

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Agriculture that budgets were made, not to please or even to do justice to his political friends, but to pass the House of Commons, he was rather roughly handled; but he contended that a Chancellor of the Exchequer must propose a budget which would pass the House of Commons, and the present Chancellor of the Exchequer had proposed a Budget which seemed to please the country generally. It must be remembered that in 1852 Mr. Disraeli proposed to repeal the Malt-tax, and the consequence was that Mr. Disraeli was turned out of office. If Mr. Disraeli could not obtain his object just after the Free-trade system commenced, when the price of Barley was much lower than it was at present, and when promises had been made in abundance about the repeal of the Malt-tax, just after the impost duty on wheat had been taken off, how could it be possibly expected that the repeal of the Malt-tax could be carried now, when the price of barley was lower than wheat, and when people had forgotten all about the promises which they had made when a one-sided Free-trade policy was introduced? Another reason why the repeal of the Malt-tax could not be obtained was that most of the members were against it; the brewers, with the noble exception of Mr. Bass, were against it; and it must be remembered that there were 40 members of the House of Commons who were directly or indirectly connected with brewing. Then there was a formidable body of teetotal gentlemen, or supporters of the Alliance, who fancied that, were beer made cheap and pure, there would be more drunkenness. Perhaps he might be asked why, if he held these views, did he not vote with Mr. Fielden and his 17 followers? His (Mr. Read's) hon. colleague, Sir R. J. Buxton, was the seventeenth of the supporters of Mr. Fielden; and he (Mr. Read) should have made the eighteenth, only he happened to be in the Government, and he could not vote for an amendment to the Budget of the Government of which he was a member. As Col. Bartelot, who was the leader of the Malt-tax repealers in the House of Commons, actually voted with the Government, he (Mr. Read) thought that he had a very good excuse and justification for walking out of the House. The farmers must let the Malt-tax question stand over until the next election. The farmers started two hares, or, rather, two horses—one the repeal of the Malt-tax, and the other the remission of Local Taxation, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had chosen a remission of Local Taxation, and had thereby pleased the country. He (Mr. Read) contended further that although the Budget might not be popular among farmers, still it was a plain, straightforward, and honest Budget. There were no feats of legerdemain about it, there were no five quarters brought into one year's revenue, no making the tax-payer pay taxes in advance so as to make a surplus, and no local process in regard to over-estimates of revenue or under-estimates of expenditure. The Budget of Sir Stafford Northcote was, in fact, an honest and honourable one, and upon the whole the best which could have been introduced by the Conservative Government. At a meeting of the Norfolk Chamber of Agriculture he let fall a few words about county boards, when it was actually supposed that he was inspired by the Government to feel the pulse of the country on that question; and it was also said that he was a convert to county Parliaments. Those who knew him must be aware that long before he entered Parliament he was in favour of county boards. He advocated them not for the purpose of interfering with the magistrates, who generally managed matters in quarter sessions economically and well; but what he wanted to see was a good representative county authority, which should be the medium of making local self Government more a reality than at present, and for the purpose of checking the tyranny of the central authority. New boards were constantly being created, and new power conferred upon the central authority. This he greatly deprecated, and he would have a good county board to resist this central power and to make refractory districts do their duty to themselves and to the country. Of highway districts, he reminded them he was not authorised to say anything, but by the abolition of the turnpikes and the throwing of the expenses of that maintenance of roads upon the parishes, a great hardship had arisen. In that part of the country they did not like the idea of having highway boards; but he was sorry to say the Central Chamber of Agriculture thought differently, for two to one voted in favour of a resolution that highway boards should be made compulsory. If it should be the duty of the Government to introduce a Highway Bill he would do his best to make it a good one. There must be some alteration, and although he had his ideas on the subject, if he found himself in a minority he would not stand tenaciously out for the adoption of his view, but try to produce the best legislation possible. He never could understand why, especially in rural districts, there was any necessity to have a new board; for why should not the guardians act as way-wardens? There was a clerk and other officials, except perhaps a surveyor; but some people said the relieving officers would make good surveyors, and he believed they would make as good surveyors as some that had been appointed.

THE RABBIT IN DEVON.

Mr. Benjamin Butter Bastin, of Tidwell Barton, East Budleigh, writes: Will you permit me to give a fair description of the case which was brought before the Woodbury magistrates on Monday last. Robert Edwards has been in my service as shepherd for nearly six years, and I can give him a good character for industry, honesty, steadiness, and truthfulness. He has a family of five children, and a wife daily expecting an increase. On Sunday, Oct. 25, having three colts and some calves at the higher ground, it was his daily duty to feed them with corn. On his return, walking in the public road, he heard a rabbit cry. The two sheep dogs, which were more than fifty yards a-head, had caught it and were pulling it in pieces. He put it in his pocket, with the intention of informing me of it, which he did on my return in the evening. The rabbit was about six weeks old, and mangled. I told him to throw it away, and thought no more of it. Of course it would not do to allow dogs to eat rabbits, for fear of their learning to kill lambs; but on Monday Edwards received an "invitation" to Woodbury. The magistrates convicted him, but I feel quite positive he was not trying to kill rabbits. Now, I wish to let the public—the consumers—know why the tenant-farmer is wishing for some legislative protection. Eleven years since I took this farm in a perfect state of ruin. All the fences down; with a large portion of the ground ploughed seven years before, and still lying in rough furrows full of weeds, &c. I had nearly every fence on the estate made, but now they are just like a honey-comb with rabbit burrows. There are many thousands of rabbits on my farm at the present time, and to prove this, I will quote only the damage done to my crops this season, for which the Hon. Mark Rolle will have to compensate me. The damage was valued by his own steward and bailiff—Messrs. Lipscombe and Sanders—and they awarded me for damage done to corn alone, £120, being something like 400 bushels of wheat, at 6s. per bushel. In some fields as much as 20 bushels per acre were destroyed. This sum awarded is only for what they term "excessive" damage, as by a clause in my agreement, that is all I am entitled to claim. A large amount of damage done to my root crops still remains to be valued. Close to where this unfortunate rabbit was killed, whole fields of turnips, &c., are entirely destroyed—not one single root left to tell the tale! The damage, valued at harvest, is only the one visible; but the larger amount is done when the corn and roots are in their infant state, and one rabbit will eat and destroy hundreds of turnips and mangolds in a single night. A rabbit eats and destroys 5s. worth before it is worth 1s. In the grass fields, where I have daily to keep my sheep to eat what little remains, the damage cannot be estimated. Having a young family around me, I think it better to hope the first loss will be the least, and consequently have given six months' notice to quit, which I do at Lady-day, considering myself driven from house and home by rabbits. I cannot work and lose my capital to preserve rabbits for the hon. baroness to make a market of. She sends the keeper to take off a few hundreds of the thickest of them now and then for market, allowing the others to breed again till the number is made up. William Lake and his donkey cart can be daily seen returning from Bicton with his load of rabbits to sell in the neighbourhood. The tenant is expected to witness all this with humble subjection, to cultivate his farm, pay his rent, breed and feed rabbits, and be overlooked by such a keeper as the one who gave evidence in this case. He has been on my premises only twice; each time in a state of apparent intoxication, and very abusive. Since I

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have given notice the hon. baroness, no doubt, seeing the question of the rabbits is assuming an important position, has issued the following notice to the tenants:

East Budleigh, B. Salternon, Oct. 9, 1874.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Rolle to say that Lady Rolle will give permission to the tenants on her South Devon property to kill rabbits on their respective farms, between the hours of sunrise and sunset, with ferret and bag nets. The permission is limited to the farmers and members of their families resident on their farms. Yours truly,

R. H. Lipscomb.

Of course this permission is quite useless on many estates as the vermin are in cover by day, and over the land by night. By this wonderfully gracious concession—the Baroness seems to class the tenant-farmer with respectable rat-catchers, as if their time is not more valuable than wasting it under the hedges with ferrets and nets. Some time since, after killing many hundreds on my farm, her ladyship kindly sent me twelve as a present; but not seeing it in that light, I directed the keeper to take them back, and say I did not like insult added to injury, and I wished her ladyship a good market with them.

MR. HOPE'S SEWAGE FARM.

In the Court of Exchequer, before the Lord Chief Baron and Barons Cleasby and Aphlett, the cases of Hope and the Romford Board of Health came on. Actions were brought by Mr. Hope against the Board for non-fulfilment of contract in not supplying a sufficient quantity of sewage to Breton's Farm, which he had rented from the defendants, and by the Board against Mr. Hope for the recovery of the rent of the said farm.

Mr. Murphy, Q.C., and Mr. Charles appeared for Mr. Hope; and Mr. Prentice, Q.C., and Mr. Charles Hall were for the Romford Board of Health.

Mr. Prentice stated that there was an action brought by the Board to recover the rent, as it was called, for the sewage upon the plea of eviction. He contended from several dates he could produce, that the negligence imputed to the Board in the cross-action occurred after the rent was due. So far as he could see, the first action was undefended; and the real question between the parties arose in the cross-action. The first count in the declaration was substantially that after the making of their demise the defendants did not supply, afford, or deliver into the possession of the plaintiff all the sewage of the town of Romford. The second count was upon an implied covenant that the Board would get the necessary work performed to connect certain houses in the district with the sewer. On the 16th May, 1870, the defendants covenanted with the plaintiff that they would do all works necessary to cause, and would cause, all the sewage of the town of Romford which was capable of flowing by gravitation into a certain outfall sewer. The plaintiff alleges a breach of this contract. The question was whether, from the deed, any such covenant was to be implied. At the time the lease was granted there was an outfall sewer constructed to a place called Breton's Farm and a reservoir, and a great number of houses in Romford drained into the sewer. The Local Board demised and leased to Mr. Hope "all the sewage of the town of Romford, or such part thereof as shall flow by gravitation into the outfall sewer which now conducts the sewage into the tanks or reservoir constructed" on Breton Farm. There were a great many other covenants in the lease on the part of Mr. Hope as to how he should farm the land and so on; and there was a clause to the effect that if any of the covenants were broken the lease was to be at an end. The only covenant on the part of the Board which the Arbitrator had found in some instances to be broken was one relating to the pumping from the low levels of the town. He had found that either from the boilers being out of order or from a change in the engineer, that on some occasions when the water was being pumped from the reservoir to the farm some of the sewage escaped.

The Lord Chief Baron: We have no damages to assess.

Mr. Prentice: You have to decide upon what principle the damages are to be assessed. At the sitting at Nisi Prius it was decided that if the Court should be of opinion that Mr. Hope had any claim, then the Court was to determine the principle upon which the damages were to be assessed. If there was negligence on the part of some of the servants of the Board causing some portion of the sewage to go into the brook instead of on to the farm, then the Board would be liable for that, but that was scarcely worth discussion. The main question was whether there was really, as was alleged, on the part of the Board a covenant which would imply that they were to cause the inhabitants to drain into the outfall sewer. He might mention that the plaintiff was aware before the lease was executed that many of the houses in Romford did not drain into the sewer.

The Lord Chief Baron asked what the works were Mr. Hope contended the Board ought to have done, and which they had not done.

Mr. Murphy said that there was a demise on the part of the Board to Mr. Hope that it was possible for them, by connecting the existing houses with the existing sewers, as they were bound to do by Act of Parliament, to allow the whole of the sewage to pass by gravitation into the outfall sewer, which had not been done.

The Lord Chief Baron asked what was the provision of the Act of Parliament that conferred the power upon the Board, and which imposed upon them such obligation.

Mr. Murphy then minutely entered into the circumstances of the case, and dealt with the clauses of the lease. He contended that there was a demise of the whole drainage to Mr. Hope, and that the insertion of the words in the covenant, "or such part thereof as shall flow by gravitation" was only made by the Board for the purpose of protecting themselves against the necessity of putting such machinery in operation as would be requisite to pump the water from the low-lying portion of the town to such a level as would enable it to flow into the outfall sewer. By the Public Health Act the Board was bound to cause such sewers as may be necessary for the effectual draining of their district, and if the owners of houses refuse or neglect to connect their houses with these sewers, then the Board has power to do so and to charge the owners with the expense, and the Sanitary Act of 1866 provides that if the Board omit to put in force the powers vested in them complaint may be made to the Secretary of State, who, upon finding that the authority of the Board has not been carried out, may appoint some one to do so. The Utilisation of Sewage Act, 1867, provided for the disposal of sewage by Local Boards. Before the passing of this Act the sewage was discharged into the river at Romford, and in 1868 an injunction in Chancery was made restraining the Board from so disposing of it. In consequence of this injunction the Board issued an advertisement dealing with the whole of the sewage of the district and then the lease was executed. Looking at the position of the various parties in this matter, what was the fair construction to be put upon the lease? He could show from the lease that Mr. Hope would have been bound to take and dispose of the whole of the sewage in question. The construction put upon the lease by his learned friend (Mr. Prentice) came to this, that the Board would give Mr. Hope as much or as little sewage as they pleased and that he would nevertheless be bound to give them £600—the whole of the rent. He contended that the Board was bound to give Mr. Hope the whole of the sewage of the district.

The Lord Chief Baron again asked what the Board were bound to do and what they had failed to do.

Mr. Murphy said that there were several houses which could have been connected with the outfall sewer, and that no such connexion had been made. At the time Mr. Hope took possession of the farm he knew that a number of houses in the district were not connected with sewers discharging by gravitation into the outfall sewer, but he trusted the Board would put their power in force and connect these houses with the sewers, but made no further inquiry and acquired no further information as to what had been done, or omitted to be done, at execution of the lease. That being the position of parties, Mr. Hope thought that the Board was bound by the Sewage Utilisation Act to give him the whole of the sewage. Sup-

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posing the Board, acting perfectly honestly, had connected two-thirds of the houses that drained at that time into the outfall, Mr. Hope, according to their construction of the lease, would have been bound to pay the whole of the £600, and would have had no remedy given to him.

Mr. Baron Cleasby said that it was a usual thing for drainage works such as those in question to go wrong occasionally, and for drains to cease to flow sometimes for a period of several days.

Mr. Murphy said that assuming they did Mr. Hope would still be deprived of something which he had been promised, and it would still be a matter for compensation. The rent of £600 must have been fixed on some basis, such as, say, 2s. per head of the inhabitants, and it surely could not be intended by the Board that Mr. Hope was to pay the same rent for a small number as for a large number of houses. He did not put it as an implied, but as an express covenant that the Board was to grant the whole of the sewage of the town of Romford to Mr. Hope, and that had not been done. As to the action for rent, he would ask, Was this a demise of sewage, or a sale of sewage, or what was it? It was analagous, he thought, to a grant or a right of porting over land where there had been a suspension of the right granted; and upon the finding of the arbitrator there had been an abstraction in August, September, and October, 1873, of the thing they had bargained to give him.

Mr. Prentice said he quite agreed that by reason of negligence in one or two instances the sewage did not go on to the farm.

The Lord Chief Baron: You do not deny there should be a verdict.

Mr. Prentice: I do not.

After some further argument,

The Lord Chief Baron proceeded to give judgment. In doing so he said there was no principle involved in the matter of damages assessed. The only question was, what Was the value of the sewage Mr. Hope had not received? If the Board had the means of connecting some 20 or 30 or 40 houses to an outfall sewer and had neglected to do so, they were guilty of a dereliction of duty. It was perfectly clear to him that there was no pretence for arguing or suggesting that by the covenant the Board was bound to put in force the powers invested in them by Act of Parliament to compel all the inhabitants to cause their sewage to run into the outfall sewer. The Court must give judgment for the plaintiffs—the Local Board—in the one action to recover the rent or sums of money in question; and judgment for the plaintiff (Mr. Hope) in the other action to recover such damages as the arbitrator may award in respect of a partial failure in the quantity of sewage supplied.

The other learned Judges added a few remarks substantially concurring in the judgment given by the Lord Chief Baron.

This is virtually a verdict in favour of the Board.

STAINDROP FARMERS' CLUB.

THE BREEDING OF SHORTHORNS.

At the last meeting a paper on Cattle Breeding was read by Mr. George Hedley, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. W. T. Scarth, president of the Club, in the chair.

Mr. G. Hedley said: It is difficult at this advanced era in the history of agriculture to hit upon a subject to bring before a farmers' club that may be considered at once interesting and instructive. I therefore avail myself of a suggestion made by your secretary some time ago, that this paper should be something about cattle breeding or cattle feeding, partly, I presume, because this is the district where the common country cow first graduated into the beautiful and ornate Shorthorn, and partly because the traditional fires of the improver of that most useful race of domestic animals still burn with considerable ardour in the hearts of the farmers around. It is now upwards of ten years since I addressed anything to the public about cattle, and that was then done in an essay, entitled, "The Origin and Progress of Cattle," and after that some letter on judging by points, first sent to *The North British Agriculturist*. They were then bound together in pamplet form, and had a very fair sale both in Great Britain and in some parts of Ireland. They were largely quoted from in America, and, I believe, had the effect of laying down a basis for a system of judging Shorthorns by points in some parts of that country. The latter portion of the pamphlet—namely, that about judging by points—has never been much accredited in England, and in a great measure, I should say, because it was not when published fully elaborated and discussed. I should, therefore, be pleased if you would look upon this paper as a continuation of the whole subject, which I shall endeavour to treat with all the brevity and completeness possible, although I trust you will bear in mind that, as it embraces a wide field for thought, it cannot really be done justice to, in a very few words. When we look around and take into account the fabulous sums of money obtained for Shorthorned cattle at some sales of late, it is apt to occur to us that they resemble more the disposal of galleries of highly-renowned pictures or celebrated pieces of sculpture at the Academies of Art, than that of ruminating animals, whose breath is only in their nostrils. And to carry the simile further, while a Titiens or a Turner, a Phidias or a Thorvaldsen, may bring thousands of pounds, a David or a Cooper, a Spencer or a Lough, may go for an old song. So is it with cattle, while the Bates' and the Booth's are carried off at any money, the Towneley's and the Torr's, lacking, perhaps, the pure strains of the former all through ten generations or more, may be picked up at the common price, simply because they are not the fashion. Their fame is not consolidated through a long series of years. It is not cosmopolitan, and it is not ascertained that a bad resultant might not crop out, though the ancestor possessing the inherited feature or features condemned might be sixty years dead. Is this not carrying the art of cattle breeding much too far into the regions of romance? You may preserve your Titiens or your Turners on your walls untarnished and untouched, but you cannot preserve your Bates or your Booth, or rather your Bates or your Booth forms without the genius of a Bates or a Booth. The former are inimitable facts, accomplished and preservable, the latter are living facts, which must be carried forward and perpetuated, otherwise they will soon cease to exist in their commendable and much-admired outlines. A very ardent student may give 5,000 guineas for a Bates bull and cow, but it does not follow that they are intrinsically worth the quarter of that money, or that they may even throw him a calf that could be fairly said to be of the value of £50—that is, if symmetry, substance, and beauty are to be the guide. The bull and cow might have very little natural affinity for each other, and hence the blood would not mingle or harmonise. It is worthless, I contend, to have a herd of Bates or Booth animals without some of the wisdom of a Bates or a Booth to guide them. No doubt exists that some few herds of those two distinct strains have continued to keep up the good characteristics of their respective names. But how many out of the whole number have failed? A very large proportion I must say. The reason is not far to seek. The few have had at their heads men with an intuitive knowledge of how to marry the sires and dams without a loss of the vital forces and the harmony of the outward features. The many have gone on haphazardly without knowing the particular types of recognised beauty, and the likes and dislikes of certain strains of blood for other strains. The success of those two splendid herds referred to may be attributed to three causes—firstly, the wonderful powers for recognising strength and beauty in animal structures possessed by the owners; secondly, the long time those powers were exercised on two herds and in one direction; and, thirdly, a consanguineous cross which, as far as we can gather, was practised upon both. To stamp a type nothing is so potential as a consanguineous cross. It cannot be neutralised or eliminated in a short space of time, and Messrs. Bates and Booth were the kind of men who knew when to do it—namely, at the period when their herds had attained that perfection of form and vigour of constitution so long desired. You can only go a very short way in that direction however, and no doubt it would be done by them for one desideratum alone—namely, to create a oneness in the general

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features of their animals. If all the branches of those two noble families of cattle had sprung from two or three roots, the distinctive peculiarities of strength and beauty could not have been long sustained; for although they now come under the designation of two great names, they are derived from various sources all drawn in and wisely engrafted by the powers that then presided. Nothing is so fatal to a herd as a succession of close crossing. Nothing is so difficult to manage as wide crossing; hence my reason for claiming for successful Shorthorn breeders the genius of an art. The man who has not an eye to form, a knowledge of the laws that govern physiology, and some power of appreciating the elective affinities, had better let Shorthorn breeding alone. I know a family who have used Booth bulls for upwards of twenty years, and have never made a single mark of any importance, simply because they did not happen to have an eye for beauty of form. I have the acquaintance of a gentleman who is famous for his correct estimation of animal symmetry, and also of weight and colour, but who missed his way from being at the very head of the Shorthorn kingdom by not having the courage to give his herd a consanguineous cross. In this, I think, was shown a lack of physiological knowledge and acumen. Mr. Bates may be taken to have been a man who had an instinctive as well as an acquired conception of all those things, at least if we may believe what we have heard and read about him since his demise. He never, I understand, introduced his males and females hastily to each other, but while they ruminated in their folds or pastures, he ruminated from various standpoints about their features and idiosyncrasy, and their adaptability for each other. I do not know whether he took colour into account as one of the most potent integrals of the affinities, but there is no doubt but what he had an excellent taste for form, and also knew physiologically that all kinds of animals are desirous of finding their complement instead of their counterpart.

He held that all things are devised
To be by chemists synthetised:
That from each pair there thus may be a
Progenitor of some third idea;
That love from opposites is bred,
As white is born from green or red;
And that, like white, 'twould ne'er be seen
If green were bred with blue or green;
That 'tis from discords that we call
Our fullest harmonies of all.

Truly speaking, the rule of thumb practice of adjusting defective parts by introducing animals respectively unlike in those parts, has its roots in the affinities and the laws of natural selection. Probably much the same thing would happen if the beasts were running wild in the fields, and there was no human eye to control them. Because strong males have an affinity for weak females, and *vice versâ*, but the strong males would kill the weak males off, and thus through all time preserve the vigour of the race. This is much what Mr. Bates has done only for a short space of time for Shorthorns. He studied Nature, and, as it were, usurped one of her destinies. We may presume that he understood a good deal about the laws of natural selection. If he did not, and was guided alone by a fine artistic eye, he arrived at the same result, but only in a different way. He produced strength and symmetry because, to speak phrenologically, he had the organs of individuality, form, and colour well set in his head. He also had love of animals in his heart, and many of the faculties which actuated a Potter or a Landseer to place those subjects on canvas. What Sir Edwin did by his brush Mr. Bates did through the living agencies of the animals themselves. Given a beautiful horse or a cow, Sir Edwin could place it on canvas in form and colour as he saw it, or improved if he liked. Given a selection of males and females, Mr. Bates could put them together so as to produce similar or improved forms in the progeny. This is the faculty required in a first-class breeder of Shorthorns, and therefore I cannot too strongly impress upon you the danger of practising such a difficult art, without being possessed of some of the special qualifications for it. Love of a particular breed of cattle by no means determines that you are fitted for the possession of it, and qualified to improve it if desired. Love springs from the heart, and may be affected by ungraceful forms as well as graceful ones. It requires something in addition. It requires the organs of form, individuality, colour, and comparison well developed in the cranium to enable a man to judge of Shorthorn cattle and carry the breed to a successful termination. For example, there are many men who are able to tell which of two animals near a size is the heavier when standing closely together, but would be quite at a loss if they were separated a few hundreds of yards. These men would be found lacking the organs of individuality and comparison, and would also be apt to forget the faces and forms of men. I saw three recognised breeders of Shorthorns judging cattle quite lately down in the north, and they selected a bull with a neck scarcely if any improved from that of the bison, and every part of his body was an undulating surface of hills and holes. He had not even one foot of a straight line in his backbone. He was the heaviest animal and the ugliest, and therefore these men might be said to have an eye for weight and none for beauty. They could tell which was the biggest beast in the class, and that was about all. Another instance of the same kind came under my notice at one of our own Christmas shows—it was this: Two heifers of nearly equal age, same colour, and nearly the same weight, came out for adjudication. The one was rather bigger in size than the other, was made up of a number of straight lines and partially crooked ones, and upon the whole presenting a good many protruding points to the eye. The other had one straight line along the back, and the rest of the body was all over it and around it composed of the innumerable segments of a variety of circles, beautifully adjusted and harmoniously blended together. In short, a perfect specimen. They gave the prize to the former! This is another instance where the eye for weight was more correct than for beauty, and the judges would probably never have made good sculptors or painters, or landscape gardeners, if even they studied a very long time. With colour it is the same. Some men have eyes for colour, and none for form, and are always attracted by bright hues and smooth glossy surfaces. They also are not adapted for acting as breeders and judges of cattle, for while we do not ignore the value of good colours in the Shorthorn polity, we would not depreciate an animal in the scale of merit if its form was the best and it did not depart in any outrageous manner from white or red, or any mixture of those two. But colour in the showyard and in the breeding shed, are two different things to be studied. While form is the object to be attained in the arena of competition, I should place a very great reliance upon colour (and that not of the hair alone), as a guide to the proper admixture of blood in the home curtain. Colour, as we know, in all animals takes its hue from the secretions. It permeates the liver and the heart, and men have been known to go half distracted about a woman with a single shade of greater darkness in the eyebrows or eyelashes than her fairer sister had. It is so, in a modified sense, with the lower animals, and instances could be cited where males had taken a perfect dislike to females of a certain colour, because it was not in consonace with their instincts of sweetness and fitness. The moral of all this is that the breeding of Shorthorn cattle is a very insecure business, and that there are very few men in the universe capable of carrying it out to successful commercial issue—and hence the reason why a couple of herds have gained all the praise. They were superintended by men of extraordinary ability for a large number of years, and were thoroughly established—or, to use the artistical phrase, were well set in their frames. I venture to say that the possession of a head of fine fashionable Shorthorn is not a matter for much congratulation at the present time, if taken as a test of ability and sober judgment. As a proof of wealth it most assuredly is, but the credit and the fame all redound to Messrs. Bates and Booth, none of the gentlemen who ever followed in their footsteps having produced better animals than they did themselves. To originate a good herd from an obscure branch would be a matter of greater significance than the expenditure of 1,785 guineas for a fifteen months heifer by Sir Curtis Lampton, of 1,700 for a broken-down dam by Mr. McIntosh, of 1,220 for a small Lucy by Mr. Larking, of 555 for a ten months calf by Sir William Armstrong, or of 420 for an old cow by Sir John Swinburne or Sir Wilfrid Lawson. These cattle will die out, and the gentlemen who possess them will probably not be found to have produced anything in size and contour equal to the sires and dams they began with. And hence an extraordinary loss of time and money, for, as Mr. W. H. Sotham says in *The Mark Lane Express*, "The points of an animal must sustain the pedigree, otherwise pedigree is no use," and therefore the man who produces perfection of form from ordinary priced beasts is much greater and more to be commended than the

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one who goes to the fancy sales and throws his money as it were into the ocean, to be swallowed up and wasted. It is not difficult, in my opinion, to produce the finest of Shorthorns without a fabulous expenditure of wealth. The economies of animal ordinance are with you. They are always striving with themselves to adopt the purely cylindrical shape, and that is the shape which all the best Shorthorns wear. The tendency of all the animal organisers, if placed in any kind of fair circumstances, is to advance instead of to decline upon the scale of beauty and vigour. Hence as you have Nature on your side the only difficulty you have to deal with is how to get fairly formed dams and sires to begin with. These you will soon find if you have an eye for beauty and proportion. The crossing of the sexes will belong to your ideas of blood, colour, and constitution, and if these are correct a herd will soon be produced equal to any of those of the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Bective, Mr. Cheney, or others we may have to mention. Indeed, I have no doubt but there are more within a very short distance at the present moment who with leisure on hand and suitable pasturage could produce in seven crosses from West Highland Kyloes, or polled Galloway dams, as good a herd as could be found in Great Britain. I will go further than that, and say that with two Shorthorn bulls at £100 each, and 20 Shorthorn cows at £40 each—their own choosing—they would be able to distance in three crosses two-thirds of the men who are plunging into such marvellously high-priced beasts, always recollecting that form, weight, and quality would have to be the deciding points. The Argyleshire Kyloe and the Gallowayshire polled Scot are as nearly perfect in formation as possible; therefore, if you began with them as dams you have only the colour, touch, and horn to correct, but I decidedly prefer the good country cow. To show how soon colour is dissipated by males of the Bos genus, I may mention a fact which is not perhaps generally known in reference to the wonderful power the black-polled Galloway male exercises over Ayrshire females in the very first instance. If he is a pure-bred animal he at once stamps his colour, his general lineaments, and his size upon the produce, and if he were put along with as many as one hundred Ayrshire cows, which, you will remember, would be nearly all red-and-white, possessing long horns, there would not be a single calf otherwise than jet black and without horns in the whole of the resultants. Each and every calf would undoubtedly be so much like the pure Galloway that a great many very good judges would not be able to detect the alloy. In crossing the Shorthorn male with Highland or Gallowayshire dams, the change is not so rapid, the cardinal colour, black, being more potent and endurable than the transitory reds and mixed shades of Shorthorn. It therefore does not go out at once, and the horn in the produce is a little elongated, as we see it in many of the Bates' tribes now—simply because an essentially long-horned breed and a short-horned breed were introduced together. This, I think, is detrimental to the pure Bates in an historical point of view, as the appellation, "Shorthorn" does not literally apply. However, as he is justly credited with having produced the originals of the highest-priced animals in the world, perhaps we ought to look back at this jointure, and see where he procured his first stocks, and also note a few of the wonderful gradations they have gone through up to the present time. Mr. Bates was contemporary with Charles Colling in 1800, but he was not in the ascendant as a breeder of Shorthorns, and his most memorable purchase was that of Young Duchess, for 183 gs., at Mr. Colling's sale in that year. It is said she was a descendant of the Kyloe, but the pedigree we have of her at that time is this—that she was a daughter of Comet, sold at the same time to four gentlemen for 1,000 gs., that her dam was from the not famous and almost universal bull Favourite, and that she was in calf to a son of Comet. Here then was the beginning of close in-and-in, or consanguineous breeding at once. Since that time the breed has run through many generations with varied success, until last year at New York Mills, the fame of the "Duchesses" culminated in 40,600 and 35,000 dollars respectively being given for 8th and 10th Duchesses of Geneva. They were bought to come to England, and at the same sale nine other Duchess cows were sold at such high prices that the whole eleven came to £49,750, or an average of £4,522 14s. each. The great sales we have had since then in this country are Lord Dunmore's, held last year, the Duke of Devonshire's, Lord Bective's, Mr. Cheney's, and Mr. Leny's this year, but none of the prices here have been anything like those obtained at New York Mills. The highest price given was 2,000 gs. for a small heifer to Mr. Leny, while an Oxford bull of high fame was bought by Mr. Peter for the Duke of Roxburgh for 250. The average of the Duke of Devonshire's cows was 462 gs., that of Lord Bective's 382, and that of Mr. Cheney's 564; the commoner in this instance beating both the lords. The buyers of the highest-priced beasts have, no doubt, adopted the royal road to a herd of fine Shorthorns, but I shall be much surprised if they do not ultimately find out that there is no royal way of keeping it. Gentlemen like Sir John Swinburne may ultimately ascertain that a bull of the first water is almost as difficult to find, and to set in golden framework, as even a Cape diamond, and Sir Wilfrid Lawson that the aristocracy of the living race will require something better than the poor grass and cold springs of Brayton Park to keep them up. The present mania for high-bred cattle can therefore only be called a species of gambling of the most dangerous class. That for the turf does not seem to bear any comparison with it, for although you may lose sight of a couple of thousand guineas in buying a Stockwell or Newminster colt; yet it is quite possible that he may win the whole of it back for you in his first race. "True," it may be observed by some captious critic, "but you are quoting two strains of blood of the very first kind; what becomes of the second and third kind?" The second and third have also a much better chance of recouping the speculator than cattle, simply because they are handicapped according to their known capabilities, and often win races from very superior animals. While they are very much easier reproduced or propagated than Shorthorns, speed being the only desideratum, it matters little whether you have an eye for magnificence of outline and physique or not, you can always send your dams to reputable sires. With Shorthorns you have to wait nine months for a calf, and if that proves an abortion, as it often does in the hands of a novice, where are all the hundreds of pounds you have sunk in the originals? I trust I have made out pretty clearly that the faculties of the mind required to conduct a famous herd of Shorthorns through several generations with commercial success are of a much higher order than what they have generally gained credit for; that it takes a fine man to manage a fine herd well—a man steady and industrious in his habits, with the organs of perception and reflection well developed in his head—in reality an artist and a physiologist, fond of his art and his calling, and ardent in his desires to carry them out to a successful and a happy issue.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that a man should have a speciality for Shorthorn breeding to succeed, and instanced Mr. Outhwaite, of that neighbourhood, as a proof that others need not be disheartened in making the attempt. Mr. Hedley had mentioned the advantage of study, and he (the speaker) thought the great point was to be careful as to their choice of a male, which had far more influence on the future than the female, and this applied to both cattle and horses.

Mr. NESHAM said there were three things required for Shorthorn breeding, and these were absolutely necessary—viz., a long purse, a very good eye for judgment, and very good land on which to bring up the animals. He showed the fallacy of the principle of breeding from an animal which was at all faulty in its own breed. As to Mr. Bates and Mr. Booth, if ever they met with an animal they did not like they put it out of the way, and as a consequence had a long range of steers in their breed. This might be an expensive way of doing things, but it must be done if perfection was to be arrived at. He had always had a great regard for Shorthorns, and had known them nearly all his life; his opinion was that there were better Shorthorns in by-gone days than were to be seen now. The great animals that were sold at the Duke of Devonshire's sale the other day were weedy, and would not compare with the animals which were seen forty years ago. Whether the system of in-and-in breeding had anything to do with it, was a question which he would not enter upon, and as to the prices, perhaps they, in a great measure, were due to certain noblemen who would have those animals, no matter at what cost.

Dr. BRUNSKILL expressed his admiration he had of fine, large, well-coloured animals.

Mr. BYERS rather felt inclined to doubt if the £100 bulls and cows referred to in the paper would be successful in Shorthorn breeding. He showed that Mr. Bates tried to rival Mr. Collins, by breeding with Wildeyes, but he did not succeed, and he expressed his opinion that ordinary mortals could

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hardly be successful with the animals mentioned by Mr. Hedley.

Mr. Bell said in that neighbourhood the farmers generally aimed at breeding animals that would pay as they went on. They had some pretty fair beasts, but not the sort referred to by Mr. Hedley. No particular breed was established in the locality, for the general aim seemed to be the production of good large steers and heifers. As to improving the breeds, all that they could do was to look at the females, and, having seen the deficiencies, try to find a male which was superior in those particular points. However, it was a noticeable fact that an animal of better breed always took well in the sale market, and they always paid better, for they fattened at a less expense. He testified to the improvements brought about by the introduction of Shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Hawdon thought that a persistent breeding in one class might lead to the effect of making the offspring more delicate.

Mr. Graham (the secretary) testified to the difficulty of mating Shorthorn cattle, and in answer to the statement in the paper with regard to the high prices obtained at New York Mills, said he believed the large amounts were given by a man that did not know the value of the money mentioned. He understood that he did not know the value of a dollar. He believed that a great deal was owing to those monied men who, in having a fancy for cattle breeding, brought Shorthorns to such perfection. These gentlemen, in some instances, allowed their tenants to have these valuable animals at prices not at all extravagant, by which means they went all over the country, and great benefit resulted therefrom. There was one in the neighbourhood who did something of the kind, and they were all very much obliged to him.

Mr. Hedley, in reply, thought the subject of the evening should be well ventilated along the banks of the Tees, which he designated the home of the Shorthorn. He repeated that it was possible to get good ones, especially if a judicious visit were paid to a locality where Shorthorns were not studied or thought much of. It was quite possible to find first-class bulls and cows at about £100 and £40 respectively. He dared say the Bates breed had degenerated, for the simple reason that it required a Bates to look after it. He showed the necessity of education to be successful in breeding.

The usual votes of thanks were passed, and the meeting broke up.

LAYING DOWN LAND TO PASTURE.

At the monthly meeting of the Shropshire Chamber of Agriculture, held at Shrewsbury, Mr. George Cureton in the chair, the following questions were sent to the Shropshire Chamber of Agriculture by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, requesting replies thereto, which Mr. Henry Brown, of Preston, near, Wellington, kindly furnished.

1. What is the acreage of your farm?—99 acres.

2. Is it your own property, or do you rent it? If the latter, do you hold on lease, or from year to year? And have you Tenant-Right?—13 acres only my own; the remaining part rented from year to year to Tenant-Right.

3. What is the nature of the soil and subsoil?—Sand, gravel, peat, clay.

4. What is the average rainfall in your district?—Very light, I should think not more than 25 inches.

5. In what year did you begin to lay down land to permanent grass?—1854.

6. What were, at that time, the proportions of your farm in arable land?—66 acres. Permanent pasture 33 acres.

7. What breadth of arable land (if any) have you, since the above date, laid down as permanent grass?—The whole of my farm I have now under grass.

8. In changing your system of management, were you influenced by the high price of fat and lean stock, by the increased and increasing cost of agricultural labour, or by other, and what circumstances?—Purely by the increased cost and difficulty of agricultural labour upon a small farm.

9. Besides distance from the homestead, and water supply, what other conditions (as quality of soil, value, aspect, &c.) guided you in selecting your fields for permanent grass?—In the outset difficulty in working thin-skinned land with uncertainty of crops.

10. Having made choice of your ground, with what kind of cultivation and crops, say in the two preceding years, did you prepare the soil for the reception of the permanent seeds? (If you have tried different methods, kindly state which you have found to answer best, as this is very important).—Turnips followed with barley or oats. Both sown thin, say from 5 to 6 pecks per acre.

11. Does your experience teach you that land should or should not be made as dry (I mean by underground drainage) for grazing as for arable purposes?—Decidedly not so dry, particularly open subsoils.

12. Your land being ready for seeding, in what month have you generally sown the permanent grasses and clovers? did you sow the light and heavy seeds separately? and what mixtures have you used with most success?—In April the light and heavy seeds generally sown together. The mixture of grass seeds I have not found of so much consequence as a high condition of land. I have always tried to get my land in a high state of cultivation before laying it down to grass; and not only so, but have found it even profitable to dose it well every year for the first four or five years, which compels nature as it were to produce grasses that are indigenous to the soil. In this consists the secret of the whole business.

13. Do you recommend that the permanent seeds be sown with or without a grain crop which shall be allowed to ripen? with or without a sprinkling of rye, or rape, or some similar crop, to be eaten green?—With a grain crop allowed to ripen, sown thin, thereby lessening the probability of it lodging.

14. In laying down land to grass, have you practised the system generally known as 'inoculation?' If so, please describe the process adopted, and state the cost?—No.

15. What have you found to be the best mode of treating (including manuring) the young seeds, say during the first two or three seasons? Would you mow in any year? or would you depasture with cattle or sheep.—Always one or two dressings of well made farm-yard manure. I should prefer depasturing with cattle, but in a great measure should be guided by seasons. If a moist season I should prefer depasturing with sheep, or even to mow; but if the latter, a most liberal dressing with manure will be required. I think it of the utmost importance to avoid as much as possible treading and poaching of the surface for the first two or three years.

16. Have you found that this altered mode of farming pays you better than your former practice? and can you give in figures a tabulated comparison of the two systems, including the saving in manual labour and horse-keep?—Having only just finished putting the whole of my farm under grass I cannot answer the question as to pay, but so far as I can at present judge the result will be satisfactory.

17. What alteration (if any) in the number of breeding store, and feeding animals kept on the farm has been the result of laying down this land to permanent grass?—Two thirds more cattle; principally feeding.

18. Do you find that the number of stock kept on the farm is being increased or diminished as the recently laid down grass acquires greater maturity?—Much increased. For reasons given in the latter part of answers to question twelve.

19. What aid (if any) have you received from your landlord (if you have one) in laying down your permanent pasture? and what conditions (if any) accompanied that aid?—None

20. Judging from the results of your own experience, what description and quality of land do you consider pays best to lay down to grass in your district? and what soils would you prefer to keep under arable cultivation?—Clays. The more open soils for arable culture.

The Improvement of Permanent Grass.—1. What means have you adopted to improve the already permanent grass existing on your farm, but not laid down by you, viz., by the application of manures, or the consumption of roots or artificial food on the land?—I have given heavy dressings with prepared bone manures and farmyard manure, and also a

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liberal consumption of linseed corn and decorticated cotton cake.

2. What effect has the application of farmyard manure (if any) to your grass land on the system as manuring your arable land?—Greater outlay in artificial manures.

3. Do you mow any portion of your grass land in any year; and, if so, how often, or do you entirely depasture, and, if so, with cattle or sheep?—A small extent of peat grass land mow each year, the remainder entirely depastured with cattle.

4. Have you found that to improve your grass land makes it pay you better than before? and can you give in figures a tabulated comparison of the two systems?—My first application of prepared bones gave an increase of 27 per cent in butter. I was then dairying.

5. What alteration, if any, in the number of stock kept on the farm has been the result of this improvement of your grass land?—I kept 25 head of cattle when my farm was one-third under grass. I have already reached 70, and confidently expect to increase to 90.

MORAYSHIRE FARMERS' CLUB.

THE TURNIP CROP.

At the quarterly meeting at Elgin, Lord Macduff, M.P., in the chair, it was agreed that there should be no show of seeds and roots in February.

The following subject was put down for discussion: "In the preparation of land for the turnip crop, whether it is more profitable to apply farmyard manure in the autumn or at the time of sowing?

Mr. Yool (Coulard Bank) said the question set down for discussion is no doubt one of considerable importance; but it is also one on which there is a considerable amount of conflicting evidence. Although I have carried out the practice of autumn manuring to some extent myself, I have never made any careful experiments to determine the relative advantages of applying farmyard manure to land intended for a turnip crop in the autumn or at the time of sowing. Any remarks that I may make on the subject, therefore, are merely the impressions derived from experiments recorded by others and what I have observed in my own experience. In the first place, then, I think, if land for turnips is to be manured in autumn, it must be thoroughly clean, and besides, be land of good quality and in good condition. If such conditions exist, then, I think autumn dunging may be practised with safety and profit, more especially if artificial manure is applied at the time of sowing (which is now almost universally the case), as it will serve to force on the young plants until their rootlets push out into the soil with which the farmyard manure is incorporated. Dunging in autumn will lessen the expense of application, beside considerably forwarding spring work, while, under the conditions I have referred to, and especially for Swedish turnips, which are abundantly supplied with roots, the crop will, I think, be as good, if not better, than when dunged at the time of sowing. If land is foul, autumn manuring will only stimulate the growth of weeds, and in such a case, I would prefer to leave off the dunging until the land was got cleaned in spring. On poor, hungry land, and on land out of condition, I think it is best to apply the farmyard manure in the drills at the time of sowing, as in such a case it is desirable to have the greatest available amount of manure close to the roots of the growing plants. On the light sandy lands of which so much of this county is composed, I should doubt the advisability of autumn manuring for the turnip crop. Such soils are of an open, porous nature, and are deficient in that mechanical texture which enables heavier soils, such as good loams and clays, to retain in a state of what Liebig calls "physical combination," the valuable manurial elements of the dung; consequently, on such thin, light soils, I think it is better to apply the manure in the drills at the time of sowing. It is an important question, and I think this Club might very judiciously devote a portion of its funds as a prize for a report on this subject. Experiments in agriculture are so very liable to be affected by differences in soil, climate, &c., that what may be a perfectly safe guide in one district may not be so in another; and as, so far as I know, no carefully-conducted experiments have ever been carried out in this county to determine the point whether, "in the preparation of the land for turnip crop, it is more profitable to apply farmyard manure in the autumn, or at the time of sowing," I think this Club might wisely devote a portion of its funds for an approved report on such a set of experiments.

Mr. Adam (Hillhead): I have no experience with regard to laying down manure in autumn for the turnip crop. But about four years ago I had a piece of ground which was pretty much braeset, and I thought it could hardly be dealt with in the usual way, and so I laid down the manure in autumn. I found that, although the turnips in that case were not so regular to a size as when sown in the drill, the crop was quite as heavy. I think if it were done upon land such as I operated upon in the autumn, it would be quite as successful as if done in the drill.

Mr. Cooper (Spynie): I have no experience. I intend to try an experiment on a piece of clean land this season. The great merit of turnip culture on light land is deep stirring; and, although it is apart from the subject, I would recommend that it be done by the steam plough. I have grown a good crop this year on light land by deep stirring. In general I think laying down manure in autumn does not suit in Morayshire, because there is such a tendency to run to weed by dunging the stubble. I think the difficulty would be in having the stubble land cleaned in time.

Mr. Walker (Altyre): The question is one upon which five out of every six of the members of this Club could not give an opinion. We have never had an opportunity of testing the merits of autumn manuring as compared with summer manuring. A large portion of our farmyard manure is applied to the barley break, and to wheat in the autumn, so that in the autumn when you want to apply it to the turnip break, you have not the manure ready to apply to the land. There is no doubt about this, that now-a-days when horses and labour are such important matters in our management, if we had the dung to apply in autumn we would save a considerable deal of labour. We could save the trouble of twice lifting; and we would save the life of many of our horses, which are worked to pieces by being taken to the top of the dung-hill. These are conclusions which one can arrive at without much practical experience, but whether it would benefit the crop or not I cannot say. Mr. Yool has said that it would be well to spend some of the Club's funds on experiments. But experiments are so doubtful that one year they teach one thing and another year they teach something different, and we can have no confidence in them. For many years I was under the impression that autumn manuring of potatoes brought a better crop, and even saved from disease. Last year I manured in the autumn, and I have had more disease that any of my neighbours by a long way. So far as the question on the card is concerned, I have no experience, and can give no opinion.

Mr. Ruxton (Inchbroom): I have no experience, but my idea is that the sooner that the land is manured the better does the crop get on. I have a fear, however, that putting in a quantity of manure in autumn, much of its value will be spent during the winter.

Mr. Hunter (Dipple): I have had no experience of manuring in autumn myself, but I may mention a fact which I noticed the other day. A competition for turnips was carried out by this Club in 1854, in which Mr. Lawson was successful; and I notice that in that year there was an experiment at Dipple, under which part of the turnip break was manured in autumn, and the other part in spring in drills. It turned out that the part of the field dunged in the autumn was lighter by one ton per acre than that dunged in the spring.

Mr. Todd (Ardivot): I think, taking into account the nature of the climate and soil, there can be little doubt that the best thing is to put the manure into the drill. I think Mr. Walker has mentioned a very practical point in referring to the fact that in nine cases out of ten the farmers have no manure at all to plough into the land in the fall of the year. But, independently of that, it is better for bringing the turnip crop to put it in the drill. But if you take potatoes, the very

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opposite is the case. I would approve of putting the manure down for potatoes in the fall of the year.

Mr. MUNRO (Coveses): I would just in my very first remarks say that we never should have our land in a state but what it would be always fit for taking in manure. I never manure in the end of the year. The remarks by Mr. Walker concur with my own experience, that where horses are saved, and labour is saved, it is a very great matter indeed. I have found that after putting in dung with barley, I have had a good crop of turnips without farmyard manure, from very good bones and other stuffs I have bought from parties. I have found in my own experience that by applying farmyard manure when I was sowing my barley, that my barley crop was inferior to that on the portion of the land that was manured along with the turnips. I have no experience to give a decided opinion upon. However, I think if we could make more manure, and put it on twice, there would be no loss.

Mr. GREGOR (Western Alnes): I have no experience of autumn manuring. I have always put the farmyard manure into drills. I was obliged to give 25 tons of farm manure, and may be 10 tons of manure besides.

Mr. LAWSON (Braelossie): I have had no experience of manuring land for turnips in autumn; but, I think unless the land be very clean (although Bailie Munro says it is possible for every man to have his land clean), it is impossible, in Morayshire, to lay down manure profitably in autumn; because, after the crop of wheat, you have lots of weeds to take out. I think, turning it over and over again in the autumn, would lead to a good deal of evaporation of the manure. My experience is to put the dung down in the drill, with a little artificial manure above it.

Mr. REID (Mains of Orton) concurred in the remarks by Mr. Walker.

Mr. GARDEN (Grangegreen) had no experience. The little he did in the way of manuring turnips he did in spring.

Mr. ADAM (Sweethillock): There is no better way of putting it in than along with the drills in spring, because there is a great proportion of it, after the turnip crop, to benefit the succeeding barley crop.

Mr. ROSS (Hillhead): We have not all our fields like gardens, as Bailie Munro seems to say they should be. I think the land would be better to be turned up in autumn, to get much of the frost in winter, and have it ready in spring. It would best suit the soil and climate of Morayshire to do so, and apply the manure in spring. Instead of the experiments proposed by Mr. Yool, I would give a prize for the best field of turnips, for which the manure was laid down either in autumn or spring.

Mr. CULBARD (Elgin): I am only a crofter, not a farmer, but I have observed this, that in taking up my crop of turnips, and seeing the land tilled, I saw much of the manure untouched. (A voice: You have given far too much.) Possibly, but I have often seen gardeners in order to get a good crop, put the land under a heavy manuring the year before they wanted to raise a good crop. So, I think if you had the manure, as sometimes you have not, in the autumn, it would be fully better to put it into the soil a few months before the seed.

Mr. YOOL: Lord Macduff has allowed me a remark in reply. I expected that very little exact information would be brought out. It was simply because I thought that no very exact conclusions would be arrived at that I proposed that this Club should devote a small portion of its funds to the purpose of elucidating this question. We all know that without experiment there can be no progress, and I think the Club in directing such an experiment would be in the way of its duty.

Provost CAMERON: Supposing you give some of the money that you will save by not holding your Spring Show.

Viscount MACDUFF: The majority have given their opinion in favour of laying down manures in spring, and not in autumn, as being best suited for the nature of the soil and climate of this county. I propose that Mr. Yool's recommendation be sent to the Standing Committee of the Club for consideration.

The motion was agreed to.

A COSTLY BIRD.—At an adjourned Justice of Peace Court held in Stonehaven, William Kirkland, a young lad, was charged with day trespass in pursuit of game on the farm of Currans, parish of Strachan. He pleaded guilty to taking a muirfowl out of a snare on a stook of corn, and was sentenced to pay the mitigated penalty of 2s. 6d., with £5 6s. 11d. of expenses, or go to prison for twenty days.

REVIEW OF THE CATTLE TRADE DURING THE PAST MONTH.

On the whole the cattle trade has been quiet in tone during the month. Compared with the corresponding month last year, the total supplies of beasts exhibited have been larger, owing to the liberal receipts from abroad. From our own grazing districts the arrivals have been less numerous than during that period; but from Scotland they have been better. There has been, as usual, a marked disparity in the condition of the stock exhibited. For the best kinds the demand has not been active, and the top quotation has been 6s. 2d. per 8lbs. For medium qualities, especially during the cold weather, more inquiry has prevailed, and quotations for such descriptions have been relatively higher. From abroad supplies have been more extensive, the imports from Tonning being exceptionally heavy. The demand has been without feature at about the rates previously current.

In the sheep market nothing of interest has transpired. The supplies exhibited have been good, owing to the heavy importation—nearly 45,000 from abroad. The condition of our home-fed stock has been in the main satisfactory, and the improvement in the quality of foreign breeds continues to make progress. Business has not been brisk, but a fair amount of steadiness has prevailed, and 6s. 2d. per 8lb. has been paid for the best Downs and half-breds.

The calf market has been alternately steady and depressed; but the closing prices of the month are not the highest. Supplies have been moderate.

Pigs have been quiet and unaltered.

The total imports of foreign stock into London last month have been as under:

Beasts	14,155
Sheep	44,843
Calves	1,247
Pigs	1,324

COMPARISON OF IMPORTS.

Nov.	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
1873	9,473	34,733	1,934	2,563
1872	4,226	35,112	2,289	204
1871	12,846	56,299	1,857	2,813
1870	14,906	43,830	2,177	2,463
1869	9,964	32,091	1,713	2,206
1868	9,391	18,162	598	353
1867	10,761	33,202	618	2,069
1866	13,278	38,889	1,290	1,187
1865	16,254	52,517	2,526	7,770
1864	17,137	34,792	2,970	3,947
1863	11,020	30,447	1,770	2,202
1862	6,839	28,577	1,659	633
1861	5,295	27,833	946	1,241
1060	6,961	22,723	1,604	828
1859	5,927	21,907	997	15
1858	4,786	18,258	1,174	15

The arrivals of beasts from our own grazing districts, as well as from Scotland and Ireland, thus compare with the three previous years:

	Nov. 1871.	Nov. 1872.	Nov. 1873.	Nov 1874.
From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire	9,150	8,750	8,965	7,820
Other parts of England, including Norfolk and Suffolk	2,100	3,430	2,580	2,050
Scotland	79	240	125	858
Ireland	600	3,730	2,000	1,543

The annexed figures show the total supplies of stock exhibited and disposed of at the Metropolitan Cattle Market during the month:—

Beasts	24,700
Sheep	94,870
Calves	2,040
Pigs	250

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COMPARISON OF SUPPLIES.

Nov.	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
1873	22,970	85,300	2,105	560
1872	18,620	77,590	1,995	856
1871	25,100	108,930	2,017	720
1870	15,570	96,920	2,232	1,670
1869	21,390	77,990	1,604	615
1868	19,249	98,390	1,048	1,404
1867	24,080	109,960	1,016	2,350
1866	24,660	95,800	1,190	3,090
1865	36,820	167,230	2,858	2,811
1864	32,600	114,300	2,587	2,900
1863	27,704	99,130	2,156	3,170
1862	30,129	110,020	2,313	3,172
1861	26,590	109,370	1,370	3,430
1860	25,400	103,600	2,112	2,920
1859	26,492	120,840	1,299	2,800
1858	24,856	114,643	1,437	2,970

Beasts have sold at from 4s. to 6s. 2d., sheep at 4s. 4d. to 6s 4d., calves 4s. 8d. to 5s. 10d., and pigs 4s. to 5s. per 8 lbs. sinking the offal.

COMPARISON OF PRICES.

	Nov., 1870. s. d. s. d.	Nov., 1871. s. d. s. d.
Beef, from	3 4 to 6 0	3 10 to 5 10
Mutton ...	3 4 to 6 2	4 4 to 6 8
Veal	3 6 to 5 10	3 8 to 5 8
Pork	4 4 to 6 2	3 6 to 4 8

	Nov., 1872. s. d. s. d.	Nov., 1873. s. d. s. d.
Beef, from	3 10 to 5 10	4 4 to 6 6
Mutton ...	4 2 to 7 0	4 4 to 7 0
Veal	5 0 to 6 0	4 4 to 5 8
Pork	3 8 to 5 0	4 4 to 9 8

REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE

DURING THE PAST MONTH.

The weather of November has exhibited strange fluctuations. It commenced with a vernal growth upon all vegetation, and a warmth approaching summer-heat; then came a few days of autumnal severity; and just as we seemed likely to have a green Christmas we had a sharp taste of frost, broken shortly again by mildness, and then returning with increased severity, and leading to the conclusion that a hard season was coming on. There being no reliable forecast to help us through the difficulty, we must content ourselves with Nature's favours, whatever they may be. The meadows, however, can no longer be a resource for the cattle, so that feeding-stuffs, with a short crop, must keep up in price; but the forward wheat, which was becoming winter-proud, will have a salutary check. The land, as a whole, yet keeps dry, though lately some fine rains have fallen, and this complaint comes more decidedly from every part of Europe, our insular position keeping us better supplied. The potato-pits will now be tested as to the soundness of quality; but with a good yield of this tuber we can bear some loss. The wheat trade since harvest has been very much shaken as to values, and the frost may have brought us past the lowest point; for 43s. 9d. per qr., the last general average, was quite low enough, and we take it, that the fact that the last crop has certainly been better than several of its predecessors has led to exaggerated views of its abundance, and set up a sort of senseless panic; but the gradual falling off in the weekly sales shows that farmers have not yet quite lost their spirits, but look out for better days, as in times past; and when Christmas rents are paid, we may see a more decided turn. The only gain of the month has been 1s. per qr., but a pinch of snuff will not pass for a substantial meal. So at least men on strike have found it, and it may strike farmers who can hold that it is better to do so than cut themselves to the quick. In this respect foreign growers and holders are quite of their mind. France is 1s. to 2s. dearer. Productive Hungary shuts up her stores rather than make sacrifices. Egypt has become tired of sending to no profit. Morocco is forbidden by the Emperor to make shipments. If the devastation of the Civil War in Spain increase, we may find that country an importer. Every port in the Baltic and Black Sea looks for better times; and though we may now and then have a mad-cap advocate of the consumer, who likes to walk in stilts and pass for an oracle, generous enough to feed the people at the farmer's expense, we hold to the maxim, set every man be fairly remunerated for his toil. The following prices were recently quoted at the several places named: Best white wheat at Paris 47s. 6d., red 46s.; at Bordeaux, white, 47s. 6d.; at Marseilles, Berdianski 45s. 8d., Ghirka 42s. 10d., white Spanish 48s. 6d.; Courtrai, in Belgium, 46s., at Louvain 48s., at Liege 47s., at Amsterdam 45s., Maestrecht 45s,, fine red at Hambro' 46s., white Rostock 48s. 6d., best high-mixed at Danzig 45s., fine red at Mayence 45s., at Cologne 41s., at Berlin 40s., at Buda-Pesth 45s.; Sandomirka at Odessa 40s., Ghirka 33s.; prime white at San Francisco 45s. 6d. per 500lbs. c. f. i.; red spring at New York, 36s. 4d. per 480lbs. f. o. b.; soft wheat at Algiers, 46s., hard 45s. per qr. f. o. b.

The first Monday in Mark-lane opened on a moderate supply of home-grown wheat; and the foreign arrivals were much reduced, though quite adequate to the demand. The show of fresh samples on the Essex and Kentish stands was limited, with the condition somewhat deteriorated by the damp weather. Dry parcels were slowly taken at the previous rates, but all inferior were very difficult to place. The foreign trade, notwithstanding the short supply, was very dull, new red American and Ghirka qualities being rather cheaper ex ship. The arrivals of floating cargoes were limited, and quotations barely maintained. The country trade this week was answerable to that of the Metropolis, and rather worse: many places gave way 1s., as Gainsborough, Leeds, Melton Mowbray, Newbury, Sleaford, Spilsby, &c., while at St. Ives and Sheffield there was a decline of 1s. to 2s. per qr., as well as at a few other places; but Liverpool was steady through the week. At Leith the wheat trade was 6d. dearer, and Ghirka sorts were 1s. higher; but at Edinburgh there was no change, while Dublin was dull for native qualities. Foreign obtained about 6d. per barrel more money.

On the second Monday the English supply was rather diminished, but the foreign was more than doubled, consisting principally of Russian and American red, with a fair sprinkling, including white, from other parts. The exhibition of fresh native samples this morning was limited, but in rather improved condition. Sales, however, were but slow, at unaltered prices. White samples of foreign, being comparatively scarce, were fully as dear, and, in some instances, brought rather more money; but low red sorts were but a heavy sale, and sales ex ship rather lower. Though the arrivals of floating cargoes were limited, the demand was slack at previous quotations. The country trade this week, without positively reporting any decline, remained dull. Liverpool on Tuesday was 1d. per cental dearer for white qualities, and Friday's market showed some improvement in red.

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As the week wore on, a sharp change in the weather to severe cold took place; and as a consequence, several of Saturday's markets were up 1s. to 2s. But at Edinburgh there was a decline of 1s. in wheat, and Glasgow remained with but a quiet trade. This week Dublin somewhat recovered, the market showing a more active inquiry for both native and foreign samples.

On the third Monday the English supply was lessened, as well as the foreign arrivals, though the latter were still good, and half of them from New York, the rest being from Russia and the Baltic. The number of English samples this morning was below an average, and, through the frost, were much improved in condition. Backed by the rise of Saturday, in the country holders demanded more money, and were able to place their best samples at 1s. advance, but could get nothing over previous rates for inferior sorts. The change in foreign was more decided, and 1s. was made all round for samples, both red and white; but with signs of a return to mild weather, the market towards the close lost some of its animation. Floating cargoes were generally held for more money, and on Ghirkas an improvement of fully 1s. was realised. Monday's advance in London was thoroughly welcomed in the country, and a similar rise of 1s. was noted at the following places—viz., Brigg, Birmingham, Hull, Ipswich, Louth, Market Rasen, Sleaford, Spilsby, Leeds, Manchester; while at Gainsboro', Barnsley, Melton Mowbray. Reading, Newbury, Salisbury, &c., the advance was 1s. to 2s. Liverpool on Tuesday was 1s. per cental dearer. On Friday the market was dull, but without change. Edinburgh and Leith were up 1s., and Glasgow 1s. to 1s. 6d. per qr. Native wheat was held for more money at Dublin, and foreign obtained 6d. per barrel advance, but closed heavily.

On the fourth Monday the English arrivals of wheat were short, and those from abroad large, more than half being Russian. The show of fresh samples on the Essex and Kentish stands was limited; and, with a change back to cold weather, factors early in the morning asked more money, but could not obtain it, millers being very careless buyers. In foreign also there was no change, excepting for New Zealand white, which, becoming scarce, obtained rather more money. The floating trade was unaltered.

The arrivals into London for four weeks were 21,892 qrs. English wheat, 102,479 qrs foreign, against 18,307 qrs. English, 158,668 qrs. foreign, in 1873. The London exports were 4,696 qrs. The imports into the kingdom for four weeks ending Nov. 14 were 3,721,031 cwt. wheat, 492,368 cwts. flour, against 3,753,729 cwts. wheat, 354,306 cwts. flour in 1873. The London averages commenced at 47s. 5d., and closed at 44s. 8d.; the general averages opened at 44s. 1d., and ended with 43s. 9d.

The flour trade throughout the month has exhibited very little change excepting in the demand. The top price of town-made has stood at 43s. White Norfolks have been about 30s. to 31s., and American barrels 25s. to 26s.; while at Paris the best mark (D) was worth 36s. Extra state at New York has been 18s. 8d. to 19s. 5d. per barrel f.o.b. The country supplies have been good and regular; those from abroad were comparatively light. The London imports in four weeks were: in country sorts 84,624 sacks, in foreign 5,669 sacks 18,603 barrels, against 90,929 sacks country, 4,155 sacks 32,973 barrels foreign in 1873.

Of maize the supplies have been uncommonly small; but its high rates, as compared with barley, have very much limited the demand. Flat mixed American was worth 38s. 6d., and round brought as much as 39s. 6d: this shows about 1s. 6d. per qr. advance. The four weeks' London imports were 3,891 qrs., against 18,470 qrs. in 1873.

The barley trade has strengthened in tone, and gained 1s. 6d. both in malting sorts and the lower qualities. The English supplies have been only moderate; and, excepting the first week, the foreign arrivals have fallen off, and a demand has sprung up from America. The best malting has become worth 49s. and rather more, grinding 29s. to 34s; while Saale at Hambro' has brought 50s., supplies being scanty, and fine Holstein 40s. It would seem that fine malting descriptions will maintain their price all through the season, supplies everywhere being limited. The best French at Paris were not worth over 35s.: their quality does not come up to last year's. The value of grinding sorts must be ruled by foreign arrivals, which, if the weather be mild in winter, we expect will be plentiful; but more so in spring. The four weeks' London supplies were 16,458 qrs. British, 41,667 qrs. foreign, against 20,103 qrs. British, 17,846 qrs. foreign, in 1873.

The malt trade throughout the month has been steady, and the value of fine sorts hardened at the close; the best new worth 72s. to 74s., fine old 2s. more.

From the first fortnight the foreign arrivals of Oats were small; and though increased on the third Monday, values during the three weeks were improved about 1s. per qr.

On the fourth Monday, though the imports were considerable, and fine sorts, from being only in a small proportion, were rather dearer, and even the lower sorts were firm from a large demand. With a return of colder weather and winter commencing, and the fact that everywhere this grain has shown a less abundant yield than usual, we cannot for some time look for low rates, as granary stocks are not heavy, and spring, whatever it may bring us, may be late. 40 lbs. sweet Russian sorts are worth 29s. 6d., 38 lbs. per bushel 27s., and lower sorts in proportion. For English extra prices are made, especially for heavy weights. The English supplies for four weeks were only 2,907 qrs., Scotch 277 qrs., Irish 222 qrs., foreign 157,849 qrs., against 5,215 qrs. English, 11,642 qrs. Scotch, 5,933 qrs. Irish, and 159,983 qrs. foreign in 1873.

Notwithstanding the high prices made, beans have been firm all through the month, the crop being short, and Egyptian supplies very scanty, though some have come from Algeria, Italy, and France. The want of maize, however, kept up the demand, and new Harrows are worth 46s. per qr., Mazagans 43s., and old small 54s.; Egyptians 43s. to 44s.; other foreign more in proportion to dryness and weight. None can now come from Morocco, as the Emperor has forbidden the exports. It is, therefore, not likely to be cheap this season. The imports into London for four weeks were 3,427 qrs. English, 8,713 qrs. foreign against 4,129 qrs. English, 4,325 qrs. foreign in 1873

Peas, too, have been steady in price, the English supplies having been limited, and there has only been one considerable arrival of foreign, and those were white from Canada. These latter were held at 43s. to 44s, per qr., and hog-feeding sorts were about the same. Should the winter be sharp, there is plenty of room for an advance in boilers, but not for other kinds. The London imports were 3,442 qrs. English, 14,900 qrs. foreign, against 5,397 qrs. English, 684 qrs. foreign in 1873.

The linseed trade has not varied, but the demand has been limited, from the extreme fineness of the autumn. The imports were 10,523 qrs., against 28,405 qrs. last year

Some little business has been passing in red cloverseed, but from an impression it will be dearer, holders have been asking too high rates to lead to large transactions. Some American is on its way worth about 47s. per cwt. In Paris the best red was quoted about 60s. per cwt. It is here worth 65s.; fine English from 80s. to 90s. per cwt.

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